

Agenda Item #25.



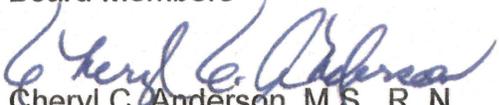
BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES, AND HOUSING AGENCY • GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN JR.

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
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DATE: November 4, 2015

TO: Board Members

FROM: 
Cheryl C. Anderson, M.S., R. N.
Supervising Nursing Education Consultant

SUBJECT: Education Division Report

A. Reconsideration of Moratorium on Analysis of New Programs.

On February 28, 2014, the Board authorized a moratorium on the analysis of new proposals for commencement of vocational nursing (VN) and psychiatric technician (PT) programs through February 28, 2015. Additionally, the Board authorized staff to send follow – up letters to those non – responsive proposed programs advising that the Board would remove them from the queue effective April 18, 2014. At that time, 146 requests for commencement of new VN and PT programs awaited initial analysis. That backlog resulted from the marked increase in the number of proposals for commencement of new programs and the prolonged shortage of NECs the Board experienced from 2009 through January 7, 2014. To process the backlog, the Board secured the services of two (2) Nursing Education Consultant – Retired Annuitants.

As reported at the February 2015 Board meeting, 27 proposals (25 VN; 2 PT) remained. The Board extended the moratorium to allow time to complete the initial analysis of the remaining proposals and the subsequent analysis of submitted corrections.

Effective April 8, 2015, 24 proposals [21 VN; 3 PT (includes 1 program initially electing to withdraw the proposal)] remained in the queue awaiting initial analysis and notification of identified deficiencies and required corrections.

Effective April 10, 2015, the Board ceased utilization of all temporary staff including retired annuitants through the end of the fiscal year. Effective July 1, 2015, the Board continued employment of temporary staff. Employment of two (2) Nursing Education Consultant – Retired Annuitants continued effective July 7, 2015.

As reported on August 21, 2015, 24 proposals [21 VN; 3 PT (includes 1 program initially electing to withdraw the proposal)] remained in the queue awaiting initial analysis and notification of identified deficiencies and required corrections.

Effective October 15, 2015, 14 proposals [11 VN; 3 PT] remain in the queue awaiting initial analysis and notification of identified deficiencies and required corrections. An additional six (6) applications and/or proposals have been received since the moratorium.

After receipt of the notice of deficiencies, the director is required to accurately and thoroughly complete all required modifications and submit revised documents and materials to correct identified deficiencies. Upon receipt, the assigned NEC is required to complete an additional analysis to ensure correction of identified deficiencies and compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements and established professional standards. Those subsequent analyses typically require approximately 24 to 48 staff hours per proposal for completion, depending on the quantity, quality, and complexity of the required corrections. The process of revision of proposal materials by the director, resubmission to the Board, and subsequent analysis by the NEC continues until all required corrections are completed. The assigned NEC then prepares a Board report with the following recommendations.

1. Approve commencement of the proposed program;
2. Approve the proposed curriculum with all required corrections; and
3. Approve the admission of the initial class.

Recommendation:

Lift the moratorium on processing new proposals for commencement of vocational nursing and psychiatric technician programs, effective January 1, 2016.

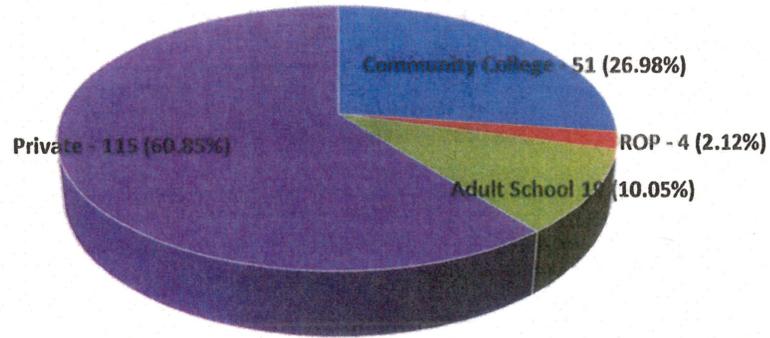
B. Division Update.

➤ **Program Distribution.**

	VN Program	PT Program	Totals
# Approved Programs	141	13	154
# Provisionally Approved Programs	21	2	23
# Pre - Approved Programs	11	1	12
<i>Sub Total Programs:</i>	173	16	189
# Proposed Programs	11	3	14
TOTAL PROGRAMS (Approved, Preapproved, Proposed)	184	19	203

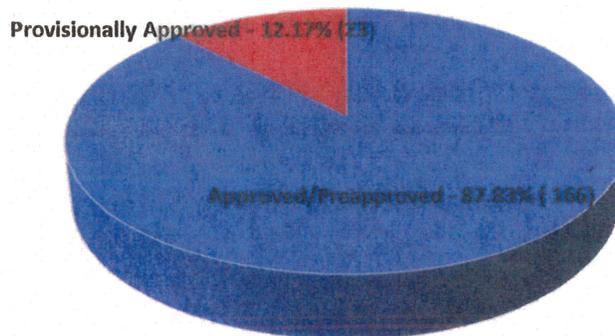
Currently, a total of 189 programs are approved to offer educational programs leading to vocational nurse (VN) and psychiatric technician (PT) licensure. Of the total programs, 60.85% are proprietary programs; 26.98% are community college based programs; 10.05% are based in adult schools; and 2.12% are based in regional occupational centers.

VN AND PT PROGRAM CLASSIFICATION



Of the total Board – approved programs, 91.53% are VN programs; 8.47% are PT. Of the total VN and PT programs, 87.83% are approved or preapproved programs; 12.17% are provisionally approved programs.

VN & PT Program Approval Classification



To date, 91.30% of the total provisionally approved programs are VN programs and 8.70% are PT programs.

➤ Program Statistics.

1. Vocational Nursing Programs.

a. Approved/Preapproved VN Programs.

Of the total VN programs, 93.64%, 162 programs, are approved/provisionally - approved by the Board. The remaining 6.36%, 11 programs, are pre - approved programs.

Since August 1, 2015, the following new programs have been approved.

- **Carrington College – Pomona VN Program**
Location: Pomona, CA

Date of Approval: August 13, 2015

- **Unitek College – Concord VN Program**
Location: Concord, CA

Date of Approval: October 22, 2015

Based on published examination statistics for Quarter 3 - 2015, the **quarter** pass rate for first – time candidates from approved VN programs is **74.14%**; the **average annual** pass rate is **73.97%**.

b. Provisionally Approved VN Programs.

Effective November 4, 2015, the number of VN programs on provisional approval totals 21. Of the total provisionally approved VN programs, Division staff have completed on – site inspections of **15 (71.43%)**.

Based on published examination statistics for Quarter 3 - 2015, the **quarter** pass rate for provisionally approved VN programs is **63.49%**; the **average annual** pass rate is **62.82%**.

c. Statistical Comparison - Approved/Preapproved Programs [California (CA) Pass Rates vs National Pass Rates]

Overall, the **quarter** pass rate for all first – time candidates from **CA VN** programs who completed the NCLEX/PN® during Quarter 3 - 2015 was **73.04%**. The **average annual** pass rate for first – time **CA VN** program candidates during Quarter 3 - 2015 was **71.82%**.

By comparison, the **National** pass rate for first – time VN program candidates who completed the NCLEX/PN® during Quarter 3 - 2015 was **77.71%**. The **average annual** pass rate for first – time VN program graduates during Quarter 3 – 2015 was **81.20%**.

2. Psychiatric Technician Programs.

➤ **Approved/Preapproved PT Programs.**

Of the total PT programs, 15 (93.75%) are approved programs. The remaining program (6.25%) is preapproved.

Based on published examination statistics for Quarter 3 - 2015, the **quarter** pass rate for approved PT programs is **81.17%**; the **average annual** pass rate is **80.82%**.

➤ **Provisionally Approved PT Programs.**

Effective November 4, 2015, the number of PT programs on provisional approval totals two (2). Of the total provisionally approved PT

programs, Division staff have completed an on – site inspection of 1 (50.00%) program.

Based on published examination statistics for Quarter 3 - 2015, the **quarter** pass rate for provisionally approved PT programs is **53.57%**; the **average annual** pass rate is **61.97%**.

➤ **Pass Rates - Approved/Preapproved PT Program.**

Overall, the **quarter** pass rate for all first – time candidates from **CA PT** programs who completed the CA Psychiatric Technician Licensure Examination during Quarter 3 - 2015 was **76.63%**. The **average annual** pass rate for first – time PT program candidates during Quarter 3 - 2015 was **77.80%**.

The Education Division continues to provide assistance to all programs for whom deficiencies are identified. Prior to placement on provisional approval, the goal is identification of problems negatively impacting student achievement **and** the development and implementation of effective strategies for resolution of identified problems.

After the Board places programs on provisional approval, the Education Division prepares and mails the official *Notice of Change in Approval Status* advising the program director of specific areas of noncompliance and requirements for correction. Additionally, consultants continue to provide assistance in identifying program elements that negatively impact student comprehension. Strategies are recommended to maximize student achievement.

➤ **Program Complaints.**

From August 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015, the Education Division received complaints from faculty, students, and consumers alleging misconduct by **19 programs**. Irrespective of origin, each complaint is thoroughly analyzed and investigated by a NEC relative to regulatory authority and compliance, adequacy for the enrolled and projected student populations, and other critical factors based on the allegation. Upon completion, the NEC forwards a response to the complainant, informs the program of the complaint, and requests a response.

As reported at the August 21, 2015 Board meeting, the Board received information confirming the sudden closure of Four – D College, Colton and Victorville campuses. In addition to other programs, both schools offered vocational nursing programs. Per Board records, the **Four - D College, Victorville, VN Program** was approved to admit four (4) full – time classes (45 students/class) and three (3) part – time classes (30 students/class). The **Four - D College, Colton, VN Program** was approved to admit four (4) full – time classes (60 students per class) and three (3) part – time classes (45 students/class). **Total Maximum VN Enrollment [Victorville and Colton Campuses]: 645**

To date, the Board and BPPE continue to respond to numerous telephonic and email complaints regarding these programs. To ensure maximum dissemination of initial information, the Board placed an alert on the website. An alert also appears on the BPPE website. Additionally, information from both agencies was disseminated to enrolled students and faculty at one of two informational meetings. Primarily, inquiries from former students request assistance in the following areas:

1. Options for Completing Required Education;
2. Eligibility for Licensure Based on Completed Education and Experience;
3. Inability to Obtain Official Transcripts from Four D Colleges;
4. Tuition Recovery; and
5. Relief from Federally Funded Student Loans.

➤ **Program Requests.**

From August 1, 2015, to October 22, 2015, the Education Division processed **26** major requests from VN and PT programs. Those requests include, but are not limited to, program approvals, major curriculum revisions, approval to admit students, approval to alter class size, and other critical program elements. Each request was analyzed to ensure compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements and established professional standards.

From June 1, 2015, through July 31, 2015, the Education Division processed **329** requests for approval of new faculty and **148** requests for approval of new clinical facilities for existing and proposed VN and PT programs. Each request was evaluated relative to regulatory compliance, consistency with the Board – approved curriculum, and adequacy for the enrolled and projected student populations.

➤ **Program Inspections.**

Since January 1, 2015, the Education Division completed an inspection of **44** programs (On – Site Inspections – 9; Program Record Surveys – 35). Of the total on – site inspections, three (3) programs were inspected prior to completion of the initial class; two (2) programs were inspected as a result of deficiencies and submitted complaints. The purpose of inspections per Program Record Surveys is to determine the program's compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements and required corrections specified by the Board. Such inspections serve to identify existing and potential program deficiencies, elements negatively impacting student achievement, and strategies for correction.

➤ **Program Annual Report.**

On June 25, 2015, the Education Division disseminated correspondence to all approved, provisionally approved, and pre – approved VN and PT programs requesting completion of the 2015 Annual Report. The deadline for submission of completed reports is September 25, 2015. To date, **181 programs (95.77%**

of the total VN and PT programs) have submitted the required report; **eight (8) programs (4.23% of the total VN and PT programs) have failed to submit the required 2015 Annual Report.**

➤ **Meetings.**

To facilitate resolution of critical programmatic issues, the Education Division continues to hold meetings onsite in addition to teleconference, thus maximizing our responsiveness to program issues and concerns. Since August 1, 2015, the Education Division has conducted meetings and teleconferences with representatives of **139** existing programs. Of the total meetings, 137 were conducted via teleconference.

Additionally, the Education Division continues to meet and consult with representatives of DCA's Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (Bureau) relative to VN and PT programs that are also under the jurisdiction of the Bureau.

➤ **Correspondence.**

Since August 1, 2015, the Education Division has responded to **4,003** inquiries per email, fax, U.S. Postal Service and FedEx received from programs, licensees, and consumers. Of those, **2,044** required a response. **Written responses totalled 992; telephone responses totalled 1,052.**

PERSONNEL.

- **Retired Annuitants** – On October 23, 2015, the Board extended an offer of employment to two (2) Associate Governmental Program Analyst – Retired Annuitants for the Education Division.
- **Recruitment of Nursing Education Consultants (NECs)** – As previously reported, the Board received authorization from the Department of Consumer Affairs' Office of Human Resources to post NEC positions that give an option to be based anywhere in the State. The Home as Headquarters Program will assist the Board in providing maximum oversight and responsiveness to programs throughout the state. Interviews with all eligible candidates as listed on the Nursing Education Consultant (NEC) Certification List were held from October 13 through 15, 2015. Orientation of the first NEC with Home as Headquarters will commence on Monday, December 7, 2015.

The Board continues recruitment to fill the two (2) remaining NEC vacancies.