

Agenda Item #26.



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

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
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DATE: January 25, 2016

TO: Board Members

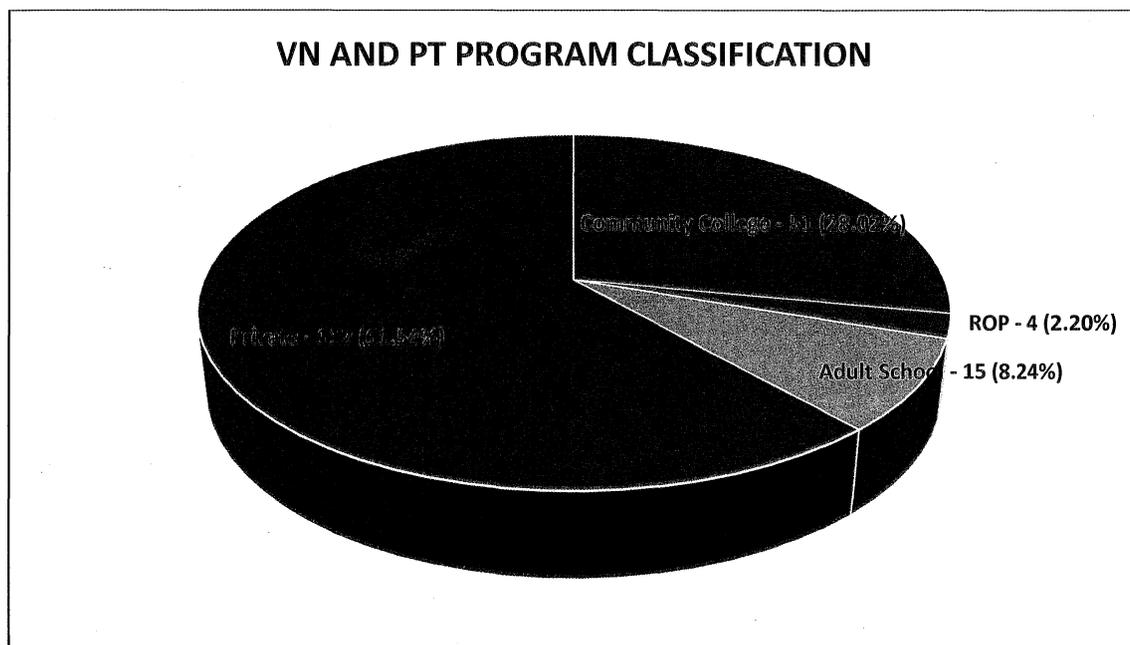
FROM: 
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Supervising Nursing Education Consultant

SUBJECT: Education Division Report

Program Distribution.

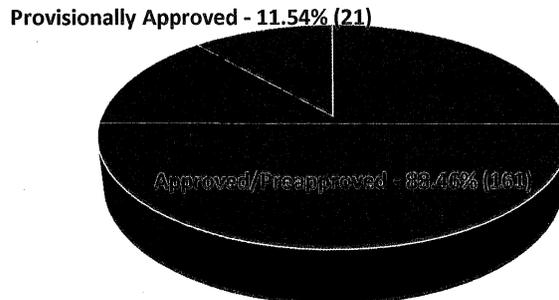
	VN Program	PT Program	Totals
# Approved Programs	137	13	150
# Pre - Approved Programs	10	1	11
# Provisionally Approved Programs	19	2	21
Sub Total	166	16	182
# Proposed Programs	8	2	10
TOTAL PROGRAMS (Approved, Preapproved, Proposed)	174	18	192

Currently, a total of 182 programs are approved to offer educational programs leading to vocational nurse (VN) and psychiatric technician (PT) licensure. Of the total programs, 61.54% are proprietary programs; 28.02% are community college based programs; 8.24% are based in adult schools; and 2.20% are based in regional occupational centers.



Of the total Board – approved programs, 91.21% are VN programs; 8.79% are PT. Of the total VN and PT programs, 88.46% are approved or preapproved programs; 11.54% are provisionally approved programs.

VN & PT PROGRAM APPROVAL CLASSIFICATION



Of the total provisionally approved programs, 90.48% are VN programs and 9.52% are PT programs.

➤ Programmatic Issues.

A. Pass Rate Statistics.

The performance of program graduates on VN and PT licensure examinations is a critical variable used to evaluate programs' effectiveness in achieving consumer protection. **California Code of Regulations** [VN - §2530 (l); PT - §2585 (l)] specifies that all VN and PT programs shall maintain an average annual pass rate that does not fall **below** ten (10) percentage points of the state average annual pass rate for first time program candidates of approved VN and PT programs for the same period.

The current requirement was added per amendment in 2000. An analysis of the effectiveness of this language in achieving consumer protection is in progress. Proposed revisions will be presented for Board consideration at the May 2016 Board meeting.

➤ Vocational Nursing Programs.

a. Approved VN Programs.

Of the total VN programs, 93.98%, 156 programs, are approved/provisionally - approved by the Board. The remaining 6.02%, 10 programs, are pre - approved programs.

Based on published examination statistics for Quarter 4 - 2015, the **quarter** pass rate for first – time candidates from approved VN programs is **76.74%**; the **average annual** pass rate is **74.72%**.

b. Provisionally Approved VN Programs.

Effective December 1, 2015, the number of VN programs on provisional approval totals 19. Based on published examination statistics for Quarter 4 - 2015, the **quarter** pass rate for provisionally approved VN programs is **61.54%**; the **average annual** pass rate is **58.50%**.

Of the total provisionally approved VN programs, Division staff have completed on – site inspections of **14 (73.68%)**.

c. Approved/Provisionally Approved VN Programs.

Based on published examination statistics for Quarter 4 - 2015, the **quarter** pass rate for first – time candidates from approved and provisionally approved VN programs is **75.70%**; the **average annual** pass rate is **73.64%**.

d. Statistical Comparison – VN Programs [California (CA) Pass Rates vs National (NATL) Pass Rates]

Overall, the **quarter** pass rate for all first – time candidates from **CA VN** programs who completed the NCLEX/PN® during Quarter 4 - 2015 was **74.74%**. The **average annual** pass rate for first – time **CA VN** program candidates during Quarter 4 - 2015 was **72.45%**.

By comparison, the **NATL** pass rate for first – time VN program candidates who completed the NCLEX/PN® during Quarter 4 - 2015 was **80.88%**. The **average annual** pass rate for first – time VN program graduates during Quarter 4 – 2015 was **81.88%**.

Based on a comparative analysis of examination statistics from 2012 – 2015, the **quarter** pass rate of **CA VN** Programs averages ten (10) percentage points **below NATL** [All Member Board VN/PN Programs] pass rates. Similar deficits are identified in **average annual pass rates**.

NCLEX/PN Statistical Comparison			
	Qtr. 1 - 4		
	Total # Tested	Total # Passed	%Candidates Passed
National			
2015	50,975	41,740	81.88%
2014	55,480	45,588	82.17%
2013	58,574	49,574	84.63%
2012	62,155	52,448	84.38%
Total	227,184	189,350	83.35%
California			
2015	6,388	4,628	72.45%
2014	7,309	5,227	71.51%
2013	7,269	5,535	76.15%
2012	7,252	5,362	73.94%
Total	28,218	20,752	73.54%

➤ **Psychiatric Technician Programs.**

a. 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 4 - 2015, the **quarter** pass rate for approved PT programs is **64.47%**; the **average annual** pass rate is **77.38%**.

b. Provisionally Approved PT Programs.

Effective December 1, 2015, the number of PT programs on provisional approval totals two (2). Based on published examination statistics for Quarter 4 - 2015, the **quarter** pass rate for provisionally approved PT programs is **54.55%**; the **average annual** pass rate is **62.69%**.

Division staff have completed an on – site inspection of **1 (50.00%)** provisionally approved PT program.

c. Pass Rates - Approved/Provisionally Approved PT Program.

Overall, the **quarter** pass rate for all first – time candidates from PT programs who completed the **CA** Psychiatric Technician Licensure Examination during Quarter 4 - 2015 was **62.79%**. The **average annual** pass rate for first – time PT program candidates during Quarter 4 - 2015 was **75.53%**.

d. Statistical Comparison – Approved/Preapproved PT Programs 2012 - 2015

The following table presents a statistical comparison of examination pass rates for all **CA** PT programs from 2012 – 2015.

CA PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN LICENSURE EXAMINATION			
	Qtr. 1 - 4	Qtr. 1 - 4	
	Total # Tested	Total # Passed	%Candidates Passed
2015	528	399	75.57%
2014	625	501	80.16%
2013	459	395	86.06%
2012	514	415	80.74%
Total	2,126	1,710	80.43%

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 areas impacting student comprehension, **and** the development and implementation of effective strategies for resolution of identified program elements negatively impacting student achievement.

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 and recommend strategies to maximize student achievement.

B. Program Complaints.

From November 1, 2015, through January 31, 2016, the Education Division received complaints from faculty, students, and consumers alleging misconduct by **9** current **and** former programs. Seven (7) programs are currently approved; the remaining two (2) are closed 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.

C. Program Requests.

From November 1, 2015, through January 31, 2016, the Education Division processed **44** 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. Upon completion, a detailed report was prepared for presentation and action by the full Board and Acting Executive Officer.

From November 1, 2015, through January 31, 2016, the Education Division processed **134** requests for approval of new faculty and **69** 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.

D. Program Inspections.

From January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, the Education Division completed an inspection of **53** programs (On – Site Inspections – 12; Program Record Surveys – 41). From November 1, 2015, through January 31, 2016 inspections of nine (9) programs were completed (On – Site Inspections – 4; Program Record Surveys – 5). Of the total on – site inspections, four (4) 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.

E. Program Annual Report.

California Code of Regulations [VN - §2527 (a); PT - §2582 (a)] specifies the Board's authority to require all VN and PT programs to submit reports and conduct investigations necessary to determine approval.

As reported at the November Board meeting, the Education Division disseminated correspondence to all approved, provisionally approved, and pre – approved VN and PT programs requesting completion of the 2015 Annual Report on June 25, 2015, with a deadline for submission as September 25, 2015. To date, six (6) programs failed to submit the required 2015 Annual Report. Resolution is in progress.

F. 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. From November 1, 2015, through January 31, 2016, the Education Division has conducted meetings and teleconferences with representatives of **83** existing programs.

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.

G. Correspondence.

Since November 1, 2015, the Education Division has responded to **1,457** inquiries per email, fax, U.S. Postal Service and FedEx received from programs, licensees, and consumers. Of those, **1,391** required a response. **Written responses** totalled **1,194**; **telephone responses** totalled **197**.

Proposed Programs

On February 28, 2014, the Board authorized a moratorium on the analysis of new proposals until 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 vocational nursing and psychiatric technician programs awaited initial analysis. That backlog resulted from the prolonged shortage of NECs the Board experienced from 2009 through January 7, 2014.

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 second analysis of submitted corrections.

As reported at the November 2015 Board meeting, 14 proposals [VN - 11; PT - 3] remained. The Board extended the moratorium for processing new proposals for commencement of VN and PT programs through February 28, 2016.

Since the November Board meeting, four (4) proposals have been removed from the queue due to the lack of response to Board inquiries. Effective January 27, 2016, ten (10) proposals remain [VN - 8; PT - 2].

Ten (10) additional proposals have been received since placement of the moratorium. Analysis will commence in the order of receipt after February 28, 2016.

PERSONNEL.

- **Retirement** – Effective December 11, 2015, the Education Division's Resource Technician/Management Services Technician retired from State service. Interviews of eligible candidates are scheduled through March 1, 2016.
- **Retired Annuitants** – As previously reported, the Board extended an offer of employment to two (2) Associate Governmental Program Analyst – Retired Annuitants for the Education Division on October 23, 2015. On December 7, 2015, one began employment; the second applicant was unable to accept employment due to illness.

Interviews to fill the remaining vacancy are scheduled through March 1, 2016.

- **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 were conducted with all eligible candidates, as listed on the Nursing Education Consultant (NEC) Certification List. Employment of the first NEC with Home as Headquarters commenced on Monday, December 7, 2015.

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