CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY • GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians
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November 5, 2026

Christopher Estarellas
Director of Nursing/Program Director
Career Care Institute, Oxnard
2051 Solar Dr. #100
Oxnard, CA 93036

Dear Dr. Estarellas:

On behalf of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board or BVNPT), please be notified that the application for continued approval of the Career Care Institute-Oxnard (CCI-Oxnard) has not been approved as set forth below. CCI-Oxnard may reapply to establish a vocational nursing program for approval no sooner than one year from the date of this letter.

I. Continued Approval Application

On July 12, 2022, the Board approved and issued a four-year continued approval term for CCI-Oxnard, beginning August 25, 2022.

On December 10, 2025, the Board sent the Program Director a reminder of the expiration date of the program's continued approval term, which was August 25, 2026, and information regarding the continuing approval process.

On August 18, 2026, CCI-Oxnard timely submitted its Application for Continued Approval (Application) and the required school fee of $5,000.

On September 12, 2026, the Board provided written notice, dated September 11, 2026, to the Program Director that the Application was incomplete (Notification of Incomplete Continuing Approval Application). This notice listed all outstanding items that were not provided with the initial submission, specifying that they must be submitted by October 12, 2026 in order to complete the application, and included a notice that failure to submit a complete application by that date will render the institution ineligible for continuing approval.

Section 2526 of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations states, in part:

> (h) **The approval period shall be for a term of four years and shall expire at 12 midnight four years from the date of issuance by the Board unless the Board grants continuing approval or the approval period is extended as provided in this section.** Provided that a completed application for continuing approval as set forth in subsection (i) is received by the Board prior to the

> expiration date of the approval, a current approval shall be automatically extended until the Board has acted upon the application in accordance with subsection (i). […]
>
> (1) Continuing approval may be granted when the program demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board that it is in full compliance with all requirements as set forth in this Chapter and in Chapter 6.5, Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code and that no grounds for denial exist pursuant to this Chapter or section 480 of the Code.
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> (Emphasis added.)

As of October 12, 2026, the Board had not received any communication, written or otherwise, from CCI-Oxnard or anyone on its behalf, regarding any issues in submitting the outstanding items identified in the September 12, 2026 notice.[1]

On October 14, 2026, at 16:58, the Program Director submitted an email response to the nursing education consultant (NEC) that read his "submission was delayed by technical difficulties encountered while compiling, compressing and sharing the updated document folders in ZIP format." The submitted zip file was empty.

Section 2526 of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations states, in part:

> (j) Within 60 days of the date the Board receives a completed continuing approval application, the Board shall provide written notice regarding whether the application is complete or what additional information, documents or fees are required to make the application complete. For an institution that fails to submit a completed application, the institution shall be advised that the required information must be submitted within 30 days of the date of the written notice and that **failure to submit a completed application prior to the expiration date of the approval will render the institution ineligible for continuing approval.**
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> (Emphasis added.)

CCI-Oxnard failed to submit a completed application by the date specified in the Notification of Incomplete Continuing Approval Application; accordingly, the institution is rendered ineligible for continuing approval at this time.

[1] CCI-Oxnard regularly communicates via email with the NEC multiple times a day, yet no communication of any kind was received by the Board regarding technical difficulties in submitting the outstanding items.

II. Provisional Approval

On October 2, 2026, the Board placed CCI-Oxnard on provisional approval[2] for a two-year period starting on October 2, 2026, among other things, based on a violation of Section 2526(i) of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations relating to the instructional plan.

In September 2023, the CCI Program Directors began a discussion with the NEC regarding changing the texts in the instructional plan. In October 2023, when the United States Department of Education regulations on Financial Value Transparency and Gainful Employment[3] were approved, the CCI Program Directors decided that they would undertake a curriculum change for all of their campuses. On August 15, 2024, the Program Directors discussed possibly delaying revision of the curriculum. In October 2024, the Program Directors decided to restart the curriculum revision process.

On January 28 and 29, 2026, the NEC conducted a training at the CCI Lancaster Campus for all of the CCI Program Directors and campus directors. During the training, the Program's requested prospective curriculum revision was discussed. During that discussion, the NEC informed the attendees that once the Program's new curriculum was approved by the Board, all classes that start after the curriculum's approval would be required to utilize the new curriculum.

On February 3, 2026, the Board approved the Program's Request to Admit Students to commence on April 22, 2026. Subsequently, the class start date was delayed until April 27, 2026.

On February 23, 2026, the Program Directors submitted documentation requesting approval of the revised curriculum that had been in progress, with all required documents. The proposed curriculum revision reduced the program hours from 1564 to 1530 (576 theory and 954 clinical), which corresponds with the Board's curriculum requirements, and the duration from 62 weeks to 60 weeks. The Program Directors requested to have the curriculum submitted to the Executive Officer for approval at the next meeting.

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[2] A program may be placed on provisional approval if the program has not met all of the Board's regulatory and statutory requirements. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 16, § 2526.1(a), (c).)

[3] In part, these federal regulations set the maximum length for an eligible program for the purpose of receiving federal financial aid at the length prescribed in regulation by the state where the institution is located. In other words, if a program's length exceeded the state's minimum curriculum hours, students would be ineligible for Title IV aid for that program. The regulations became effective on July 1, 2024; however, this regulatory provision is currently not being enforced due to pending litigation. (*360 Degree Education v. U.S. Dept. of Education*, U.S. Dist. Ct. For the Northern Dist. of Tex. Fort Worth Div., Case No. 4:24-cv-00508; *American Massage Therapy Assn. v. U.S. Dept. of Education*, Dist. of Columbia Dist. Ct., Case No. 1:24-cv-01670.)

On March 3, 2026, the Program's curriculum revision was approved. On March 12, 2026, CCI administration requested a delay in the implementation of the new curriculum approved by the Board on March 3, 2026, citing internal preparation and obtaining the necessary approvals from Accreditation and the Bureau for Private Post Secondary Education (BPPE) for the curriculum change. This request was denied on March 13, 2026. BVNPT reiterated the requirement that all classes starting after a new curriculum is approved must use the new curriculum or CCI would need to hold the classes until CCI is ready to start the new curriculum.

On or about April 22, 2026, the Program Director notified BVNPT that the Program received all the approvals needed to start the new curriculum and that the April 27, 2026 class would be starting on May 27, 2026 using the new curriculum.

On April 23, 2026, the Program Director informed the NEC that they are prepared to start the new curriculum on May 27, 2026. On May 19, 2026, the Board notified the Program Director that the Oxnard campus is approved to begin a new class at the end of May 2026 using the curriculum approved on March 3, 2026.

On May 26, 2026, the Program Director informed the NEC via email:

> "There is a cohort starting tomorrow, 05 27 26. Unless there is documentation that I have not seen, no notices regarding permission for use of the prior IP [instructional plan] is present. Thus, the situation is unchanged, and we would be in violation of BVNPT regulations."

On May 27, 2026, CCI-Oxnard started a class of students using the previous curriculum that had been replaced by the March 3, 2026 curriculum. On May 28, 2026, President/Chief Administrative Officer of CCI, Evelyn Orellana, notified the Board that the Program Director, Dr. Veronica Berardi, resigned from her position as Director of Nursing earlier that day.

Business and Professions Code section 2880 states:

> The board shall prepare and maintain a list of approved schools of vocational nursing in this state whose graduates, if they have the other necessary qualifications provided in this chapter, shall be eligible to apply for a license to practice vocational nursing in this state.

Section 2526.1(h) of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations states, in part:

> (h) A program that is removed from the Board's list of approved programs subsequent to Board action based on the program's non-compliance with

applicable regulations shall not reapply to establish a vocational nursing program for a minimum period of one calendar year.

CCI-Oxnard failed to comply with applicable regulations by failing to submit a completed Continuing Approval Application by the date specified in the Notification of Incomplete Continuing Approval Application, rendering it ineligible for continuing approval. Based on this non-compliance resulting in the loss of Board approval, CCI-Oxnard is no longer on the Board's list of approved vocational nursing programs. CCI-Oxnard shall not reapply to establish a vocational nursing program for a minimum period of one calendar year from the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

Elaine G. Yamaguchi
ELAINE G. YAMAGUCHI
Executive Officer

CC: Evelyn Orellana, President, California Career Institute
Brian Walters, Walters West APC
Aleta Carpenter, Acting President, BVNPT
Ileana Butu, BVNPT General Counsel
Elizabeth Elias, Chief, Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education
Christine Lally, Acting Director, Department of Consumer Affairs