

## Agenda Item # 10.



STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY • ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, GOVERNOR

**BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS**  
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DATE: February 5, 2009

TO: Board Members

FROM: Teresa Bello-Jones, J.D., M.S.N., R.N.  
*Executive Officer*

SUBJECT: **Presentation of 2009 Board Goals**

Attached for are the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians' 2009 Board Goals for your review and consideration.

**Recommendation:**

The Board adopt the 2009 Board Goals.

Attachment



## **2009 BOARD GOALS**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

1. Board Re-Establishment (Eng, Chapter 35, Statutes of 2008) – Assist with the implementation of the following actions pursuant to this chapter which became effective January 1, 2009, which specifies, in part, the following actions:
  - Re-establishes the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) and vests it with the same powers.
  - Authorizes the Executive Officer of the previous Board to serve as Interim Executive Officer of the Board until the appointment of a permanent Executive Officer by the Board.
  - Authorizes the Board Members of the previous Board to serve temporarily as Interim Board Members until the official appointment of members to the Board.
  - Repeals the authority for the Board and its Executive Officer effective January 1, 2012.
2. Legislative Mandate (AB 269, Chapter 107, Statutes of 2002) – Continue to ensure that enforcement activities take precedence over all other licensing and regulatory functions.
3. Governor's Reorganization Plan (GRP) – Address the GRP proposal to consolidate the Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) with the Board of Registered Nursing to create a new *Board of Registered and Vocational Nurses* and consolidate the Psychiatric Technicians (PTs) with the Board of Behavioral Sciences and the Board of Psychology to create a new *Board of Mental Health*.
4. Nursing Education Consultants (NECs) Recruitment & Retention – Continue to work with the DCA Office of Human Resources and the DCA Contracts Unit to develop creative alternatives to filling the vacant NEC positions.
5. Office Facilities – Work with DCA Facilities/Space Planning and the Department of General Services to ensure sufficient office space is available for the new staff needed to handle the retroactive fingerprinting workload.
6. Organizational Effectiveness – Enhance organizational effectiveness in all applicable areas through staff development and the utilization of new technology and equipment as budget permits.
7. Stakeholder Surveys – Evaluate the Board's performance of its regulatory functions using targeted surveys, and feedback from professional, health care, and consumer organizations.

## **ENFORCEMENT**

1. Accusations and Decisions on Web Site – Complete the posting of all pending accusations and final decisions on the Board’s web site to ensure access of public documents.
2. Expert Witness Program – Expand the Board’s Expert Witness Program by recruiting and training additional experts to review enforcement cases, provide quality expert opinions, and testify at administrative hearings regarding gross negligence or incompetence.
3. Retroactive Fingerprinting – Implement the new retroactive fingerprinting requirements for all licensees and conduct a criminal background check with the Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation. Ensure that licensees with criminal histories are investigated and disciplined, as warranted, in a timely manner.

## **LEGISLATION**

1. California Nursing Shortage – Advocate for inclusion of LVNs and PTs in legislative proposals that address methods and means to resolve or reduce the nursing shortage in California.
2. Interim Permits – Obtain an author to amend Business and Professions (B&P) Code sections 2872.2 (VN) and 4510.1 (PT) regarding the issuance of interim permits (IPs) which allow graduates of California accredited or approved programs who have been deemed eligible to test, to practice pending the results of the first licensure examination. This proposal would add filing deadlines and expiration dates to clarify existing statutes regarding the IP requirements and remove references to approved programs. The Board requested DCA and the Senate Committee on Business, Professions & Economic Development to include this proposal in its Committee Omnibus bill.
3. Permissive Site Visits – Obtain an author to amend the Business and Professions (B&P) Code sections 2883 (VN) and 4532 (PT) to specify that site visits for approval of new VN & PT Programs be “permissive” rather than mandatory by the Board. The Senate Committee on Business, Professions & Economic Development declined to include this proposal in its Committee Omnibus bill. Therefore, the Board will need to find an author for this proposal.
4. Statutory Fee Ranges – Obtain an author to amend B&P Code sections 2895 (VN) and 4548 (PT) relative to the statutory fee ranges for an initial license, biennial renewal, and delinquent licenses. The Senate Business, Professions & Economic Development Committee declined to include this proposal in its Committee Omnibus bill. Therefore, the Board will need to find an author for this proposal.

## **REGULATIONS**

1. Conforming Regulations – Completion of the conforming regulations required by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) to finalize the emergency regulations that became effective

January 9, 2009, in regards to retroactive fingerprinting, criminal history inquiries and the fee change.

2. Education Program – Prepare draft language for regulatory amendments that address the acceptable percentage of students from each school that are successful on the licensure examination and the acceptable period of time a school is permitted to bring unacceptable pass percentages into regulatory compliance.
3. Eligibility for Licensure Requirements – Develop regulations to amend the Board’s Eligibility for Licensure requirements, section 2516 (VN) and 2575 (PT) of the California Code of Regulations. The proposed regulations will define theory content (PT) and hours needed for licensure eligibility via equivalency methods, including the formula (VN and PT) used to convert curriculum hours to paid experience.

## **EDUCATION**

1. Director Forums – Continue conducting statewide Director Forums to inform directors of accredited, proposed or newly approved programs of the current statutes and regulations.
2. School Accreditation – Continue collaboration with program directors to develop quality VN and PT Programs. Assist directors with strategies to improve their accredited programs.

## **EXAMINATIONS AND LICENSING**

1. VN Licensure Examination – Continue collaboration with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc. to develop, implement, and evaluate the NCLEX/PN®.
2. PT Licensure Examination – Continue collaboration with the DCA Office of Professional Examination Services to develop a legally defensible and psychometrically sound licensure examination and implement a program to report first timer passing scores.
3. Staffing – Determine feasibility of submitting a Budget Change Proposal for additional licensing staff to permanently resolve the ongoing backlogs in cashiering and licensing functions due to the increased workload volume.

## **AUTOMATION**

1. Automate Fingerprint Report Information – Continue to work with DCA, Office of Information Services (OIS) to automate the report information received from the Department of Justice relative to fingerprint reports.
2. DCA BreEze Project (formerly iLicensing) – Continue collaboration with the DCA, OIS, to develop and implement BrEZe, to allow applications for licensure and renewal to be submitted via the internet.

3. Electronic Data Management System (EDMS) – Continue collaboration with the DCA Office of Information Services to implement an Electronic Data Management System to facilitate the conversion of paper records to electronic records.
4. Website Host Change – Migrate the hosting of the Board's internet website from the Department of Technology Services to DCA, to facilitate the inclusion of enforcement actions on the web license lookup.

(1/28/09)