

## Agenda Item # 9.



STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY • ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, GOVERNOR

### BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS

2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205, Sacramento, CA 95833-2945

Phone (916) 263-7800 Fax (916) 263-7859 Web [www.bvnpt.ca.gov](http://www.bvnpt.ca.gov)



DATE: February 5, 2009

TO: Board Members

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

SUBJECT: **Presentation of 2008 Annual Report**

Attached for your information is the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians' 2008 Annual Report.

Attachment

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING  
AND PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS

---

**2008 ANNUAL REPORT**



**February 5, 2009**

## Table of Contents

I.	Highlights.....	1
II.	Enforcement Division .....	2
III.	Education Division.....	5
IV.	Psychiatric Technician Program .....	8
V.	Vocational Nursing Program .....	10
VI.	Consumer Outreach.....	11
VII.	Administrative & Liaison Activities.....	12
VIII.	General Statistics .....	16

## I. HIGHLIGHTS

- A. **Board to Bureau to Board Transition** – Due to a legislative mishap in September 2007, the Assembly adjourned without taking up Senate Bill (SB) 797 which contained the statutory language required to extend the sunset date for the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) and three other licensing boards within Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). As a result, the Board became a Bureau operating under the DCA on July 1, 2008. According to the Senate Pro Tem's Office, "This was unintentional and also involved the sunset extension of three other boards within DCA."

Two legislative bills were required to re-establish the boards. On June 23, 2008, SB 797 (urgency legislation) extended the executive officers of the various Boards until January 1, 2012. Effective January 1, 2009, Assembly Bill (AB) 1545 re-established the boards until January 1, 2012.

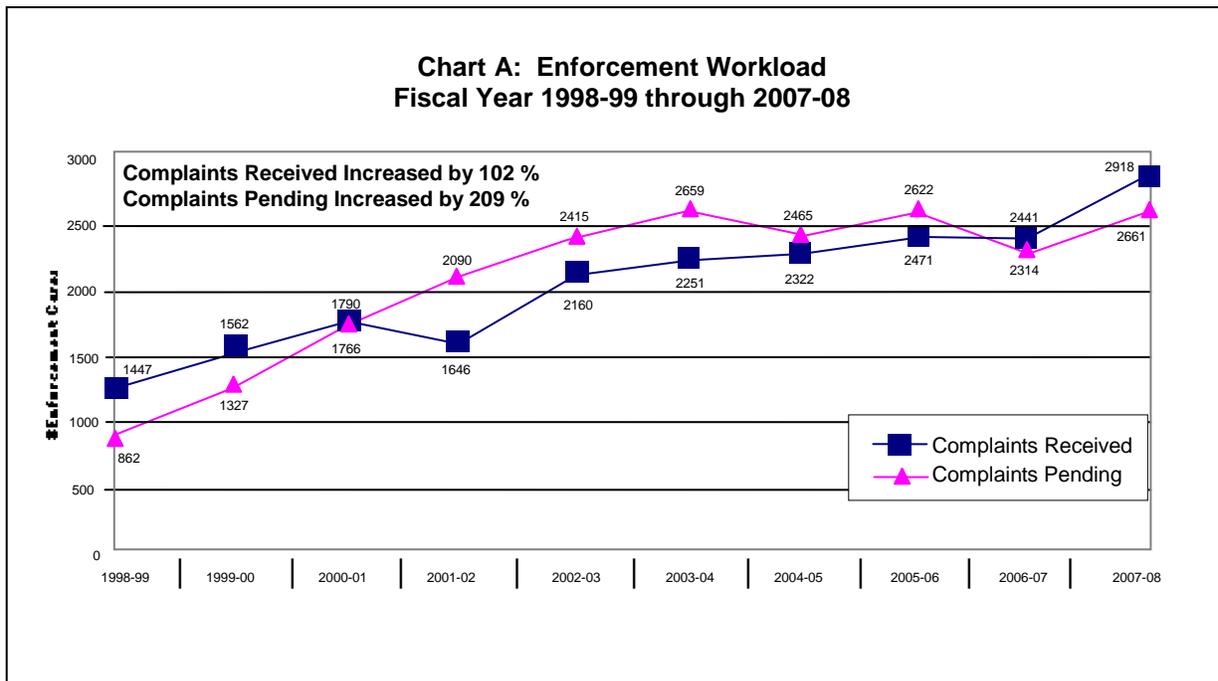
### B. **Statutory Changes**

1. **SB 797** was an urgency bill that went into effect 6/23/08. This bill was part I of AB 1545. It allows the executive officers of various boards, sunset on July 1, 2008, to continue in their positions, operating under the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) past their inoperative dates, subject to the appointment by the Governor, until January 1, 2009.
2. **SB 1441** impacts substance abuse programs and requires the executive officers of healthcare boards to be members of the DCA Substance Abuse Coordination Committee.
3. **AB 1545** established a new Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (amongst other Boards) within DCA and establishes the Board's authorization to appoint an executive officer. The bill would repeal the authority for these boards and their executive officers on January 1, 2012. The bill also establishes guidelines to allow the former members and executive officer to serve in an interim capacity until board members and executive officers are appointed to the new board.
4. **AB 1927** requires vocational nursing and psychiatric technician schools to grant credit for secondary school courses that are equivalent to vocational nursing and psychiatric technician courses.
5. **AB 2423** establishes or modifies the authority and procedures for granting an initial probationary license, and establishes special procedures for the denial of a license based on an applicant's criminal history.

- C. **Enforcement Consumer Protection Changes** – On October 22, 2008, the Board began posting all “pending accusations” on its web site. A link from the licensure look-up screens to the accusations was created so that the public has easier access to the documents. The Board also plans to upload final decisions to its web site.
- D. **Mandatory Reporting Workshops & Implementation** – The Board conducted Public Forums on June 24, 2008, in Sacramento, and June 26, 2008, in Los Angeles, to provide an overview of the mandatory reporting requirements that were effective October 11, 2007. Discussion topics included: historical information; review of the reporting requirements for Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVN) and Psychiatric Technicians (PT) and employers of LVNs and PTs; how to report violations; and consequences for failure to report. Approximately 50 people attended in Sacramento and 90 people in Los Angeles.
- E. **Regulatory Change** – On September 29, 2008, the Office of Administrative Law approved the Board’s Rehabilitation Criteria and Disciplinary Guidelines regulations. The regulations were filed with the Secretary of State Office and became effective October 29, 2008.

**II. ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**

- A. **Workload Increase & Resultant Backlogs** – Chart A shows the increase in the enforcement workload for the past ten years (i.e., Fiscal Year 1998-99 through 2007-08). The number of complaints “received” increased by 102% and the number of complaints “pending (as of June 30<sup>th</sup>)” increased by 209%. The Board continues to address existing backlogs to reduce case aging.



- B. **Complaints** – Table #1 shows the number of complaints by “calendar year” (not fiscal year\*). In 2008, the Board received 3,153 complaints.

<b>Table #1: Complaints Received</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Vocational Nurses:</b>					
Applicant Complaints	896	945	1070	1,125	<b>1,417</b>
Regular Complaints	1,014	1,005	974	1,132	<b>1,311</b>
<b>VN Total:</b>	<b>1,910</b>	<b>1,950</b>	<b>2044</b>	<b>2,257</b>	<b>2,728</b>
<b>Psychiatric Technicians:</b>					
Applicant Complaints	131	161	132	132	<b>160</b>
Regular Complaints	259	305	277	246	<b>265</b>
<b>PT Total:</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>425</b>
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>2,300*</b>	<b>2,416*</b>	<b>2453*</b>	<b>2,635*</b>	<b>3,153*</b>
*The amounts shown in this table reflect statistics for each “calendar year”. The amounts shown in Chart A reflect “fiscal year” statistics (not calendar year data). Therefore, these figures will not match exactly.					

- C. **Disciplinary Actions** – The Board took the following disciplinary actions against LVNs and PTs in 2008:

<b>Table #2: Disciplinary Actions</b>	<b>LVNs</b>		<b>PTs</b>		<b>Totals</b>	
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Revocations	80	66	26	18	<b>106</b>	<b>84*</b>
Suspensions	0	1	0	1	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
Probation	58	75	15	15	<b>73</b>	<b>90*</b>
Voluntary Surrender	9	17	1	0	<b>10</b>	<b>17*</b>
Reinstatement Granted	8	6	1	0	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>
Reinstatement Denied	4	5	2	2	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
Early Termination & Modification of Probation Granted	1	1	0	0	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Early Termination & Modification of Probation Denied	2	1	0	0	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Licenses Denied (In-house)	23	29	6	4	<b>29</b>	<b>33</b>
Licenses Denied (Adjudicated)	6	1	0	1	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>
Advisement Letters	858	927	187	127	<b>1045</b>	<b>1054</b>
Probation Compliance Meetings	39	83	11	23	<b>50</b>	<b>106</b>
Citations and Fines	208	204	34	29	<b>242</b>	<b>233</b>
# Ordered to Pay Cost Recovery	63	72	16	12	<b>79</b>	<b>84</b>
Total Cost Recovery Ordered	\$276,552	\$326,515	\$52,892	\$41,814	<b>\$329,444</b>	<b>\$368,330</b>
*Decisions took longer to process as a Bureau from July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. If the process had remained the same, approximately 34 additional decisions (i.e., 20 revocations; 13 probations; and 1 surrender) would probably have become effective in 2008.						

D. **Citation and Fine Program** – The Board issued a total of 233 citations in 2008. Of that total, 204 were issued to VNs, and 29 were issued to PTs. The dollar amount assessed in fines was \$80,093 and \$11,022 respectively; and the dollar amount collected in fines was \$38,246 and \$7,351 respectively (some fines collected during 2008 were payments for fines assessed in prior years). Licensees are informed they may not renew VN or PT licenses until all fines are paid in full. Citations were issued for a variety of violations including unprofessional conduct, unlicensed activity, failure to disclose a conviction on the application for licensure, and falsification of continuing education units.

E. **Criminal Conviction Reporting**

1. **Fingerprint Program** – The Board requires all applicants, prior to licensure, to submit fingerprints to obtain a criminal history report from the DOJ and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Interim permits, temporary licenses, and actual licenses are only issued upon receipt of a clearance report from the DOJ.

In 2008, 1,417 VN applicants and 160 PT applicants with criminal convictions were referred to the Enforcement Unit for review. During that same time period, the Board received and reviewed criminal history reports (i.e., RAP Sheets from the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation) indicating prior convictions for 707 VN and 99 PT applicants.

2. **Report of Criminal Convictions on License Renewals** – In 2008, 336 licensees (267 LVNs; and 69 PTs) reported they had been convicted of a criminal offense during the two years immediately preceding their license renewal date. At present, 70 licensees were issued warning letters; 168 cases are pending criminal conviction documents and additional information from the licensees; 16 cases were transmitted to the Attorney General's (AG's) Office for formal discipline; and 16 cases resulted in a citation and fine being issued. 66 cases (56 LVN and 10 PT) were closed because the convictions were not substantially related to the license or other reasons.

F. **Probation Monitoring Program**

1. **Probation Compliance Meetings** – A total of 217 licensees (175 LVN and 42 PT) are on probation including 22 probationers (18 LVNs and 4 PT) whose probation terms are on tolled status. During 2008, 106 probation meetings (83 VN and 23 PT) were conducted. Over the year, 27 Licensees (19 LVNs and 8 PTs) were found to be out of compliance with the terms and conditions of probation, and the cases were forwarded to the AG's Office for initiation of revocation proceedings. During 2008, 13 probationers' licenses (10 LVNs and 3 PTs) were revoked or their probation extended for violation of probation (some cases were transmitted to the AG's Office in prior years).

2. **Early Termination or Modification of Probation** – Two (2) LVN petitioners requested early termination/modification of probation in 2008. 1 petition was denied.

### III. EDUCATION DIVISION

- A. **Accredited Programs** – Currently, 210 VN Programs and 16 PT Programs are accredited and approved by the Board. Table #3 delineates the 108% growth in the number of VN Programs and a 14% growth in the number of PT Programs accredited by the Board over the past 7.5 years.

Programs	Actual FY 01/02	Actual FY 02/03	Actual FY 03/04	Actual FY 04/05	Actual FY 05/06	Actual FY 06/07	Actual FY 07/08	Current FY thru 12/31/08	% Change from 01/02
<b>VN</b>	101	107	121	139	174	195	203	210	<b>108%</b>
<b>PT</b>	14	15	16	15	15	15	16	16	<b>14%</b>
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>97%</b>

Table #4 details the progressive growth in the number of “new and additional” student admissions requested and approved by the Board for admission to its VN and PT Programs statewide. As an example, in fiscal year 2007/08, the VN Program approved the admission of 3,802 more students for its new and existing VN Programs statewide. As the accredited VN Programs take about 12-18 months to complete, these students should be applying for their licensure examinations in fiscal year 2007/08 and fiscal year 2009/10. In fiscal year 2007/08, the Board approved the admission of 3,802 more students for its new and existing VN Programs statewide. This is a 148% increase from the prior year.

VN Programs	Actual FY 01/02	Actual FY 02/03	Actual FY 03/04	Actual FY 04/05	Actual FY 05/06	Actual FY 06/07	Actual FY 07/08	Current FY thru 12/31/08
Students Requested for “New” VN Programs	236	265	575	600	1,218	671	533	192
Additional Student Admissions Requested for “Existing” VN Programs	291	495	713	1,488	1,427	864	3269	1736
<b>Total # of <u>Additional</u> VN Student Admissions Requested Per Year</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>1,288</b>	<b>2,088</b>	<b>2,645</b>	<b>1535</b>	<b>3802</b>	<b>1928</b>
PT Programs	FY 01/02	FY 02/03	FY 03/04	FY 04/05	FY 05/06	FY 06/07	FY 07/08	Current FY- 12/31/08
Students Requested for “New” PT Programs	45	0	15	30	0	0	30	0
Additional Student Admissions Requested for “Existing” PT Programs	30	90	0	0	0	45	15	0
<b>Total # of <u>Additional</u> PT Student Admissions Requested Per Year</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>

B. **New Programs** – Sixteen VN programs were approved to commence initial classes in 2008.

1. American Career College, Ontario
2. Anderson Medical Career College, City of Commerce
3. Career Care Institute, Moreno Valley
4. College of Medical Arts, Torrance
5. Computer Institute of Technology, North Hollywood
6. Gurnick Academy of Medical Arts, Fresno
7. Gurnick Academy of Medical Arts, Modesto
8. Infotech Career College, Bellflower
9. Joseph's School of Nursing, Lancaster
10. Maric College, Sacramento
11. Maric College, Stockton
12. Oikos University, Oakland
13. Professional Medical Careers Institute, Moorpark
14. Santa Barbara Business College, Palm Desert
15. Solano College of Nursing, Vallejo
16. Valley College of Medical Careers, West Hills

C. **Program Closures** – Seven (7) vocational nursing programs were closed in 2008.

1. All American Career College, Santa Ana
2. American Scientific Institute, Los Angeles
3. CenterPointe Learning Center
4. International Career Development Center
5. International College of Business and Technology, Calabasas
6. Los Angeles Unified School District, Sylmar
7. Unitek College, San Francisco

D. **School Survey Visits**

Twelve (12) VN programs were surveyed for **initial accreditation** in 2008.

1. Academy of English Language, Los Angeles
2. American College of Nursing, Concord
3. Annenberg School of Nursing, Reseda
4. Charles A. Jones Skills and Business Education Center, Sacramento
5. Clarita Career College, Canyon Country
6. College of Medical Arts, Anaheim
7. College of Medical Arts, El Cerrito
8. College of Medical Arts, Lawndale
9. Integrity College of Health, Alta Dena
10. North West College, Glendale
11. Soledad Adult School/Mission Trails ROP, Soledad
12. Tulare Adult School, Tulare

Twenty-nine (29) VN programs were surveyed for **continued accreditation** in 2008.

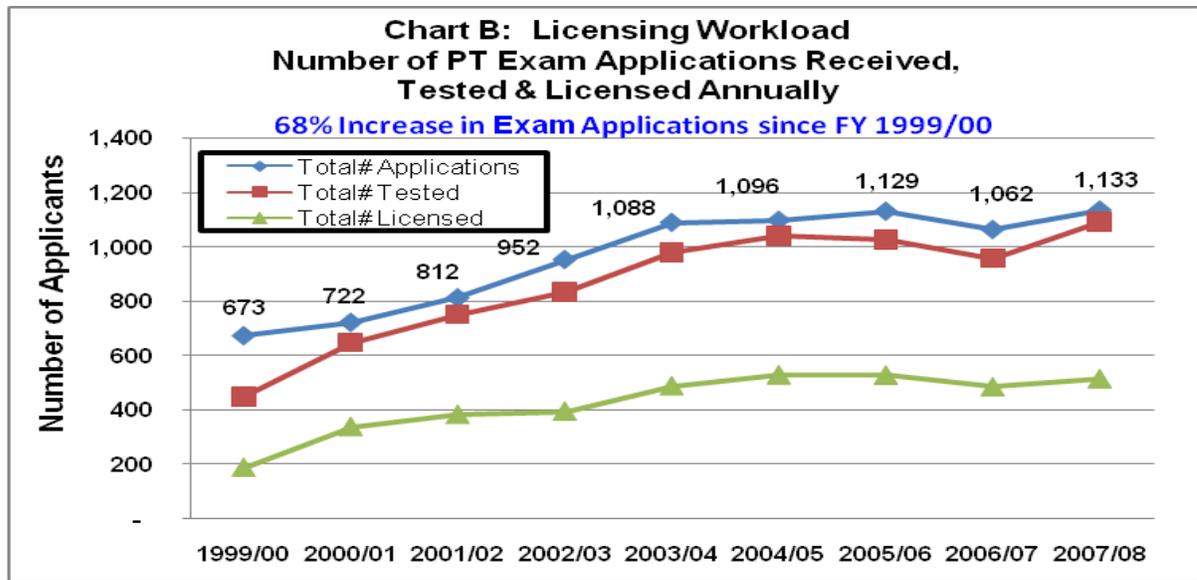
1. Antelope Valley College, Lancaster
2. Boston Reed/Martinez Adult Education Center, Martinez
3. Casa Loma College, Hawthorne
4. Casa Loma College, Van Nuys
5. Chaffey College, Rancho Cucamonga
6. City College of San Francisco, San Francisco
7. College of the Desert, Palm Desert
8. Concorde Career College, San Bernardino
9. Concorde Career College, San Diego
10. Copper Mountain College, Joshua Tree
11. Four D College, Colton
12. Los Medanos College, Pittsburg
13. Lynwood Community Adult School, Lynwood
14. Marian College, Los Angeles
15. Marian College, Van Nuys
16. Maric College, Vista
17. North Orange County ROP, Anaheim
18. Pasadena City College, Pasadena
19. Preferred College of Nursing, Los Angeles
20. Premiere Career College, Irwindale
21. Riverside Community College, Riverside
22. San Joaquin Delta College, Stockton
23. Santa Rosa Junior College
24. Sacramento City College, Sacramento
25. Shasta College, Redding
26. St. Francis Career College, Lynwood
27. St. Francis Career College, San Jose
28. State Center Community College District, Madera Center, Madera
29. Western Career College, San Leandro

Placements on Provisional Accreditation – Eleven (11) VN programs were placed on **provisional accreditation** in 2008.

1. Anderson Medical Career College, North Hollywood
2. Antelope Valley Career Academy, Palmdale
3. ATC College, Oakland
4. Career Colleges of America, San Bernardino
5. Career Colleges of America, Southgate
6. Career Networks Institute, Costa Mesa
7. Coast Health Education Center, Anaheim
8. Health Education Advancement Center, Los Angeles
9. Summit Career College, Anaheim
10. Summit Career College, Colton
11. Walter Jay MD Institute, Los Angeles

#### IV. PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

- A. **Workload Increase** – Chart B shows the increase in the PT Program’s licensing workload for the past nine years (i.e., Fiscal Year 1999-00 through 2007-08). The number of examination applications received annually increased by 68%.



- B. **Examination Administration** – The Board contracted with Psychological Services, LLC (PSI) to administer its computerized PT Licensure Examination for the period January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008.
- C. **Examination Development** – The Board contracted with the DCA, Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) for the period of July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2008, for examination development services for the PT Licensure Examination. A new agreement was executed for the period of July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2010. The following examination development activities occurred in 2008:
1. **Program Survey** – In February 2008, the Board conducted a survey of all psychiatric technician programs. Programs were canvassed relative to the following areas: Numbers of program graduates; Changes in the population of applicants; Changes in student population; Technological innovations; Changes in professional practice; and Trends in healthcare. Data from the study assists the Board in the development of future examination programs. Additionally, this information assists the Board in addressing pertinent issues related to examination, licensure, and practice.
  2. **Planning Meeting** – On March 18, 2008, the Board convened the Annual PT Planning Meeting with the OPES. The purpose of the meeting was the review and analysis of the PT Licensure Examination program and the development of additional program requirements.

3. Examination Administration Reports – On April 9, 2008, the Board convened a meeting with OPES managers and the Integrated Examination Services Contract Administrator. The purpose of the meeting was the administrative review and analysis of the administration of the PT Licensure Examination program and development of strategies for resolution of identified project concerns.

On July 31, 2008, the Board convened a meeting with OPES, IESP Contract Administrator, and DCA's Office of Information Services (OIS), Development Programmer, and Applicant Tracking System Unit Team Lead. The purpose of the meeting was administrative review and analysis of the current production of statistical reports relative to the PT Licensure Examination. Factors impacting the production of statistical reports relative to the performance of PT program graduates were identified. A process and timeline were established to ensure the production of accurate program statistical reports

4. Item Development & Committee of Content Experts Conferences – The Board, in conjunction with OPES, convened the following conferences:

- An **Item Development and Review Conference** was convened from January 22, 2008 through January 25, 2008. The primary conference objective was the development of sufficient quality examination items consistent with the needs of the PT Licensure Examination Item Bank to facilitate publication of new examination items in January 2009. Conference participants included eight (8) Subject Matter Experts from education and practice arenas.
- A **Committee of Content Experts Conference** was convened from April 21, 2008, through April 23, 2008. The purpose of the conference was selection and finalization of examination items for new PT Licensure Examinations. Conference participants included three (3) Subject Matter Experts from education and practice arenas.
- An **Item Development Conference** was convened from December 9, 2008, through December 12, 2008. The primary conference objective was the development of sufficient quality examination items consistent with the needs of the PT Licensure Item Bank to facilitate publication of new examination items in January 2010. Conference participants included seven (7) Subject Matter Experts from education and practice arenas.

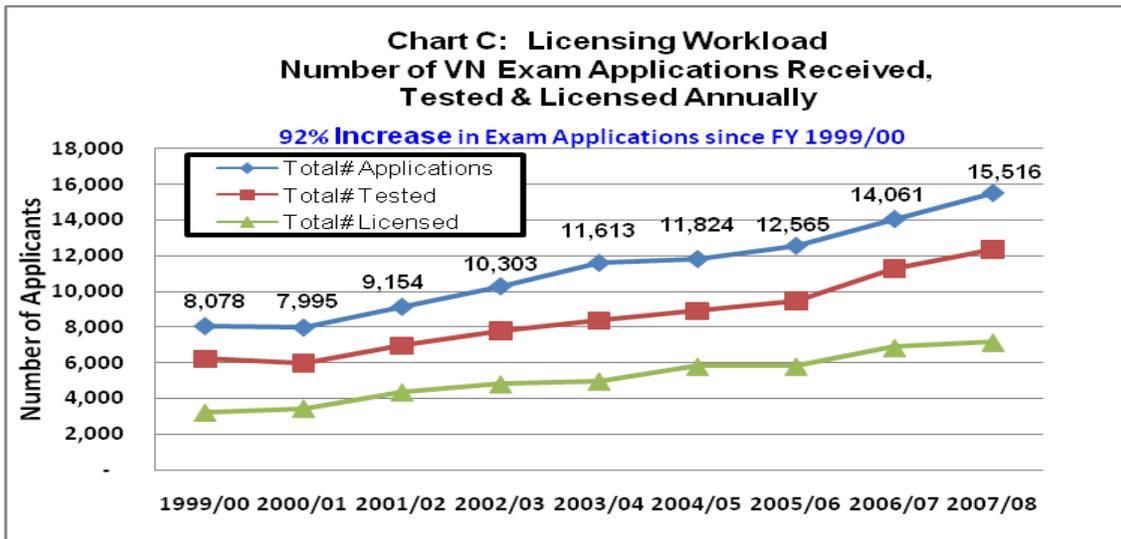
- D. Establishment of a New Passing Standard – On February 1, 2008, the Board adopted a new a new passing standard for the PT Licensure Examination. The new standard was recommended by OPES based upon the expertise of panel judges representative of the psychiatric technician population. The new passing standard was officially implemented in January 2009.

- E. **Examination Statistics** – Table #5 shows a total of 1,091 applicants sat for the PT Licensure Examination in 2008. The pass percentage rate for first-time applicants was 70%. The PT Licensure Examination Statistics for 2008 are as follows:

<b>Table #5: Applicant Category</b>	<b>PT Applicants Tested</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Fail</b>
First-Time Applicants	600	421	179
Repeat Applicants	491	125	366
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>1,091</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>545</b>

**V. VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM**

- A. **Workload Increase** – Chart C shows the increase in the VN Program’s licensing workload for the past nine years (i.e., Fiscal Year 1999-00 through 2007-08). The number of examination applications received annually increased by 92%. As a result, Board staff is dealing with ongoing backlogs in cashiering, evaluations, exam result processing and licensing. Board staff is researching the feasibility of submitting a Budget Change Proposal to request additional licensing staff.



- B. **Examination Administration** -- The Board contracts with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing for the development and administration of the VN licensure examination, the NCLEX-PN®.
- C. **Examination Statistics** – Table #6 shows a total of 12,841 applicants sat for the VN Licensure Examination in 2008. The pass percentage rate for first-time applicants was 69%. The NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Statistics for 2008 are as follows:

<b>Table #6: Applicant Category</b>	<b>VN Applicants Tested</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Fail</b>
First-Time Applicants	8,598	5,957	2,641
Repeat Applicants	4,243	1,167	3,076
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>12,841</b>	<b>7,124</b>	<b>5,717</b>

## VI. CONSUMER OUTREACH

- A. **Consumer Information Brochures** - The Board's five consumer information brochures are reviewed annually to ensure the most current information is available. The brochures contain general information regarding hiring of LVNs and PTs, information for hospitalized patients, licenses, statutes, regulations, the disciplinary process, convictions, fingerprint requirements, and the Board's web site. The brochures are available on the Board's website. The Board's last review was in September 2008, and it was determined that no substantive changes were needed.
- B. **Director Forums** – On September 11 and September 26, 2008, the Board presented Director Forums in Los Angeles and Sacramento respectively. The forums provided directors and faculty of VN and PT programs information about assessment tests, the Los Angeles Nursing Resource Center, Critical Thinking curriculum content and a concept for possible amendment of pass rate regulations. 250 people attended the forums.
- C. **Stakeholder Survey** – On October 2, 2008, the Board e-mailed surveys to all VN and PT programs as well as many clinical facilities used by the programs. The purpose of the survey was to determine what challenges LVNs and PTs may face in education and practice within the next five years as well as to identify possible problems encountered by new graduates of VN and PT programs and their employers. This information will also be used to assist in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Board.

The major issue for VN and PT programs remains the paucity of sites for clinical experience due to preferential allocation of space for registered nursing students and the saturation of sites because of use by several health care provider classifications. This was also the major concern in 2007.

Clinical facilities voice the need for better education of VN and PT graduates in the areas of leadership and supervision, time management, critical thinking, patient assessment, documentation skills and intravenous therapy (VN only).

- D. **Customer Service Surveys** -- In 2008, the Board distributed and/or mailed out approximately 3,150 Customer Service Surveys (i.e., distributed at Board Meeting and at the Board's Public Counter; and mailed to the Board's General Mailing List, Accredited Schools and to Examination Result recipients). Approximately 9 percent or about 295 survey responses were received. A summary of the survey results revealed that 92% of the respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied with the Board's performance; 5% were marginally satisfied with the Board's performance; and 3% were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the Board's performance.

## VII. ADMINISTRATIVE & LIAISON ACTIVITIES

### A. **Board Meetings** – Four (4) Board Meetings were held in 2008:

- January 31 – February 1, 2008                      San Diego, CA
- May 8 – 9, 2008    Oakland, CA
- September 11 – 12, 2008                              Los Angeles, CA
- November 20 – 21, 2008                              Los Angeles, CA

### B. **Board Members** -- The following Board Member actions occurred:

1. **Election of 2008 Officers** – On February 1, 2008, John P. Vertido, Licensed Vocational Nurse/Educator, was elected as President of the Board and Todd D’Braunstein, Psychiatric Technician, was elected Vice President of the Board. Due to the Board to Bureau transition, on September 12, 2008, Mr. Vertido and Mr. D’Braunstein were elected Advisory Committee Chair and Co-Chair of the Bureau of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians.
2. **Board Member Departures** – On June 1, 2008, Delores Moreno-Bennett and Henry Aguilar’s terms on the Board expired.
3. **Board Member Vacancies** -- There are now four (4) board member positions vacant. They are:
  - Two (2) LVN member positions
  - Two (2) Public Member positions

### C. **Liaison Activities & National Committees**

1. **National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Examination Committee** – On January 22-24, July 21-23, and October 21-23, 2008, Cheryl Anderson, Nursing Education Consultant (NEC), attended meetings in Chicago, Illinois. The Committee’s charge is to provide general oversight of NCLEX<sup>®</sup> examination processes to ensure consistency with the examination needs of Member Boards. That includes, but is not limited to the following components: Item Development; Examination Security; Psychometrics; Examination Administration; Quality Assurance; Approve Subject Matter Experts; and Recommend test plans to the Delegate Assembly.
2. **Licensed Vocational Nurses League of California (LVNLC) 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention** – On April 23, 2008, John Vertido, Board President, and Suellen Clayworth, NEC, represented the Board at this convention held in Sacramento, CA. Mr. Vertido’s Keynote Speech addressed the LVN Acute Care Crisis. In addition, he updated the participants on the current status of bills moving through the legislature related to the Board’s scheduled Sunset date. Ms. Clayworth spoke to participants to encourage involvement in the legislative process and demonstrated how to track bills, obtain information about legislators and contact legislators to express support of or opposition to bills.

3. California Vocational Nurse Educators Conferences – On April 26, 2008 and October 18, 2008, John Vertido, Board President, represented the Board at these conferences in Sacramento. Mr. Vertido's Keynote Speech addressed "What Happens to the Board after Sunset?" He gave an overview of the factors that lead up to the Board becoming a Bureau, updated the participants on the current status of bills moving through the legislature related to the Board's scheduled Sunset date, assured the participants that Board functions will go on uninterrupted, and encouraged participants to become actively involved in the legislative process.
4. Healthcare Workforce Clearinghouse – On July 9, 2008, Ann Shuman, Supervising NEC, attended a meeting sponsored by the Economic Development Department and the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. The purpose of the meeting was to begin development of a computerized program to compile and disseminate a wide range of information about health care provider classifications in the state.
5. NCSBN Examination Item Review Subcommittee Meetings -- On August 19-22, 2008, Cheryl Anderson, NEC, attended this meeting in Chicago, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting was to analyze and evaluate item content, construction and performance based on California statutes and regulations, the profession of nursing, and techniques and procedures related to examination development and competency measurement.
6. Bay Area College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program Graduation – On May 2, 2008, Teresa Bello-Jones, Executive Officer (EO), presented a graduation speech to Bay Area College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program's graduating class, at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco.
7. Atascadero State Hospital Psychiatric Technician Program – On May 23, 2008, Kevin Baucom, PT Board Member, addressed PT students regarding "The Role of the Psychiatric Technician".
8. NCSBN Annual Meeting and Delegate Assembly -- On August 4 – 8, 2008, the Teresa Bello-Jones, EO, attended this meeting in Chicago, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting was to share ideas of interest and concern affecting consumer protection, public health, safety and welfare with other state nursing boards. NCSBN looks to the Board for California's often unique perspective on such issues as decreasing barriers to licensure and practice, licensure qualification, equivalency, educational requirements and improving skills of the LVN.
9. American Career College & West Coast University Ontario Campus Open House – On October 23, 2008, Teresa Bello-Jones, EO, was Keynote Speaker at this Open House for a new 64,000-square-foot Ontario campus. Guests included community leaders, healthcare professionals, and staff and faculty from the schools' three southern California campuses
10. St. Francis Career College's Faculty Development Workshop – On January 4, 2008, John Vertido, Board President, gave updates on Board activities.

## 11. Other Liaison Activities

- Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES): The Board discussed with ABHES representatives a number of proprietary schools who were being disciplined for infractions of ABHES rules. The infractions were discussed to determine any related impact on compliance with the Vocational Nursing Practice Act.
- Association of California Directors of Vocational Nursing Programs (ACDVNP): The Board discussed various legislative proposals with the group to obtain additional information that may impact VN education.
- Board of Registered Nursing (BRN): The Board met with BRN to discuss practice issues that relate to registered nurses and licensed vocational nurses.
- Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education (BPPVE): Although BPPVE was not fully staffed and functional during 2008, the Board contacted key personnel who remained to keep them apprised of problems the Board encountered with many proprietary VN programs and corresponding student complaints.
- California Association of Psychiatric Technicians (CAPT)  
The Board discussed various legislative proposals with the group to obtain additional information that may impact PT education and practice. Several discussions occurred between the Board's Enforcement staff and the Association's President regarding newly established mandatory reporting requirements.
- California Institute for Nursing and Health Care (CINHC)  
Board representatives participated in one CINHC meeting to review materials related to improvement of nursing education in California. Although the focus of this group is registered nurses, Board attendance is important to remain aware of the direction nursing education is taking in the state.
- California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)  
During its restructuring under federal Receivership, CDCR has communicated with the Board on numerous occasions for clarification on VN and PT scope of practice issues.
- Department of Public Health (DPH)  
The Board referred numerous inquiries to DPH regarding certified nursing assistant functions, director of staff develop guidelines and nurse-to-patient staffing ratios. DPH also had a number of discussions with the Board's Education Division staff regarding VN scope of practice issues.

- Employment Development Department (EDD)  
Board representatives attended two meetings sponsored by EDD and the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHDP) to begin development of a Clearinghouse for healthcare provider data.
- Health Professions Education Foundation (HPEF)  
The Board communicates periodically with the HPEF relative to the Vocational Nurse Education Fund that the Foundation administers. Awards of loans and scholarships are considered twice yearly in March and September for VN school candidates who agree to serve in medically underserved areas after licensure. The Board serves as an ad hoc member of the Fund's Advisory Committee.
- Licensed Vocational Nurses League of California (LVNL-C)  
Board representatives spoke at the group's annual convention in April 2008. The Board also confers with the League on legislative and regulatory issues on an as-needed basis.

D. **Personnel** – The Board currently has three vacant NEC positions. This equates to a 60% reduction in nursing staff (i.e. 3 out of 5 NEC positions are vacant). The Board is having great difficulty recruiting qualified individuals for its NEC positions. Due to the nursing shortage, nurses are in great demand and are able to obtain a much higher salary at other state agencies and in the private sector. In November 2007, the Board submitted a formal request to DCA to secure a recruitment and retention pay differential for its current and future NECs. Due to the State of California's ongoing budget deficit, all requests for pay differentials were tabled without further consideration. The Board will be researching the feasibility of contracting out for nursing consultant services.

## VIII. GENERAL STATISTICS

<b>Table #7: Workload Activity</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Telephone Calls Received <sup>1</sup>	204,616	163,816	- 20%
Mail Received	64,069	64,264	+ .3%
Internet Inquiries <sup>2</sup>	2,607	8,097	+ 211%
Website Hits <sup>3</sup>	669,324	726,341	+ 8.5%
<sup>1</sup> Statistical data for the number telephone calls received include estimated data as consistent information was not available. <sup>2</sup> The increase in internet inquiries are due to the backlogs caused by the layoff of all temporary help during the budget crisis. The Board telephone unit is inundated with calls and applicants/licensees are sending emails. <sup>3</sup> The number of website hits increased due to the increased usage of the online license verification system and the online application and renewal forms.			

<b>Table #8: Workload Activity</b>	<b>VN Program</b>		<b>PT Program</b>	
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Public Counter Inquiries	2,441	2,544	498	427
Applications Evaluated and Processed	17,878	20,706	1,075	1,263
Applicants Approved to Test	11,261	14,177	907	1,174
Applicants Tested	11,574	12,843	1,024	1,091
Out-of-State License Applications Processed	623	688	0	0
Interim Permits Issued	21	32	0	0
Temporary Licenses Issued <sup>1</sup>	620	880	26	44
Initial Licenses Issued	6,847	7,398	501	531
Licenses Renewed (in-house) <sup>2</sup>	10,619	7,852	1,613	1,145
Intravenous Therapy and Blood Withdrawal Certificates Issued <sup>3</sup>	4,363	5,173	12	14
Continuing Education Course Providers Approved	56	29	4	4
Endorsements Processed	1,517	1,556	3	4
Continuing Education Audits Completed <sup>4</sup>	1,105	820	160	205
Fingerprints Processed	15,757	16,633	918	1,086
<sup>1</sup> Temporary licenses increased in 2008 due to the backlogs experienced during the budget crisis. <sup>2</sup> In 2007, the DCA Automated Cashiering Unit experienced a severe backlog of renewals. Consequently, the Board transferred all of the backlogged renewals from DCA and processed them in-house. <sup>3</sup> PTs are only allowed post-licensure certification in Blood Withdrawal. <sup>4</sup> The CE Audit program was suspended during the budget crisis in 2008 and staff was redirected to assist with higher priority workloads.				

(1/29/2009)