

# Agenda Item #9.A.



STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY • ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, GOVERNOR

**BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS**  
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DATE: September 3, 2009

TO: Board Members

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

SUBJECT: Anderson Medical Career College, North Hollywood, Vocational Nursing Program – Reconsideration of Provisional Accreditation (Director: Jocylane Mateo Dinsay, North Hollywood, Los Angeles County, Private)

Anderson Medical Career College, North Hollywood, Vocational Nursing Program is presented to the Board for reconsideration of its provisional accreditation. The program's status was changed to Provisional Accreditation on February 1, 2008. That action was taken due to the program's noncompliance with Section 2530 (I) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations, which states:

“The program shall maintain a yearly average minimum pass rate on the licensure examination that does not fall below 10 percentage points of the state average pass rate for first time candidates of accredited vocational nursing schools for the same period.

- (1) Failure to maintain the required yearly average minimum pass rate for two years or eight consecutive quarters may be cause to place a program on provisional accreditation.”

The following table shows the variance of the program's pass rates from the state average annual pass rates of first time graduates of accredited vocational nursing programs for the past 16 quarters. This data substantiates the program's continued noncompliance with Section 2530 (I) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations.

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Pass Rates			
Quarter	State Average Annual Pass Rate	Program Average Annual Pass Rate	Variance from State Average Annual Pass Rate
Jul – Sep 2005	81%	69%	- 12
Oct – Dec 2005	81%	63%	- 18
Jan - Mar 2006	79%	56%	- 23
Apr - Jun 2006	79%	43%	- 36
Jul - Sep 2006	79%	33%	- 46
Oct - Dec 2006	78%	33%	- 45
Jan - Mar 2007	77%	40%	- 37
Apr – Jun 2007	77%	62%	- 12
Jul - Sep 2007	76%	77%	+1
Oct – Dec 2007	76%	70%	-6
Jan – Mar 2008	75%	69%	-6
Apr – Jun 2008	74%	70%	-4
Jul – Sep 2008	74%	42%	-32
Oct – Dec 2008	73%	57%	-16
Jan – Mar 2009	72%	60%	-12
Apr – Jun 2009	70%	60%	-10

### History of Prior Board Actions

- On February 21, 2003, the Board approved B&R Nursing School's request to commence a part – time vocational nursing program in North Hollywood, CA, with an initial class of 30 students. Graduation was projected for January 8, 2005. Additionally, the Board approved the program's curriculum for 1544.5 hours, including 584.5 theory and 960 clinical hours.
- Subsequently, the program notified the Board that due to low enrollment, initial classes started on March 8, 2003.
- On August 11, 2004, the Executive Officer approved initial full accreditation for the B&R Nursing School Vocational Nursing Program for the period September 10, 2004, through September 9, 2008, and instructed Board staff to issue a certificate accordingly; approved the program's request to admit 45 part – time students starting February 20, 2005 only, **replacing** students who graduated March 20, 2005. Additionally, the program's request to begin a full – time vocational nursing program with a class of 45 students commencing November 1, 2004 only, with a projected graduation on October 13, 2005, was approved.
- On February 2, 2005, the director notified the Board that commencement of the November 1, 2004, class would be delayed until January 24, 2005.
- On October 25, 2005, the program submitted a plan to begin a vocational nursing program in the City of Commerce. The consultant expressed concern relative to the pass rates at the Montrose campus. Several telephone discussions followed tracking the Montrose campus pass rate statistics from month to month. It was

decided to delay the planned commencement of a vocational nursing program in the City of Commerce.

- On February 21, 2006, the Board approved the program's request to admit 45 students into the full – time class commencing February 6, 2006 only, **replacing** students graduating January 26, 2006.
- On August 3, 2006, the Board was notified that the program's name had changed to Anderson Medical Career College Vocational Nursing Program, effective immediately.
- On September 18, 2006, the Board notified Anderson Medical Career College Vocational Nursing Program that the program's average annual pass rates on the NCLEX/PN<sup>®</sup> had fallen below 10 percentage points of the state's average annual pass rate for the past four (4) quarters.
- On October 13, 2006, the director submitted a plan to improve the program's pass rates.
- On December 12, 2006, the Board notified Anderson Medical Career College Vocational Nursing Program that the program pass rates had fallen below 10 percentage points of the state average annual rates for the past five (5) quarters.
- On March 21, 2007, the Board notified Anderson Medical Career College Vocational Nursing Program that the program's pass rates had fallen below 10 percentage points of the state average annual rates for the past six (6) quarters.
- On April 18, 2007, the director submitted an update of its Plan of Improvement for Pass Rates.
- On May 31, 2007, the Board notified Anderson Medical Career College Vocational Nursing Program that the program's pass rates had fallen below 10 percentage points of the state average annual rates for the past seven (7) quarters.
- On August 8, 2007, the Board notified Anderson Medical Career College Vocational Nursing Program that the program's pass rates had fallen below 10 percentage points of the state average annual rates for the past eight (8) quarters. Therefore, the program was notified that it had been placed on the agenda for the February 2008 Board meeting for consideration of provisional accreditation. The director was requested to submit a summary of an analysis of the program's plan of improvement, describing progress made and identifying the most effective parts of the plan. The summary was due December 1, 2007.
- On December 1, 2007, the director submitted a report tracking the program's average annual pass rates on the NCLEX/PN<sup>®</sup>. The report included an analysis of the correctional plan, explaining those steps that had proven successful. The

commencement of a new assessment skills program was reported. The new assessment skills program is a computer-adaptive test that the director states in the best simulation of the NCLEX/PN®.

- On February 1, 2008, the Board placed Anderson Medical Career College Vocational Nursing Program on provisional accreditation for the two-year period from February 1, 2008 through January 31, 2010 due to the program's violation of Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations, Section 2530 (l). **The program was placed on the September 2009 agenda for the Board's reconsideration of the program's accreditation status.**
- On March 12, 2008, the Board issued the program a notice identifying areas of noncompliance and requirements for corrections. (See Attachment A)
- On February 27, 2009, the Executive Officer denied the program's request to admit the following classes:
  - a. A part-time class of 45 students to **replace** students graduating March 4, 2009; and
  - b. A full-time class of 45 students beginning April 20, 2009, to **replace** students graduating April 17, 2009.

The Executive Officer approved the admission of the following classes:

- a. A part-time class of 35 students on March 7, 2009 to **replace** students graduating March 4, 2009; and
  - b. A full-time class of 35 students on April 20, 2009 to **replace** students graduating April 17, 2009.
- On June 24, 2009, the Board forwarded correspondence to the program advising that the Board would reconsider its accreditation status at the September 11, 2009 meeting. A comprehensive report was requested by July 17, 2009.
  - On July 27, 2009, the Board received the program's report.
  - On August 3, 2009, the program notified the Board that commencement of the March 7, 2009 part-time class had been delayed due to low enrollment.

### **Enrollment**

The program offers a 43-week full-time and a 96-week part-time class. Each class admission requires prior Board approval. The pattern of admissions for current and projected classes is seen in the enrollment table below.

The following table represents **current and projected** student enrollment based on current and proposed class starts and completions. The table indicates a **maximum enrollment of 24 students** for the period from April 2009 through April 2010.

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		#Students Admitted	#Students Current or Completed	Total Enrolled
Start	Completed			
4/09 (FT)		45	24	<b>24</b>
	4/10 (4/09 FT Class)		24	24 - 24 = <b>0</b>

### **Licensing Examination Statistics**

The following statistics, furnished by the Pearson Vue and published by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing as “Jurisdictional Summary of All First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdiction,” for the period July 2005 through June 2009, specify the pass percentage rates for graduates of the Anderson Medical Career College, North Hollywood, Vocational Nursing Program on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical (Vocational) Nurses (NCLEX-PN®).

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Data						
Quarterly Statistics					Annual Statistics*	
Quarter	# Candidates	# Passed	% Passed	State Quarterly Pass Rate	Program Average Annual Pass Rate	State Average Annual Pass Rate
Jul – Sep 2005	8	4	50%	79%	69%	81%
Oct - Dec 2005	3	1	33%	79%	63%	81%
Jan - Mar 2006	2	0	0%	80%	56%	79%
Apr - Jun 2006	8	4	50%	76%	43%	79%
Jul - Sep 2006	2	0	0%	79%	33%	79%
Oct – Dec 2006	No Candidates Tested			77%	33%	78%
Jan - Mar 2007	No Candidates Tested			77%	40%	77%
Apr – Jun 2007	19	13	88%	74%	62%	77%
Jul – Sep 2007	11	10	91%	76%	77%	76%
Oct – Dec 2007	7	3	43%	76%	70%	76%
Jan – Mar 2008	2	1	50%	75%	69%	75%
Apr – Jun 2008	No Candidates Tested			70%	70%	74%
Jul – Sep 2008	3	1	33%	74%	42%	74%
Oct – Dec 2008	2	2	100%	73%	57%	73%
Jan – Mar 2009	No Candidates Tested			70%	60%	72%
Apr – Jun 2009	No Candidates Tested			71%	60%	70%

\*The Annual Pass Rate changes every quarter. It is calculated by dividing the number of candidates who passed during the current and previous three quarters by the number of candidates who tested during the same period.

Based on the most recent data available (April–June 2009), the program's average annual pass rate is 60%. The California average annual pass rate for graduates from accredited vocational nursing programs who took the NCLEX-PN® for the first time during the same period is 70%. The average annual pass rate for the Anderson Medical Career College, North Hollywood, Vocational Nursing Program is ten (10) percentage points **below** the state average annual pass rate.

### **Faculty and Facilities**

Section 2534(d) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"For supervision of clinical experience, there shall be a maximum of 15 students for each instructor."

The total number of Board approved faculty is nine (9), including the program director. The director has 5% administrative and 95% teaching duties. Of the total faculty, nine (9) are approved to teach in the clinical area.

Based on a maximum enrollment of 24 students, two (2) instructors are needed. Therefore, the number of current faculty is adequate for the current and projected enrollment.

Section 2534(b) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"Schools shall have clinical facilities adequate as to number, type, and variety of patients treated, to provide clinical experience for all students in the areas specified by Section 2533. There must be available for student assignment, an adequate daily census of patients to afford a variety of clinical experiences consistent with competency-based objectives and theory being taught."

The program has clinical facilities that are adequate as to type and variety of patients treated to enable current and proposed students to meet clinical objectives, in accordance with Section 2534(b) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations. This has been verified by the consultant.

### **Other Considerations**

During the past sixteen quarters, examination statistics furnished by the Pearson Vue and published by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing as "Jurisdictional Summary of All First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdiction," substantiate that Anderson Medical Career College, North Hollywood, Vocational Nursing Program has failed to achieve an annual average pass rate on the NCLEX-PN® that is within 10 percentage points of the state average annual pass rate for 12 of the past 16 quarters. As such, the program has been in violation of section 2530(l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations.

On September 18, 2006, the Board notified the director that pass rates for the Anderson Medical Career College, North Hollywood, Vocational Nursing Program had fallen below 10 percentage points of the state average pass rate for the past four (4) quarters. The director was asked to complete a detailed analysis of all program elements to determine causes of poor student performance on the licensure examination and to develop a plan identifying goals, solutions, and timelines for improving examination pass rates.

On October 13, 2006, the Board received communication from the director outlining a plan of correction. The plan included the following:

1. Change the admission test from the TABE to HESI.
2. Add a 20-hour math class as a pre – requisite to pharmacology.
3. Add a 34-hour NCLEX review at the end of the program.
4. Administer a Health Education Systems Inc., (HESI) exit exam to analyze the students' strengths and weaknesses.
5. Revise program examinations and quizzes similar to the format of the NCLEX/PN<sup>®</sup>.
6. Add tutorial sessions after each class. Attendance is mandatory for students scoring below 80%.

On April 18, 2007, the director submitted an update of the Pass Rate Improvement Plan. All of the elements listed above had been implemented.

On July 27, 2009, a report of the director's comprehensive analysis of the program was received. As described therein, the director identified the following successful revisions.

1. The program's admission criteria were changed to require all applicants to complete the HESI entrance examination. A minimal score of 70 is required in reading comprehension, grammar, and math.
2. ATI specialty examinations have been incorporated in each level of the curriculum.
3. Effective with the February 2007 graduates, all students are required to complete the HESI exit examination. The director reported significant improvement in the exit examinations.

From July 2007 through June 2008, the program's average annual pass rates improved significantly and were within 10 percentage points of the state average annual pass rates. However, since that time the program's average annual pass rates have declined. Based on the April–June 2009 statistics, the program's average annual pass rate is 60%. As such, the average annual pass rate for the Anderson Medical Career College, North Hollywood, Vocational Nursing Program is currently ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rate.

## Recommendations:

1. Extend provisional accreditation of Anderson Medical College, North Hollywood, Vocational Nursing Program for the one-year period from September 17, 2009 through September 30, 2010, and issue a notice to the program to identify specific areas of noncompliance and requirements for correction as referenced in Section 2526.1 (e) of the California Code of Regulations (see Attachment B Draft).
2. Require the program to show documented progress by submitting a follow-up report in 10 months. The report must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. The following elements must be addressed in the analysis.
  - a. Current Student Enrollment.
  - b. Admission Criteria.
  - c. Screening and Selection Criteria.
  - d. Terminal Objectives.
  - e. Curriculum Objectives.
  - f. Instructional Plan.
  - g. Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course.
  - h. Lesson Plans for Each Course.
  - i. Textbooks.
  - j. Attendance Policy.
  - k. Remediation Policy.
  - l. Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty.
  - m. Evaluations of Theory Presentations.
  - n. Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations.
  - o. Evaluation of Student Achievement.
3. Require the program to comply with all accreditation standards in article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and Professions Code section 2880, and article 5 of the Board's regulations, commencing at California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2525.

**Rationale:** The program has not demonstrated full compliance with Article 5 of the California Code of Regulations. To be fully accredited, the program must maintain a yearly average minimum pass rate on the licensure examination that does not fall below 10 percentage points of the state average pass rate for first time candidates of accredited vocational nursing schools for the same period. By September 2010, the Board will have four (4) additional quarters of data to assess the program's status.

The program director has implemented significant interventions to address program deficiencies and student achievement. However, additional time is required to determine their effectiveness on student achievement and improved pass rates. That time would be available should the Board extend the program's current provisional accreditation. Board staff will continue to monitor the program by tracking its licensure examination pass rates quarterly, reviewing Annual Reports submitted by the program, and performing accreditation surveys every four years.

Attachment A: Notification of Change in Accreditation Status Dated March 12, 2008  
Attachment B: Notification of Change in Accreditation Status Draft