

Agenda Item # 11.



STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY • GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN JR.

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS

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2011 BOARD GOALS

These goals are intended to be accomplished in the Calendar Year 2011. They may also appear in the Strategic Plan as they may become long term goals.

ADMINISTRATION

1. Legislative Mandate (AB 269, Chapter 107, Statutes of 2002) – Continue to ensure that enforcement activities take precedence over all other licensing and regulatory functions.
2. Nursing Education Consultants (NECs) Recruitment and Retention – Continue to work with the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Office of Human Resources (OHR) and the DCA Contracts Unit to develop creative alternatives to filling the vacant NEC positions.
3. Organizational Effectiveness – Enhance organizational effectiveness in all applicable areas through staff development and the utilization of new technology and equipment as budget permits.
4. Stakeholder Surveys – Evaluate the Board's performance of its regulatory functions using targeted surveys and feedback from professional, health care, and consumer organizations.
5. State Hiring Freeze (Effective August 31, 2010) – Continue to work with the DCA Executive Office and the DCA OHR to obtain a freeze exception for the Board's thirty-two (32) vacant positions.
6. Sunset Review – Ensure through the Sunset Review Hearing process that the Board's sunset date is extended another four years (i.e., from January 1, 2012 to January 1, 2016). The Board submitted a comprehensive Sunset Review Report to the Senate Business, Professions & Economic Development Committee on October 1, 2010. The Board is scheduled for its Sunset Review Hearing on March 14, 2011.

EDUCATION

1. Director Forums – Continue presentation of statewide Director Forums to inform directors and administrators of accredited, proposed, or newly approved VN and PT programs of the current statutes, regulations, and other critical issues impacting professional practice and the education of LVNs and PTs.
2. School Accreditation – Continue collaboration with program directors to develop and maintain quality VN and PT programs.

3. Program Performance Statistics – Assist directors with the development and implementation of strategies to improve student achievement in VN and PT programs as evidenced by improved performance statistics on licensure examinations.

ENFORCEMENT

1. Consumer Protection Enforcement Initiative (CPEI) – Continue collaboration with the DCA to implement the CPEI to streamline complaint intake, reorganize investigation resources and reduce the average processing time frames for enforcement actions.
2. Enforcement Performance Measurement System – Meet or exceed established targets in the DCA Enforcement Performance Measurement System for timely processing of enforcement cases.
3. Expert Witness Program – Expand the Board’s Expert Witness Program by recruiting and training experts to review enforcement cases, provide quality expert opinions, and testify at administrative hearings regarding gross negligence or incompetence.
4. Substance Abuse Coordination Committee (SACC) (SB 1441, Chapter 548, Statutes of 2008) – Continue collaboration with the DCA to implement the Uniform Standards Regarding Substance-Abusing Healing Arts Licensees established by the Substance Abuse Coordination Committee.

LEGISLATION

1. Mandatory Reporting Requirements – Obtain an author to amend Business and Professions (B&P) Code sections 2878.1 (for Licensed Vocational Nurses [VN]) and 4521.2 (psychiatric nurses [PT]) to require employers to also report resignations submitted by licensed vocational nurses or psychiatric technicians in lieu of suspension or termination for cause. Additionally, amend these sections to require employment agencies and registries to report that a licensee was rejected from assignment at a health facility or home health care due to acts which would be cause for suspension or termination.
2. Authority to Require Applicants to Retake and Pass the Licensure Examination if a License is Denied and is not Issued within Four Years – Obtain an author to amend B&P Code sections 2872 (VN) and 4510 (PT) regarding the issuance of initial licenses. Specifically, this proposal would require applicants to retake and pass the licensure examination if, after having already passed the examination, an initial license is not issued within four years.

LICENSING

1. PT Licensure Examination – Continue the 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.

2. VN Licensure Examination – Continue the collaboration with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc., to develop, implement, and evaluate the NCLEX/PN®.

REGULATION

1. Implementation of CPEI – Adopt regulations to implement provisions of the CPEI.
2. Uniform Standards Regarding Substance-Abusing Healing Arts Licensees and Disciplinary Guidelines – Adopt regulations to implement the Uniform Standards established by the SACC and revise the Board’s Disciplinary Guidelines.
3. AB 2699: Utilizing Health Care Practitioners Licensed in Another State During a State of Emergency – Adopt regulations to allow health care professionals licensed in other states to participate in volunteer, no-charge, health care events sponsored by local governments or nonprofits, serving under-insured people. This statutory requirement is repealed on January 1, 2014.

(2/9/11)