

Agenda Item #13.B



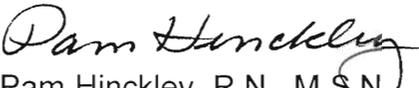
STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY • GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN JR.

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
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DATE: May 3, 2011

TO: Board Members

FROM: 
Pam Hinckley, R.N., M.S.N.
Nursing Education Consultant

SUBJECT: Center of Education and Technology Vocational Nursing Program –
Consideration of Request to Admit Students (Director: Generosa Flores,
Whittier, Los Angeles County, Private)

The Center of Education and Technology Vocational Nursing Program requested approval to admit an evening class of 15 full - time students on May 23, 2011, graduating August 12, 2012. The proposed class would **replace** a class that graduated November 4, 2010.

History of Prior Board Actions

- On April 12, 2006, the Board approved the Center of Education and Technology's request to begin a vocational nursing program with an initial full – time class of 15 students commencing May 15, 2006, only; **and** approved the program curriculum for 1560 hours, including 600 theory, and 960 clinical hours.
- On June 20 – 21, 2007, the assigned consultant completed an onsite survey visit of the program. Thirteen (13) violations of the California Code of Regulations were identified.
- On September 7, 2007, in the absence of a quorum, a committee of the Board heard the consultant's report recommending approval by the full Board of the following actions:
 1. Place the Center of Education and Technology Vocational Nursing Program on provisional accreditation for the period September 7, 2007, through September 6, 2009.
 2. Require the program to submit documentation to correct identified violations no later than November 1, 2007.
 - a. The program shall develop and submit for Board approval objective criteria, procedures for implementation, and applicable forms for the screening and selection of program applicants.

- b. The program shall submit a report verifying that up-to-date skills laboratory equipment has been secured and outdated texts have been removed from the reference library.
 - c. The program shall submit a report verifying that their proposed classrooms contain sufficient space and furniture to accommodate a class size of 15 students.
 - d. The program shall develop a schedule of meetings for vocational nursing faculty and confirm attendance of faculty. A copy of the minutes of each meeting shall be submitted to the Board no later than ten (10) days after the meeting.
 - e. The program shall develop daily lesson plans that correlate the theory and clinical practice offered to students for weeks 16-60. A progress report shall be submitted to the Board.
 - f. The program shall revise and submit for Board approval a procedure for the evaluation of student progress and remediation to include:
 - 1) Notification of the program director of students' knowledge or clinical deficits.
 - 2) Director review and signature for student counseling relative to program performance deficit.
 - 3) Director approval of plans for student remediation and subsequent student evaluations.
 - g. The program shall develop and submit documentation of the theory and correlated clinical experience provided for each enrolled student.
 - h. The program shall consistently post clinical objectives that students are expected to master in assigned client care units and submit documentation verifying compliance.
 - i. The program shall develop and submit for Board approval a procedure and relevant forms to ensure the evaluation of program faculty at least annually.
3. The program shall submit a report to the Board delineating the effectiveness of strategies and interventions taken to correct identified violations by November 1, 2007.
 4. The program shall admit no further classes until all items in Recommendation 2 above have been corrected and information substantiating corrections as approved by the Board is submitted.
- On September 12, 2007, the Board received correspondence from the program director relative to her resignation effective September 13, 2007.

- On October 19, 2007, the program was notified of the Board's inability to approve the proposed program director due to noncompliance with requirements set forth in California Code of Regulations Section 2529 (c)(1).
- **On December 10, 2007, a new program director was approved.**
- On January 10, 2008, the Board received correspondence and supporting information from the program director relative to the correction of thirteen (13) violations identified during the June 20–21, 2007 survey visit.
- On February 1, 2008, the Board granted full accreditation to the Center of Education and Technology Vocational Nursing Program for the period February 1, 2008, through January 31, 2012, and issued a certificate accordingly. The program was required to submit a report to the Board delineating the effectiveness of strategies and interventions taken to correct identified violations by June 1, 2008. A follow-up report was to be presented at the September 2008 Board meeting.
- A follow-up report was not presented at the September 12, 2008 Advisory Committee meeting, as the program had admitted only the initial class approved on April 12, 2006. No additional classes were admitted after February 1, 2008.
- On October 22, 2008, the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit the following classes.
 1. A full - time day class of 15 students commencing October 22, 2008 only, with a projected graduation date of December 17, 2009;
 2. A full - time evening class of 15 students commencing October 22, 2008 only, with a projected graduation date of December 17, 2009.
- On May 14, 2009, the consultant notified the program that its average annual pass rate had fallen more than 10 percentage points below the state average annual pass rate for the past four (4) quarters. The director was requested to submit a plan for improving the program's pass rates by Friday, June 5, 2009.
- On August 4, 2009, the Board received the program's plan for improving its NCLEX-PN® pass rates.
- On August 12, 2009, the director clarified that the program admitted an evening class on October 22, 2009 only. A day class was not admitted due to insufficient enrollment.
- On August 18, 2009, the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit 15 students on August 24, 2009 only.
- On November 19, 2009, the consultant notified the program that its average annual pass rate had fallen more than 10 percentage points below the state average annual pass rate for the past six (6) quarters.

- On January 7, 2010, the Executive Officer approved Center of Education & Technology Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit 15 students on February 8, 2010 only, graduating April 18, 2011; **approved** the program's request to admit 15 students on July 26, 2010 only, graduating October 11, 2012; **and required** the director to complete a comprehensive analysis of the program, identify program deficiencies, and submit a report that identifies program strengths and deficiencies, specifies steps to correct identified deficiencies, and presents a timeline for implementation. The report shall be due by January 30, 2010. The following elements must be addressed:
 - 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
- On February 11, 2010, the program was notified that its average annual pass rate had fallen below 10 percentage points of the state average annual pass rate for the past seven (7) quarters.
- On April 27, 2010, the Executive Officer approved Center of Education & Technology Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit 15 students on March 8, 2010 only, graduating May 8, 2011, to **replace** students who graduated December 17, 2009, **and** denied the program's request to admit a full – time class of 15 students on July 26, 2011, graduating October 11, 2012.
- On August 5, 2010, the program was notified that the Board would consider placement of the program on provisional accreditation at its September 16, 2010 meeting. The program was requested to submit documentation relative to:
 - 1. Current and Projected Enrollment.
 - 2. List of Current Faculty.
 - 3. List of Current Clinical Facilities to Which Students Are Assigned.
 - 4. Effect of Actions Taken to Improve Student Achievement and the Pass Rate Performance of Program Graduates.

The documents were to be received by the Board by August 12, 2010.

- On August 12, 2010, the program submitted documents relative to current and projected enrollment, list of current faculty, list of current facilities. The requested “Effect of Actions to Improve Student Achievement and the Pass Rate Performance of Graduates” was not submitted.
- On August 13, 2010, the assigned consultant forwarded electronic correspondence again requesting interventions the program implemented to improve program pass rates. In response, the director submitted documents dated October 14, 2009.
- On September 16, 2010, the Board placed Center of Education and Technology, Whittier, Vocational Nursing Program on provisional accreditation for the one-year period from September 16, 2010, through September 30, 2011, and issued a notice to the program to identify specific areas of non compliance and requirements for correction as referenced in Section 2526.1 (e) of the California Code of Regulations; and,

The program was required to submit a follow-up report in 10 months but no later than July 1, 2011. 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 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.

The program will be placed on the September 2011 Board agenda for reconsideration of provisional accreditation; and 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 2526.

Additionally, the program may not admit additional students unless approved by the full Board.

- On April 14, 2011, the assigned consultant forwarded correspondence requesting the program to submit fifteen (15) copies of documents relative to subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems for Board presentation. (See Attachment A)

Enrollment

Currently, the program must have prior Board approval to admit classes to its 60-week full - time program. The pattern of admissions for proposed classes is seen in the enrollment table below.

The following table represents **current** student enrollment based on class starts and completions. The table indicates **a maximum enrollment of 23 students** for the period from **August 2009 through August 2012**.

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		#Students Admitted	#Students Current or Completed	Total Enrolled
Start	Completed			
05/06 (PM)		9	8	8
	8/08 (5/06 PM Class)		-8	8 – 8 = 0
10/08 (PM)		9		0 + 9 = 9
8/09 (PM)		9	5	9 + 5 = 14
	1/10 (10/08 PM Class)		-9	14 – 9 = 5
4/10 (PM)		9	8	5 + 8 = 13
	11/10 (8/09 PM Class)		-5	13 – 5 = 8
5/11 (PM) (Proposed)		15		8 + 15 = 23
	6/11 (4/10 Class)		-8	23 – 8 = 15
	8/12 (5/11 Class)		-15	15 – 15 = 0

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 April 2008 through December 2010, specify the pass percentage rates for graduates of Center of Education and Technology, Whittier, 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
Apr – Jun 2008	3	1	33%	75%	33%	75%
Jul – Sep 2008	3	1	33%	70%	33%	74%
Oct – Dec 2008	2	0	0%	73%	25%	73%
Jan – Mar 2009	No Candidates Tested			70%	25%	72%
Apr – Jun 2009	No Candidates Tested			71%	20%	70%
Jul – Sep 2009	No Candidates Tested			74%	0%	72%
Oct – Dec 2009	No Candidates Tested			76%	0%	73%
Jan – Mar 2010	No Candidates Tested			76%	0%	74%
Apr – Jun 2010	No Candidates Tested			74%	0%	75%
Jul – Sep 2010	4	1	25%	76%	25%	75%
Oct – Dec 2010	2	2	100%	77%	50%	76%

*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. If no data is available for the relevant period, the statistic is carried over from the last quarter for which data is available.

Based on the most current data available (October – December 2010), the program's average annual pass rate is 50%. The California average annual pass rate for graduates from accredited vocational nursing programs who took the NCLEX-PN® for the first time is 75%. The average annual pass rate for Center of Education and Technology, Whittier, Vocational Nursing Program is 26 percentage points **below** the state average annual pass rate.

However, it is noted that the program had no candidates test for six (6) consecutive quarters from January 2009 through June 2010. It is also noted that prior to that time, the program's average annual pass rate was 48 percentage points below the state average 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 program's Board - approved faculty totals five (5), including the program director. The director has 60% administrative duties and 40% teaching duties. Of the total faculty, Three (3) are approved to teach in the clinical area.

Based on a maximum enrollment of 23 students, two (2) instructors are needed. Therefore, the number of current faculty is adequate for the current and proposed 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 information has been verified by the consultant.

Other Considerations

On September 16, 2010, the Center of Education and Technology Vocational Nursing Program was placed on Provisional Accreditation for a one (1) year period from September 16, 2010, through September 30, 2011. That action was taken due to the program’s noncompliance with regulatory requirements specified in California Code of Regulations Section 2530(l), relative to low performance pass rates on the NCLEX-PN®. At that time, the program’s average annual pass rate was 0%; the program had had no graduates tested for the previous six (6) consecutive quarters.

It is important to note that the program’s average annual pass rates have fluctuated from 0% to 50% since the program began in 2006. During the period July through September 2010, four (4) graduates were tested; one (1) passed, three (3) failed. The program’s average **annual** pass rate was **25%**.

For the most recent period (October through December 2010), two (2) program graduates were tested; two (2) candidates passed. The program’s average **annual** pass rate was **50%**.

Recommendations:

1. Approve the program’s request to admit a full – time class of 15 students on May 23, 2011, only, graduating August 12, 2012, to **replace** the class that graduated November 2010.
2. Continue to require the program to obtain approval by the full Board prior to admission of each class.

Rationale: The program is currently on Provisional Accreditation for a one (1) year period from September 16, 2010 through September 30, 2011.

Since the program first began in 2006, its pass rates have been significantly below the state average annual pass rate. Over the last 11 quarters, the program's average annual pass rates have ranged from 0% to 50%. It is important to note that the program's average annual pass rate fell to 0% from July 2009 through June 2010. The program had no candidates test for a six (6) quarter period. It is also significant to note that when the program did have candidates testing in the remaining five (5) quarters, the average annual pass rates ranged from 20% to 50%.

To date, the program has admitted 36 candidates and 22 of the 36 students graduated (April 2006 through November 2010). Of the 22 graduates, 14 have taken the licensure examination. Of the 14 program graduates that tested, five (5) have passed the licensure examination and nine (9) have failed. As such, 35.7% have passed the NCLEX-PN[®] and 64.3% have failed.

As noted previously, the program's average annual pass rate at the time of placement on provisional accreditation was 0%. Since that time, six (6) candidates have tested and three (3) passed. During the October to December 2010 quarter, two (2) program candidates tested and two (2) passed, giving the program a 100% pass rate for that quarter which accounted for the rise in the average annual pass rate to 50%.

The program has demonstrated sufficient resources necessary to support the current and proposed student enrollment. Board staff will continue to monitor the program by tracking its licensure examination pass rate quarterly. The program has been placed on the September 9, 2011 Board meeting agenda for reconsideration of its provisional accreditation.

Attachment A: Board Correspondence dated April 14, 2011

Agenda Item #13.B.Attachment A



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CERTIFIED MAIL

April 14, 2011

Generosa Flores, Director
Center of Education and Technology
Vocational Nursing Program
13601 East Whittier Blvd. Suite 209
Whittier, CA 90605

Re: Consideration of Request to Admit Students

Dear Mr. Flores:

On January 19, 2011, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) received your correspondence requesting Board approval to admit students to the **Center of Education and Technology Vocational Nursing Program**. The Board is scheduled to consider that request at its meeting scheduled May 20, 2011. That meeting will be held at the Hilton Oakland Airport, in Oakland, California.

To ensure dissemination and review by individual Board members and relevant staff for timely consideration prior to the May 20, 2011 Board meeting, please submit the following written information by **Friday, April 29, 2011**:

- Fifteen (15) copies of pertinent documents related to subsequent actions taken by the program to correct identified problems **that you desire Board members to consider**. Please remember existing statutes require that any document considered by the Board will become a public record. Accordingly, please redact all names of students.
- In addition, please provide information on a compact disc (CD) for Board use. Again, please remember to redact any student names prior to copying information onto the CD.

Although the primary purpose of this letter is to convey the Board's need for the copies, please be assured that, if timely submitted, any correspondence and attachments will be reviewed and, if appropriate, information submitted may be included in the report of the assigned consultant.

The Board strongly recommends that you plan to attend the meeting and be prepared to respond to questions from Board members relative to your program.

Please contact the Board at (916) 263-7843 should further clarification be needed.

Sincerely,

PAM HINCKLEY, RN, MSN

Nursing Education Consultant

Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians

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