

Agenda Item #14.B.2.



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

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
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DATE: February 6, 2011

TO: Board Members

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

SUBJECT: High Desert Medical College, Vocational Nursing Program – Consideration of Request to Admit Students and, Major Curriculum Revision (Director: Carol Williams, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, Private)

On November 10, 2011, the Board placed the High Desert Medical College Vocational Nursing Program on Provisional Accreditation for a two (2) year period from November 10, 2011 through November 30, 2013 due to low licensure pass rates. Additionally, the Board denied the program's request to admit a class of 20 full-time day students on November 14, 2011, graduating on December 13, 2012, to **replace** a class that graduated October 6, 2011. The program was required to admit no additional students unless approved by the full Board.

High Desert Medical College Vocational Nursing Program requests approval to admit a class of 20 full-time students on April 2, 2012, graduating April 4, 2013, to **replace** students who will graduate on March 26, 2012; **and**,

The program is also requesting approval to admit 20 students into a part – time class on March 23, 2012, graduating August 7, 2013, to **replace** students that graduated on October 1, 2010.

Additionally, the program is requesting Board approval of a major revision of its curriculum.

History of Prior Board Actions

- On August 11, 2004, the Executive Officer approved High Desert Medical College's request to begin a vocational nursing program with an initial class of 30 students on September 10, 2004, only; **and** approved the program curriculum for 1532 hours, including 576 theory, and 956 clinical hours.
- On February 3, 2006 the Executive Officer approved initial full accreditation for High Desert Medical College Vocational Nursing Program for the period February 3, 2006, through February 2, 2010, and directed issuance of a certificate accordingly; **and** approved admission of a part-time class of 30 students starting March 20, 2006, only, to

replace students graduating March 11, 2006; **and** approved admission of a full-time class of 30 students on February 6, 2006, only.

- **On May 23, 2006, a new director was approved.**
- On October 3, 2006, the Executive Officer approved the High Desert Medical College Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit a full-time class of 20 students on October 9, 2006, completing November 21, 2007; **and** approved the program's request to admit a part-time class of 20 students on November 3, 2006, graduating May 18, 2008.

Additionally, the Executive Officer approved the program's request for **ongoing** admissions to replace graduating classes, only, with the following stipulations:

- a. No additional classes are added to the program's current pattern of admissions without prior Board approval. The program's current pattern of admissions includes two full-time classes of 20 students and two part-time classes of 20 students per calendar year.
 - b. The director documents that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.
- On August 15, 2007, the Board notified the director that the program's pass rates had fallen more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rate for the past four (4) quarters. The director was requested to submit a written plan for improving the program's NCLEX-PN[®] pass rates by September 15, 2007.
 - On September 14, 2007, the Board received the program's plan for improving its pass rate.
 - On November 27, 2007, the Board notified the director that the program's pass rates had fallen more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rate for the past five (5) quarters.
 - On January 22, 2008, the Board notified the director that the program's pass rates had fallen more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rate for the past six (6) quarters. The director was asked to provide documentation verifying that the eight elements of the program's plan of correction submitted September 14, 2007, are being carried out.
 - On April 4, 2008, the program director provided an update on the program's plan of correction.
 - **On December 15, 2008, a new program director was approved.**
 - On August 19, 2009, the Board notified the director that the program's pass rates had fallen more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rate

for the past four (4) quarters. The consultant requested submission of a written plan for improving the pass rates by September 19, 2009.

- On September 16, 2009, the Board received the following plan for improvement of the program's pass rates:
 - a. The program revised its written examinations, and implemented stricter standards for grading.
 - b. The program revised the credit granting policy.
 - c. The program revised the remediation policy, to reduce the overall number of remediation attempts that would be acceptable prior to a termination decision.
 - d. The program revised its practice of re-admitting students who had been terminated previously for poor academic performance.
- On December 2, 2009, the Executive Officer approved continued full accreditation for the High Desert Medical College Vocational Nursing Program for the period February 3, 2010 through February 2, 2014.
- On December 29, 2009, the Board notified the director that the program's average annual pass rates had fallen below 10 percentage points of the state average annual pass rate for the past five (5) quarters.
- On November 30, 2010, the Executive Officer **denied** High Desert Medical College, Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit **30** students three (3) times per year to the full-time class; **and, approved** the program's admission of **20** students to the full-time day class commencing March 7, 2011 and graduating March 15, 2012, only; **and, denied** High Desert Medical College, Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit **30** students three (3) times per year to the part-time class; **and, approved** the program's admission of **20** students to the part-time evening class commencing on April 8, 2010, and graduating October 21, 2012, only.

Additionally, the program was required to submit a report that includes a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timelines for expected results, and the effectiveness of corrective actions taken to address the following elements by **January 28, 2011**:

- 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.

The Executive Officer **rescinded** the program's approval for ongoing admissions and required the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of future classes.

- On January 27, 2011, the Board received program documents as requested November 30, 2010.
- **On June 6, 2011, a new director was approved by the Board.**
- On August 25, 2011, the Executive Officer **denied** High Desert Medical College's request to admit 20 students to a full-time program commencing on September 12, 2011, graduating October 18, 2012; **and, denied** the program's request to admit 20 students into a part-time program commencing on October 14, 2011, graduating March 31, 2013; **and, placed** the program on the November 10, 2011 agenda for the Board's consideration of provisional accreditation; **and, required** the program to continue to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of future classes.
- **On September 28, 2011, a new director was approved by the Board.**
- On October 7, 2011, the assigned consultant forwarded correspondence requesting submission of fifteen (15) copies of pertinent documents, plan, and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire Board members to consider.
- On November 10, 2011, the Board placed High Desert Medical College Vocational Nursing Program on provisional accreditation for the two-year period from November 10, 2011, through November 30, 2013, and issued 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.; **and, denied** High Desert Medical College Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit a class of 20 full-time, day, students on November 14, 2011, graduating on December 13, 2012, to **replace** a class that graduated October 6, 2011; **and, required** the program to admit no additional students unless approved by the full Board; **and, required** the program to bring its average annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State average annual pass rate by **September 1, 2013.**

Additionally, the Board required the program to submit follow-up reports in nine months, but no later than **August 1, 2012**, and 21 months, but no later than **August 1, 2013**. The reports 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. Admission Criteria.
- b. Screening and Selection Criteria.
- c. Terminal Objectives.
- d. Curriculum Objectives.

- e. Instructional Plan.
- f. Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course.
- g. Lesson Plans for Each Course.
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- i. Attendance Policy.
- j. Remediation Policy.
- k. Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty.
- l. Evaluations of Theory Presentations.
- m. Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations.
- n. Evaluation of Student Achievement.
- o. Current Enrollment; **and**,

The program was required 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.

Further, the program was required to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violations. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's accreditation; **and**, notified the program that failure to take any of these corrective actions may cause the full Board to revoke the program's accreditation; **and**, place the program on the **November 2013** Board agenda for reconsideration of provisional accreditation.

- On November 22, 2011, the Board forwarded to the director the Notice of Change in Accreditation Status.
- On January 19, 2012, the assigned consultant forwarded correspondence requesting submission of fifteen (15) copies of pertinent documents and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire the Board members to consider.
- On January 25, 2012, the program director submitted fifteen (15) copies of pertinent documents and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire the Board members to consider.

Enrollment

Board approval is required prior to the admission of each class to the High Desert Medical College Vocational Nursing Program. The program offers a full-time course of instruction that is 56 weeks in length and a part-time class that is 71 weeks in length. The pattern of admissions for current classes is seen in the enrollment table below.

The following table represents student enrollment based on the **current and proposed** class start dates. The table indicates a **maximum enrollment of 92** students for the period **May 2009 through September 2012**.

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		#Students Admitted	#Students Current or Completed	Total Enrolled
Start	Complete			
5/09 PT		16	11	11
11/09 FT		20	20	11 + 20 = 31
1/10 PT		20	18	31 + 18 = 49
5/10 FT		20	18	49 + 18 = 67
9/10 FT		20	13	67 + 13 = 80
	10/10 (5/09 PT Class)		-11	80 - 11 = 69
10/10 PT		20	15	69 + 15 = 84
	12/10 (11/09 FT Class)		-20	84 - 20 = 64
3/11 FT		15	17	64 + 17 = 81
4/11 PT		12	11	81 + 11 = 92
	5/11 (5/10 FT Class)		-18	92 - 18 = 74
	7/11 (1/10 PT Class)		-18	74 - 18 = 56
	10/11 (9/10 FT Class)		-13	56 - 13 = 43
3/12 PT (Proposed)	8/13	20		43 + 20 = 63
	3/12 (10/10 PT Class)		-15	63 - 15 = 48
	3/12 (3/11 FT Class)		-17	48 - 17 = 31
4/12 FT (Proposed)	4/13	20		31 + 20 = 51
	9/12 (4/11 PT Class)		-11	51 - 11 = 40

Licensing Examination Statistics

The following statistics, furnished by 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 2006 to December 2011, specify the pass percentage rates for graduates of the High Desert Medical College 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 Average Quarterly Pass Rate	Program Average Annual Pass Rate	State Average Annual Pass Rate
Apr – Jun 2006	2	2	100%	76%	100%	79%
Jul – Sep 2006	17	7	41%	79%	47%	79%
Oct – Dec 2006	2	1	50%	77%	48%	78%
Jan – Mar 2007	No Candidates Tested			77%	48%	77%
Apr – Jun 2007	8	4	50%	74%	44%	77%
Jul – Sep 2007	2	2	100%	76%	58%	76%
Oct – Dec 2007	4	2	50%	76%	57%	76%
Jan - Mar 2008	15	10	67%	76%	62%	76%
Apr - Jun 2008	7	5	71%	75%	68%	75%
July - Sep 2008	14	8	57%	70%	63%	74%
Oct - Dec 2008	7	2	29%	73%	58%	73%
Jan - Mar 2009	12	6	50%	70%	53%	72%
Apr - Jun 2009	4	2	50%	71%	49%	70%
July - Sep 2009	3	1	33%	74%	42%	72%
Oct - Dec 2009	8	8	100%	76%	63%	73%
Jan – Mar 2010	3	1	33%	75%	67%	74%
Apr – Jun 2010	11	5	46%	74%	60%	75%
Jul – Sep 2010	14	8	57%	76%	60%	75%
Oct – Dec 2010	3	1	33%	77%	44%	76%
Jan – Mar 2011	11	6	55%	80%	49%	77%
Apr – Jun 2011	4	2	50%	71%	50%	76%
Jul – Sep 2011	9	8	89%	74%	63%	76%
Oct – Dec 2011	4	1	25%	74%	61%	75%

*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 recent data available** (Oct to December 2011), the program's average annual pass rate is **61%**. The California average annual pass rate for graduates from accredited vocational nursing programs who took the NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination for the first time during the same period is 75%. The average annual pass rate for the High Desert Medical College Vocational Nursing Program is **14** 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 number of Board-approved faculty totals 40, including the director. The director has ninety (90) percent administrative and ten (10) percent teaching responsibilities. Of the total faculty, twenty-nine (29) instructors are approved to teach clinical.

Based on a maximum enrollment of 92 students, seven (7) 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, in part:

“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 sufficient clinical facilities to afford the number, type, and variety of patients that will provide clinical experience consistent with competency-based objectives and theory.

Other Considerations:

As noted previously, on November 10, 2011, the Board placed the High Desert Medical College Vocational Nursing Program on provisional accreditation for the two – year period from November 10, 2011 through November 30, 2013 due to noncompliance with regulatory requirements relative to average annual pass rates. Specifically, the program’s average annual pass rates were consistently more than ten (10) percentage points below State average annual pass rate. (See Attachment A)

On November 22, 2011, the Board forwarded to the director the Notice of Change in Accreditation Status. (See Attachment B)

A total of 23 quarters of licensure data are available for the program since April of 2006. Of the 23 quarters, **19 quarters** are more than ten (10) percentage points **below** the state average annual pass rate. Only three (3) of the 23 quarters, have been within ten (10) percentage points of the state average annual pass rate and one (1) quarter exceeded the state average annual pass rate. The one (1) quarter that exceeded the state average annual pass rate was the first (1st) quarter in April 2006. It is important to note, the data was based on two (2) graduates testing.

The Board denied the program’s request to admit a class of 20 full-time day students on January 17, 2012, graduating on March 23, 2013. The program was required to admit no additional students unless approved by the full Board. At that time, the program’s **quarterly** pass rate was **89%**; the average **annual** licensure pass rate was **63%**.

For the most current reporting period, the program's **quarterly** pass rate is **25%**; the average **annual** licensure pass rate is **61%**.

On January 19, 2012, the assigned consultant forwarded correspondence requesting submission of fifteen (15) copies of pertinent documents and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire the Board members to consider. (See Attachment C)

On January 25, 2012, the program director submitted fifteen (15) copies of pertinent documents and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire the Board members to consider. In an attempt to correct the trend of low licensure pass rates, the program has implemented HESI and Evolve testing in order to assess student's performance and implement interventions, as appropriate. The director reported the program has also established an early intervention program that includes an academic support committee, implementation of academic and personal success plans, and implementation of study groups. The program has also added an online virtual clinical experience program.

On October 28, 2011, the program submitted a revision of the curriculum for the full-time program. As presented, the proposed curriculum would incorporate Nursing Process, Communication, Patient Education, Communicable Disease, Reproductive and Community Nursing, and Medical Terminology throughout each of the four (4) 13 – week terms. The director assessed the curriculum for alignment with the NCLEX test plan. Additionally, the program purchased a Sim Man Manikin and included laboratory experience in all terms of the program to better prepare "students for reality based critical thinking exposure." (See Attachment D)

Recommendations:

1. Require the High Desert Medical College Vocational Nursing Program to submit a new instructional plan for full – time classes no later than **March 30, 2012**.
2. Require the program to submit a new instructional plan for part – time classes no later than **March 30, 2012**.
3. Delegate to the Executive Officer discretionary authority to approve the program's part – time and full – time instructional plans.
4. Deny the program's request to admit 20 part-time students on March 23, 2012, only, graduating August 7, 2013, to **replace** students that graduated on October 1, 2010.
5. Contingent on the program's submission of the full – time instructional plan, and approval of the major curriculum revision by the Executive Officer, approve High Desert Medical College Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit a class of 20 full-time students on April 2, 2012, only, graduating April 4, 2013, to **replace** students who will graduate on March 26, 2012.

Rationale: The program was placed on Provisional Accreditation at the November 2011 Board meeting due to poor performance of graduates on the licensure examination for 18 of 23 quarters. The Board continues to have serious concerns relative to the level of student achievement and program pass rates. The program's average annual pass rates were compliant with regulatory requirements **four (4) of the previous 23 quarters. As such, the program has been compliant 18% of the previous 23 quarters; for 82% of the previous 23 quarters, the program was noncompliant with regulatory requirements.** Based on the **most recent data available** (October through December 2011), the program's average **annual** pass rate is **61%**. As noted previously, the program's average annual pass rate is **14** percentage points **below** the state average annual pass rate.

On September 28, 2011, a new program director was approved. In an attempt to correct the programs poor performance on the licensure examination, the new director submitted a revised curriculum with instructional plan for approval by the Board for the full-time and part-time programs. The director would like to implement the new curriculum with any future full-time classes. Based on the directors attempt to correct the identified program deficiencies, the one (1) full-time class is hesitantly recommended.

Forty-three (43) students are currently enrolled in classes at High Desert Medical College. Two (2) classes will graduate in March 2012. Subsequent to the two (2) classes graduating, thirty-one (31) students will remain enrolled. The addition of 20 new students will give the program a total of 51 students. Based on the number of students enrolled, the program's history of significantly poor graduate achievement on the NCLEX-PN[®], the lack of a new part-time curriculum, the denial of the second (2nd) class is recommended.

It is imperative that the new director focus on currently enrolled students and evaluate their performance, as well as implementing and evaluating the new curriculum with the new group of students.

Board staff will continue to monitor the program closely by tracking by tracking class admissions, the program's licensure examination pass rate quarterly, reviewing the program's Annual Reports, and performing accreditation surveys every four years.

- Attachment A: Board Report dated October 24, 2011.
- Attachment B: Notice of Change in Accreditation Status dated November 22, 2011.
- Attachment C: Board Correspondence dated January 19, 2012.
- Attachment D: Program Correspondence dated January 24, 2012, received January 25, 2012.

Agenda Item #14.B.2. Attachment A



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DATE: October 24, 2011

TO: Board Members

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

SUBJECT: High Desert Medical College, Vocational Nursing Program –Consideration of Placement on Provisional Accreditation and Request to Admit Students (Director: Carol Williams, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, Private)

High Desert Medical College, Vocational Nursing Program is presented to the Board for consideration of placement on provisional accreditation.

In accordance with Section 2526.1(c) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations,

“The Board may place any program on provisional accreditation when a program does not meet all requirements as set forth in this chapter and in Section 2526...”

Section 2530(I) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations 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 twenty-two (22) quarters. This data substantiates the program's noncompliance with Section 2530(I) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations.

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Pass Rates			
Quarter	State Annual Average Pass Rate	Program Annual Average Pass Rate	Variance from State Annual Average Pass Rate
Apr – Jun 2006	76%	100%	+24
Jul – Sep 2006	79%	47%	-32
Oct – Dec 2006	77%	48%	-29
Jan – Mar 2007	77%	48%	-29
Apr – Jun 2007	74%	44%	-30
Jul – Sep 2007	76%	58%	-18
Oct – Dec 2007	76%	57%	-19
Jan – Mar 2008	75%	62%	-13
Apr – Jun 2008	74%	68%	-6
Jul – Sep 2008	74%	63%	-11
Oct – Dec 2008	73%	58%	-15
Jan – Mar 2009	72%	53%	-19
Apr – Jun 2009	70%	49%	-21
Jul – Sep 2009	72%	42%	-30
Oct – Dec 2009	73%	63%	-10
Jan – Mar 2010	74%	67%	-7
Apr – Jun 2010	75%	60%	-15
Jul – Sep 2010	75%	60%	-15
Oct – Dec 2010	76%	44%	-32
Jan – Mar 2011	77%	49%	-28
Apr – Jun 2011	76%	50%	-26
Jul – Sep 2011	76%	63%	-13

High Desert Medical College Vocational Nursing Program requests approval to admit a class of 20 full-time students into an evening class on November 14, 2011, graduating on December 13, 2012, to **replace** a class that graduated October 6, 2011.

History of Prior Board Actions

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- **On May 23, 2006, a new director was approved.**
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October 9, 2006, completing November 21, 2007; and approved the program's request to admit a part-time class of 20 students on November 3, 2006, graduating May 18, 2008.

Additionally, the Executive Officer approved the program's request for **ongoing** admissions to replace graduating classes, only, with the following stipulations:

- a. No additional classes are added to the program's current pattern of admissions without prior Board approval. The program's current pattern of admissions includes two full-time classes of 20 students and two part-time classes of 20 students per calendar year.
 - b. The director documents that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.
- On August 15, 2007, the Board notified the director that the program's pass rates had fallen below 10 percentage points of the state average pass rate for the past four (4) quarters. The director was requested to submit a written plan for improving the program's NCLEX-PN® pass rates by September 15, 2007.
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- a. The program revised its written examinations, and implemented stricter standards for grading.
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Additionally, the program was required to submit a report that includes a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timelines for expected results, and the effectiveness of corrective actions taken to address the following elements by **January 28, 2011**:

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The Executive Officer **rescinded** the program's approval for ongoing admissions and required the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of future classes.

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- On October 7, 2011, the assigned consultant forwarded correspondence requesting submission of fifteen (15) copies of pertinent documents, plan, and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire Board members to consider.

Enrollment

Board approval is required prior to the admission of each class to the High Desert Medical College Vocational Nursing Program. The program offers a full-time course of instruction that is 56 weeks in length and a part-time class that is 71 weeks in length. The pattern of admissions for current classes is seen in the enrollment table below.

The following table represents student enrollment based on the **current and proposed** class start dates. The table indicates a **maximum enrollment of 92** students for the period **May 2009 through September 2012**.

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		#Students Admitted	#Students Current or Completed	Total Enrolled
Start	Complete			
5/09 PT		16	11	11
11/09 FT		20	20	11 + 20 = 31
1/10 PT		20	18	31 + 18 = 49
5/10 FT		20	18	49 + 18 = 67
9/10 FT		20	13	67 + 13 = 80
	10/10 (5/09 PT Class)		-11	80 - 11 = 69

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		#Students Admitted	#Students Current or Completed	Total Enrolled
Start	Complete			
10/10 PT		20	15	69 + 15 = 84
	12/10 (11/09 FT Class)		-20	84 - 20 = 64
3/11 FT		15	17	64 + 17 = 81
4/11 PT		12	11	81 + 11 = 92
	5/11 (5/10 FT Class)		-18	92 - 18 = 74
	7/11 (1/10 PT Class)		-18	74 - 18 = 56
11/11 FT (Proposed)	12/12	20		56 + 20 = 76
	10/11 (9/10 FT Class)		-13	76 - 13 = 63
	3/12 (10/10 PT Class)		-15	63 - 15 = 48
	3/12 (3/11 FT Class)		-17	48 - 17 = 31
	9/12 (4/11 PT Class)		-11	31 - 11 = 20

Licensing Examination Statistics

The following statistics, furnished by 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 2006 to September 2011, specify the pass percentage rates for graduates of the High Desert Medical College 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 Average Quarterly Pass Rate	Program Average Annual Pass Rate	State Average Annual Pass Rate
Apr – Jun 2006	2	2	100%	76%	100%	79%
Jul – Sep 2006	17	7	41%	79%	47%	79%
Oct – Dec 2006	2	1	50%	77%	48%	78%
Jan – Mar 2007	No Candidates Tested			77%	48%	77%
Apr – Jun 2007	8	4	50%	74%	44%	77%
Jul – Sep 2007	2	2	100%	76%	58%	76%
Oct – Dec 2007	4	2	50%	76%	57%	76%
Jan - Mar 2008	15	10	67%	76%	62%	76%
Apr - Jun 2008	7	5	71%	75%	68%	75%
July - Sep 2008	14	8	57%	70%	63%	74%
Oct - Dec 2008	7	2	29%	73%	58%	73%
Jan - Mar 2009	12	6	50%	70%	53%	72%
Apr - Jun 2009	4	2	50%	71%	49%	70%
July - Sep 2009	3	1	33%	74%	42%	72%
Oct - Dec 2009	8	8	100%	76%	63%	73%
Jan – Mar 2010	3	1	33%	75%	67%	74%
Apr – Jun 2010	11	5	46%	74%	60%	75%
Jul – Sep 2010	14	8	57%	76%	60%	75%
Oct – Dec 2010	3	1	33%	77%	44%	76%
Jan – Mar 2011	11	6	55%	80%	49%	77%
Apr – Jun 2011	4	2	50%	71%	50%	76%
Jul – Sep 2011	9	8	89%	74%	63%	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 recent data available** (July to September 2011), the program's average annual pass rate is **63%**. The California average annual pass rate for graduates from accredited vocational nursing programs who took the NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination for the first time during the same period is 76%. The average annual pass rate for the High Desert Medical College Vocational Nursing Program is **13** 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 number of Board-approved faculty totals 40, including the director. The director has ninety (90) percent administrative and ten (10) percent teaching responsibilities. Of the total faculty, twenty-nine (29) instructors are approved to teach clinical.

Based on a maximum enrollment of 92 students, seven (7) 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, in part:

“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 sufficient clinical facilities to afford the number, type, and variety of patients that will provide clinical experience consistent with competency-based objectives and theory.

Other Considerations:

From April 2006 through June 2011, the program had **18 of 22 quarters in which its average annual pass rate fluctuated from 11 to 32 percentage points below the state average annual passing rate.** The program’s average annual pass rate has been more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rate for six (6) consecutive quarters. For the most current reporting period, the program’s **quarterly** pass rate is **89%**; the average **annual** licensure pass rate is **63%**.

On November 30, 2010, the program was instructed to perform a comprehensive analysis by January 28, 2011, as a result of poor licensure data recorded for eleven (11) of the previous fourteen (14) quarters.

On January 27, 2011, the comprehensive analysis was received. The program identified and corrected deficiencies related to the entrance exam, objectives, attendance policy, textbook, and grading criteria. The program will initiate the use of the HESI entrance and exit exams.

On May 31, 2011, the program director notified the Board she would no longer be the director of High Desert Medical College. Additionally, the Board received the program’s plan to improve licensure pass rates (see Attachment A).

On June 6, 2011, the Board approved a new director for the program.

On June 8, 2011, the NEC requested the new director’s email address in order to forward the new director orientation documents.

On June 10, 2010, the new director contacted the assigned consultant stating the new director orientation had been completed.

On June 13, 2011, the Board received a request to admit students that was signed by the former director, dated May 31, 2011.

On August 26, 2011, the SNEC and the NEC contacted the director related to the program's plan to correct the low licensure pass rates. The director was unable to specifically identify what actions the program is taking to bring up their licensure pass rates. The SNEC advised the director to submit the steps the program is taking to bring up their licensure examination pass rates immediately.

On August 26, 2011, the assigned consultant received correspondence from the director stating steps the program "will" take (see Attachment B).

On September 28, 2011, a new director was approved by the Board.

Based on the reported program performance statistics and submitted documents and materials, the following violation is identified.

Section 2530(l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations 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."

Violation #1: From April 2006 through September 2011, the program had **18 of 22 quarters in which its average annual pass rate fluctuated from 11 to 32 percentage points below the state average annual passing rate.** The program's average annual pass rate has been more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rate for six (6) consecutive quarters. For the most current reporting period, the program's **quarterly** pass rate is **89%**; the average **annual** licensure pass rate is **63%**.

Plan of Correction #1: This violation is **not corrected.** The violation will be corrected when the program's pass rates improve and are consistent with regulatory requirements.

On October 7, 2011, the assigned consultant forwarded correspondence requesting submission of fifteen (15) copies of pertinent documents, plan, and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire Board members to consider (see Attachment C).

Recommendations:

1. Place High Desert Medical College Vocational Nursing Program on provisional accreditation for the two-year period from November 10, 2011, through November 30, 2013, 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 D).

2. Deny High Desert Medical College Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit a class of 20 full-time, day, students on November 14, 2011, graduating on December 13, 2012, to **replace** a class that graduated October 6, 2011.
3. Require the program to admit no additional students unless approved by the full Board.
4. Require the program to bring its average annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State average annual pass rate by **September 1, 2013**.
5. Require the program to submit follow-up reports in nine months, but no later than **August 1, 2012**, and 21 months, but no later than **August 1, 2013**. The reports 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. Admission Criteria.
 - b. Screening and Selection Criteria.
 - c. Terminal Objectives.
 - d. Curriculum Objectives.
 - e. Instructional Plan.
 - f. Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course.
 - g. Lesson Plans for Each Course.
 - h. Textbooks.
 - i. Attendance Policy.
 - j. Remediation Policy.
 - k. Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty.
 - l. Evaluations of Theory Presentations.
 - m. Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations.
 - n. Evaluation of Student Achievement.
 - o. Current Enrollment.
6. 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.
7. Require the program to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violations. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's accreditation.
8. Failure to take any of these corrective actions may cause the full Board to revoke the program's accreditation.
9. Place the program on the **November 2013** Board agenda for reconsideration of provisional accreditation.

Rationale: The Board has serious concerns relative to the level of student achievement and program pass rates. To date, 22 quarters of licensure data have been published

for the program. Of those 22 quarters, the program's average annual pass rates were noncompliant with regulatory requirements 18 quarters, more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rate. The program's average annual pass rates were compliant with regulatory requirements **four (4) of the previous 22 quarters. As such, the program has been compliant 18% of the previous 22 quarters; for 82% of the previous 22 quarters, the program was noncompliant with regulatory requirements.**

The program's initial licensure pass rate was 100%. This was based on two (2) graduates testing. Subsequent to the initial 100%, the licensure pass rate fell during the next seven (7) quarters, 47%, 48%, 48%, 44%, 58% 57%, and 62% respectively. The program then had one (1) quarter in which the pass rate was 68% and then returned to the previous pattern of low pass rates, 63%, 58%, 53%, 49%, and 42%, over the next five (5) quarters. The program then recorded a 63% and a 67%; however, over the most current six (6) consecutive quarters the licensure pass rate again has dropped to 60%, 60%, 44%, 49% and 50%, respectively, and then increased to 63%.

Based on the **most recent data available** (July through September 2011), the program's average annual pass rate is **63%**. As noted previously, the program's average annual pass rate is **13** percentage points **below** the state average annual pass rate. Based on this previous and current data, placing the program on provisional accreditation is warranted.

An analysis of program performance data substantiates a lack of student achievement and ability to pass the licensure examination. As such, the admission of students at this time is inappropriate. Students remaining in the program currently are 43.

On January 27, 2011, the program completed and submitted a comprehensive analysis. On August 26, 2011, communication with the director of record identified that some of the program's plan as identified in the January 27, 2011 comprehensive analysis, **were not** implemented. Specifically, the program **did not** implement the HESI entrance, term and exit examinations. The program graduates that are affected by the recent program analysis and newly implemented screening and selection and entrance exam criteria are expected to graduate March and September of 2012. Licensure data for these graduates is expected to be available during summer 2012 for the March graduates and Quarter 1 2013 for the September graduates.

On September 28, 2011, a new program director was approved. The program has elicited the mentorship of Summit Career College to attempt to improve their program's performance. Allowing the program time to focus on current students enrolled in the program, identifying, and correcting existing problems is advisable prior to adding additional students or classes.

Board staff will continue to monitor the program closely by tracking by tracking class admissions, the program's licensure examination pass rate quarterly, reviewing the program's Annual Reports, and performing accreditation surveys every four years.

Attachment A: Program Correspondence Dated May 31, 2011.

Attachment B: Program Correspondence Dated August 26, 2011.

Attachment C: Board Correspondence Dated October 7, 2011.

Attachment D: Draft Notice of Change in Accreditation Status.

High Desert Medical College

44815 N. Fig Ave., Suite 131, Lancaster, CA 93534

May 31, 2011

Cheryl Anderson, R.N., M.S.N.
Supervising Nursing Education Consultant
Pam Hinckley, R.N., M.S.N.
Nursing Educational Consultant
Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205
Sacramento, CA 95833

Re: BVNPT Letter dated May 17, 2011

Dear Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Hinckley,

The Vocational Nursing Program at High Desert Medical College would like to present a new NCLEX pass scores improvement plan as a response to the Board's letter dated May 17, 2011.

1. Upon finalizing a contract with Elsevier, the following new tests will be introduced to the program:
 - Entry HESI Exam
 - HESI Term I, II, and III Exams
 - HESI Exit Exam
2. Utilize more strict admission criteria which are currently approved by the Board.
3. Continue to select quality instructors.
4. Continue tutoring services available to all students and maintain cooperation between instructors and tutors.
5. Increase the number of assignments and homework given to students on daily basis.
6. Continue utilization of interactive and hands on teaching styles.
7. Emphasize and incorporate critical thinking type of questions in place of knowledge recollection items.
8. Continue validation and reinforcement of theoretical knowledge through real life clinical experience.
9. Continue to expand skill lab supplies and resources for theory presentation.
10. Expand NCLEX review services to struggling students and provide guidance for them.

I am also very pleased to inform you that our VN program organized additional NCLEX review courses for our former students and graduates who have never taken or who previously failed NCLEX-PN exams. We have reached out to approximately 60 students and offered review courses free of charge. In order to target a larger group of students, we have offered one session during week days and one during weekend. Both of these courses are 40 hours long. We had a tremendous response with approximately

40 graduates participating in the review courses and found an overall improvement review test scores.

In addition, the college is making further changes and adjustments to serve our students. We strongly believe that reaching out to our former students and continuously enhancing our program will significantly benefit our students and positively affect our passing rates.

As always, we welcome the Board's suggestions and recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Agnieszka Sibbitt".

Agnieszka Sibbitt
Director, Vocational Nursing Program
High Desert Medical College

High Desert

Medical College
A Legacy Education Institution

August 26, 2011

Cheryl Anderson, R.N. M.S.N.
Supervising Nursing Education Consultant
Pam Hinckley, R.N. M.S. N.
Nursing Education Consultant
Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205
Sacramento, CA 95833

RE: BVNPT Letter dated May 31, 2011

Dear Ms. Anderson and Mrs. Hinckley,

As follow up to our discussion today the following steps have been taken regarding our NCLEX pass scores improvement plan.

1. Finalized contracts with Elsevier for HESI entrance exams, Terms and Exit Exams. We will roll these exams out with the September and October class starts. As soon as we get approval to start classes, we will implement HESI as admission test. Our sales representative from HESI is Vicky Johnson.
2. Executed on the stricter admissions criteria approved by the BVNPT. **Attached**
3. We have added additional quality instructors which as part of the packet submitted May 31, 2011.
4. We have tutoring services that are being utilized and enforced for students that fall under remediation or request help.
5. Increase the number of assignments and homework given to student s on a regular basis.
6. Continued utilization of interactive and hands on teaching styles covered in February 4 and June 28, 2011 staff meetings. **Attached**
7. Instructors were in-serviced on the different levels of testing and how to improve validity of testing.

Lancaster - Main Campus

1815 North Flg Avenue, Suite 131, Lancaster, CA 93534

661.940.9300 F: 661.940.7319

Bakersfield - Branch Campus

540 California Avenue, Suite 320, Bakersfield, CA 93309

661.859.1080 F: 661.859.1080

info@hdmedcollege.com W: www.hdmedcollege.com



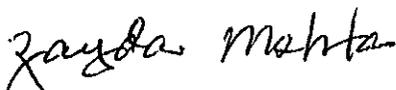
8. Emphasized correlation between theory and clinical experience. High Desert wants to hire full time instructors to improve Theory and clinical coordination.
9. We have expanded our skill lab supplies and resources for theory by bringing in PSS suppliers and coordinating a process to which we order and have supplies ready and available for skills lab.
10. We have expanded NCLEX review services to struggling students and provided guidance for them. **Attached** is the schedule of NCLEX review courses we have held and a spread sheet for how we are tracking the follow up. The college hired Bree Kirik as a full time NCLEX coordinator. She will coordinate NCLEX reviews and follow up on the students' readiness for NCLEX.

With the direct help of Summit Career College we have organized NCLEX review courses for our former students and graduates. We have reached out to over 60 of those students and offered review courses. We offered one session during the week and one during the weekend. The courses are 40 hours long. We had 40 graduates respond. Attachment will give you dates and courses held.

Finally, since the acquisition to new ownership in July 2, 2010 there were 2 students who graduated and sat for NCLEX examine, we are pleased to report they did pass.

We humbly request you approve this request for additional full time and part time classes as we are dedicated and committed to this program and the community we serve.

Sincerely,


Zayda Mehta

Director, Vocational Nursing Program

High Desert Medical College

Lancaster - Main Campus

14815 North Flg Avenue, Suite 131, Lancaster, CA 93534

T: 661.940.9300 F: 661.940.7319

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CERTIFIED MAIL

October 7, 2011

Carol Williams, Director
High Desert Medical College
Vocational Nursing Program
44815 Fig Avenue, Suite 109
Lancaster, CA 93534

Re: Consideration of Placement on Provisional Accreditation; Consideration of Request to Admit Students

Dear Mr. Williams:

On September 29, 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 November 10, 2011. That meeting will be held at the San Diego Convention Center, in San Diego, 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, October 30, 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
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205
Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 263-7843 Phone
(916) 263-7866 Fax
Pam_hinckley@dca.ca.gov



CERTIFIED MAIL

November XX, 2011

Carol Williams
Director, Vocational Nursing Program
High Desert Medical College
44815 fig Avenue, Suite 109
Lancaster, CA 93534

Subject: Notice of Change in Accreditation Status

Dear Ms. Williams:

Pursuant to the action of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) on November 10, 2011, the provisional accreditation status of the High Desert Medical College Vocational Nursing Program has been changed from full accreditation to provisional accreditation for the two – year period from November 10, 2011 through November 30, 2013. The purpose of this letter is to explain the areas of non-compliance found and the corrections required of your program to avoid losing accreditation completely.

Once you have reviewed this letter, please sign and return the enclosed “Acknowledgement of Change in Accreditation Status” form by **Friday, November 30, 2011**.

AREAS OF NON-COMPLIANCE [VIOLATION(S)]

In accordance with Section 2526.1(c) of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations,

“The Board may place any program on provisional accreditation when that program does not meet all requirements as set forth in this chapter and in Section 2526...”

Section 2530(l) of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations 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.

- (l) 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 program pass rates of the High Desert Medical College Vocational Nursing Program for the past twenty-one (21) quarters are set forth in the following table.

NCLEX-PN [®] Licensure Examination Pass Rates			
Quarter	State Annual Average Pass Rate	Program Annual Average Pass Rate	Variance from State Annual Average Pass Rate
Apr – Jun 2006	76%	100%	+24
Jul – Sep 2006	79%	47%	-32
Oct – Dec 2006	77%	48%	-29
Jan – Mar 2007	77%	48%	-29
Apr – Jun 2007	74%	44%	-30
Jul – Sep 2007	76%	58%	-18
Oct – Dec 2007	76%	57%	-19
Jan – Mar 2008	75%	62%	-13
Apr – Jun 2008	74%	68%	-6
Jul – Sep 2008	74%	63%	-11
Oct – Dec 2008	73%	58%	-15
Jan – Mar 2009	72%	53%	-19
Apr – Jun 2009	70%	49%	-21
Jul – Sep 2009	72%	42%	-30
Oct – Dec 2009	73%	63%	-10
Jan – Mar 2010	74%	67%	-7
Apr – Jun 2010	75%	60%	-15
Jul – Sep 2010	75%	60%	-15
Oct – Dec 2010	76%	44%	-32
Jan – Mar 2011	77%	49%	-28
Apr – Jun 2011	76%	50%	-26

Based on this data, the program failed to comply with regulatory requirements relative to the admission of students. Further, the program failed to maintain the annual average pass rate requirement.

REQUIRED CORRECTION(S)

1. The High Desert Medical College, Vocational Nursing Program shall obtain Full Board approval prior to the admission of additional students.
2. Require the program to bring its average annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State average annual pass rate by **September 1, 2013**.
3. The program shall submit a follow-up report in 9 months, but no later than **August 1, 2012**, and 21 months, but no later than **August 1, 2013**. 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. Admission Criteria.
 - b. Screening and Selection Criteria.
 - c. Terminal Objectives.
 - d. Curriculum Objectives.
 - e. Instructional Plan.

- f. Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course.
 - g. Lesson Plans for Each Course.
 - h. Textbooks.
 - i. Attendance Policy.
 - j. Remediation Policy.
 - k. Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty.
 - l. Evaluations of Theory Presentations.
 - m. Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations.
 - n. Evaluation of Student Achievement.
 - o. Current Student Enrollment.
4. The program shall 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.
 5. The program shall continue to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violations. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's accreditation.
 6. Failure to take any of these corrective actions may cause the full Board to revoke the program's accreditation.

In the event additional violations of the accreditation standards are identified, such violations may result in further corrective action or revocation of provisional accreditation.

FUTURE BOARD ACTION

Your program will be placed on the **November 2013** Board Meeting agenda for reconsideration of your accreditation status. The nursing education consultant assigned to your program will ask you to submit documentation of the correction of your violation(s) by the fifteenth day of the second month prior to that Board meeting.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please be advised that, pursuant to the Board's regulations, the program will not be authorized to admit new classes beyond the established pattern of admissions previously approved by the Board. The established pattern of admissions approved by the Board is as follows: **Prior Full Board approval is required for the admission of each class.**

In the event your program is required to submit any report(s) as a corrective action pursuant to this notice, such reports are required in addition to any other reports required pursuant to 2527 of the Board's regulations.

The program may no longer advertise that it has full accreditation, and should take steps to correct any ongoing advertisements or publications in that regard.

A copy of title 16, California Code of Regulations, section 2526.1, regarding provisional accreditation is attached for your reference. A complete copy of the Board's laws and regulations can be found on the Board's web site at www.bvnpt.ca.gov.

Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Board.

Sincerely,

TERESA BELLO-JONES, J.D., M.S.N., R.N.
Executive Officer

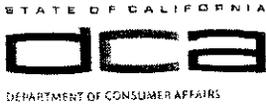
Enclosures

cc: Board Members

TBJ:cca

DRIFT

Agenda Item #14.B.2. Attachment B



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

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



CERTIFIED MAIL

November 22, 2011

Carol Williams
Director, Vocational Nursing Program
High Desert Medical College
44815 fig Avenue, Suite 109
Lancaster, CA 93534

Subject: Notice of Change in Accreditation Status

Dear Ms. Williams:

Pursuant to the action of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) on November 10, 2011, the provisional accreditation status of the High Desert Medical College Vocational Nursing Program has been changed from full accreditation to provisional accreditation for the two – year period from November 10, 2011 through November 30, 2013. The purpose of this letter is to explain the areas of non-compliance found and the corrections required of your program to avoid losing accreditation completely.

Once you have reviewed this letter, please sign and return the enclosed "Acknowledgement of Change in Accreditation Status" form by **Friday, December 2, 2011**.

AREAS OF NON-COMPLIANCE [VIOLATION(S)]

In accordance with Section 2526.1(c) of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations,

"The Board may place any program on provisional accreditation when that program does not meet all requirements as set forth in this chapter and in Section 2526..."

Section 2530(l) of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations 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.

- (l) 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 program pass rates of the High Desert Medical College Vocational Nursing Program for the past twenty-two (22) quarters are set forth in the following table.

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Pass Rates			
Quarter	State Annual Average Pass Rate	Program Annual Average Pass Rate	Variance from State Annual Average Pass Rate
Apr – Jun 2006	76%	100%	+24
Jul – Sep 2006	79%	47%	-32
Oct – Dec 2006	77%	48%	-29
Jan – Mar 2007	77%	48%	-29
Apr – Jun 2007	74%	44%	-30
Jul – Sep 2007	76%	58%	-18
Oct – Dec 2007	76%	57%	-19
Jan – Mar 2008	75%	62%	-13
Apr – Jun 2008	74%	68%	-6
Jul – Sep 2008	74%	63%	-11
Oct – Dec 2008	73%	58%	-15
Jan – Mar 2009	72%	53%	-19
Apr – Jun 2009	70%	49%	-21
Jul – Sep 2009	72%	42%	-30
Oct – Dec 2009	73%	63%	-10
Jan – Mar 2010	74%	67%	-7
Apr – Jun 2010	75%	60%	-15
Jul – Sep 2010	75%	60%	-15
Oct – Dec 2010	76%	44%	-32
Jan – Mar 2011	77%	49%	-28
Apr – Jun 2011	76%	50%	-26
Jul – Sep 2011	76%	63%	-13

Based on this data, the program failed to comply with regulatory requirements relative to the admission of students. Further, the program failed to maintain the annual average pass rate requirement.

REQUIRED CORRECTION(S)

1. The High Desert Medical College, Vocational Nursing Program shall obtain full Board approval prior to the admission of additional students.
2. Require the program to bring its average annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State average annual pass rate by **September 1, 2013**.
3. The program shall submit a follow-up report in 9 months, but no later than **August 1, 2012**, and 21 months, but no later than **August 1, 2013**. 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. Admission Criteria.
 - b. Screening and Selection Criteria.
 - c. Terminal Objectives.
 - d. Curriculum Objectives.
 - e. Instructional Plan.
 - f. Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course.
 - g. Lesson Plans for Each Course.
 - h. Textbooks.
 - i. Attendance Policy.
 - j. Remediation Policy.
 - k. Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty.
 - l. Evaluations of Theory Presentations.
 - m. Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations.
 - n. Evaluation of Student Achievement.
 - o. Current Student Enrollment.
4. The program shall 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.
 5. The program shall continue to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violations. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's accreditation.
 6. Failure to take any of these corrective actions may cause the full Board to revoke the program's accreditation.
 7. In the event additional violations of the accreditation standards are identified, such violations may result in further corrective action or revocation of provisional accreditation.

FUTURE BOARD ACTION

Your program will be placed on the **November 2013** Board Meeting agenda, at which point the Board may revoke or extend the program's accreditation. If you have additional information that you wish considered beyond the required corrections listed on page 3 and 4, you must submit this documentation by the fifteenth day of the second month prior to that Board meeting.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please be advised that, pursuant to the Board's regulations, the program will not be authorized to admit new classes beyond the established pattern of admissions previously approved by the

Board. The established pattern of admissions approved by the Board is as follows: **Based on the above corrections, the full Board's permission will be required for each future class admission.**

In the event your program is required to submit any report(s) as a corrective action pursuant to this notice, such reports are required in addition to any other reports required pursuant to 2527 of the Board's regulations.

The program may no longer advertise that it has full accreditation, and should take steps to correct any ongoing advertisements or publications in that regard.

A copy of title 16, California Code of Regulations, section 2526.1, regarding provisional accreditation is attached for your reference. A complete copy of the Board's laws and regulations can be found on the Board's web site at www.bvnpt.ca.gov.

Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Board.

Sincerely,



TERESA BELLO-JONES, J.D., M.S.N., R.N.
Executive Officer

Enclosures

cc: Board Members

TBJ:cca

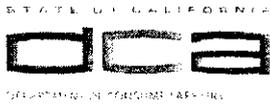


TITLE 16 CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

Section 2526.1

2526.1. Provisional Accreditation.

- (a) Provisional accreditation means a program has not met all requirements as set forth in this chapter and in Chapter 6.5, Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code.
- (b) Provisional accreditation shall be granted for a period determined by the Board.
- (c) The Board may place any program on provisional accreditation when that program does not meet all requirements as set forth in this chapter and in Section 2526. If the program has not met all requirements at the end of the initial provisional accreditation period, provisional accreditation may be extended if the program demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board a good faith effort to correct all deficiencies.
- (d) Any program holding provisional accreditation may not admit "new" classes beyond the established pattern of admissions previously approved by the Board. The admission pattern is defined by the number of students per class and the frequency of admissions for the six class admissions that immediately precede the Board action to consider provisional accreditation.
- (e) A program placed on provisional accreditation shall receive written notification from the Board. The notification to the program shall include specific areas of noncompliance and requirements for correction. A program's failure to correct delineated areas of noncompliance is cause for revocation of provisional accreditation.
- (f) A material misrepresentation of fact by a vocational nursing program in any information submitted to the Board is cause for revocation of provisional accreditation.
- (g) A program whose provisional accreditation has been revoked shall be removed from the Board's list of accredited programs. The status of students as potential applicants for licensure will be determined by the Board.
- (h) A program that is removed from the Board's list of accredited programs subsequent to Board action based on the program's non-compliance with applicable regulations shall not reapply to establish a vocational nursing program for a minimum period of one calendar year.



STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT AGENCY • CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL BOARD OF
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



Acknowledgement of Change in Accreditation Status

I, Carol Williams, director of High Desert Medical College Vocational Nursing
(Director's Name) (Name of Program)

Program, hereby acknowledge that this program's status has been changed from full accreditation to provisional accreditation. I understand that in accordance with Section 2526.1 (f) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations and Section 2581.1 (f) of the Psychiatric Technician Rules and Regulations, the Board will consider any advertisement of full accreditation while on provisional accreditation as "material misrepresentation of fact". "Material misrepresentation of fact" may lead to revocation of the program's accreditation. Further, I understand the program's provisional accreditation status will be reflected on the Board's internet website.

Please complete and return this form to the Board by December 2, 2011.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

(Signature of Director)

(Date)

Agenda Item #14.B.2. Attachment C



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

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205, Sacramento, CA 95833-2945
Phone (916) 263-7800 Fax (916) 263-7855 Web www.bvnpt.ca.gov



CERTIFIED MAIL

January 19, 2012

Carol Williams
High Desert Medical College
Vocational Nursing Program
44815 Fig Avenue, Suite 109
Lancaster, CA 93534

Re: Consideration of Request to Admit Students

Dear Ms. Williams:

The Board is scheduled to consider **High Desert Medical College Vocational Nursing Program's** request to admit students at its meeting scheduled February 24, 2012. That meeting will be held at the Radisson Hotel LAX, in Los Angeles, California.

To ensure dissemination and review by individual Board members and relevant staff for timely consideration prior to the February Board meeting, please submit the following written information by **Wednesday, January 25, 2012:**

- 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pam Hinckley".

PAM HINCKLEY, RN, MSN

Nursing Education Consultant

Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians

2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205

Sacramento, CA 95833

(916) 263-7843 Phone

(916) 263-7866 Fax

Pam_hinckley@dca.ca.gov

January 24, 2012

edee
Jan 25 2012 *KR*

Ms. Pam Hinckley RN, MSN
Nursing Education Consultant
Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technician
2325 Capitol Oaks Drive, suite 205
Sacramento, CA 95833

Dear Pam,

The following changes and revisions have been instituted over the last several months to improve the VN education at High Desert Medical College:

- A Four Term Instructional Plan has been submitted on January 23, 2012, for approval to our Nursing Education Consultant. The specific changes are Theory was presented in an integrated plan. Nursing Process, Communication, Patient Education, Communicable Disease, Reproductive Nursing, Community Nursing and Terminology are integrated throughout the four terms.
- The redistribution and processing of additional hours will assist the students in application of nursing principles across the curriculum as well as culminate in success via HESI EVOLVE examination and increased NCLEX PN scores.
- Total theory hours will increase from 576 to 632.
- Skills lab experience hours have increased in all four terms for the best interest of the students ensuring richer clinical experience for the students. High Desert Medical College will use simulation labs to assist in preparing students for reality based critical thinking exposure.
- Clinical experience hours will increase to enhance hands on decision making from 751 hours into 954 hours having an increase overall of 203 additional hours.
- A Faculty Book Committee has been established and text books are updated. The committee will meet annually/ semi - annually to review and update as needed.
- Two full time faculty offers have been made to experienced nurses with strong backgrounds in the nursing profession.
- Curriculum, course content, sequence of classes, exams, quizzes, assignments, audiovisuals, skill lab supplies and requirements are prepared.
- HESI Entrance Exams are being given and HESI Specialty Exams are scheduled during the program as well as the HESI Exit Exam upon completion of the program.

Lancaster - Main Campus

44815 North Fig Avenue, Suite 131, Lancaster, CA 93534

P: 661.940.9300 F: 661.940.7319

Bakersfield - Branch Campus

211 South Real Road, Suite 200, Bakersfield, CA 93309

P: 661.579.2901 F: 661.833.2956

E: info@hdmedcollege.com W: www.hdmedcollege.com



- VN Program Director works closely with the Admissions Department.
- Tutorial Assistance is available to internal and external students (previous students who are applying to take NCLEX)
- VN student progress is monitored and documented through meetings with the Clinical Coordinator and Program Director. A plan of action is documented for each student not meeting satisfactory academic progress.
- The Remediation Plan includes one retake exam.
- Student Handbook, Faculty Handbook, Student Orientations, Faculty Orientation as well as Faculty Job Descriptions have been reviewed and revised. The director will update and make revisions at least annually and as needed.
- Application for National Accreditation is being processed for the college, with an anticipated completion date of December 2012.
- The VN program is working closely with the Placement office to increase student's employability upon completion of the program.
- The VN department is committed to Team Building in order to provide our students with quality education to enhance student success. Half day team building seminar/workshop in the 2nd quarter of 2012. Professional articles and staff presentations on skills to empower team building.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Carol A. Williams BSN, RN
VN Program Director
Carol.Williams@hdmedcollege.com
661-579-2905

Lancaster - Main Campus

44815 North Fig Avenue, Suite 131, Lancaster, CA 93534

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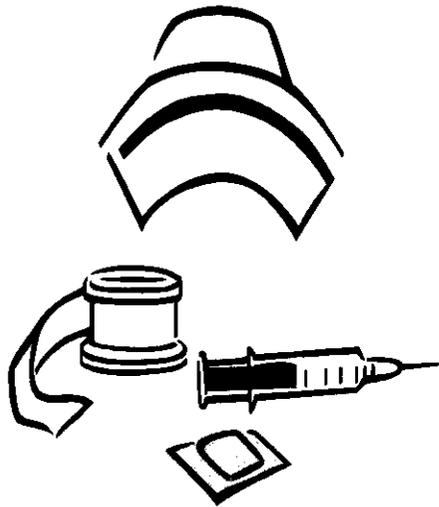
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NCLEX[®] PASS RATE PROGRAM REVISION



High Desert Medical College
44815 Fig Avenue, Suite 131
Lancaster, California



High Desert Medical College NCLEX® PROGRAM REVISION

Ken Guerrero

Campus Director

Carol Williams, RN BSN

Program Director



INNOVATION
SUCCESS
EVALUATION
DEVELOPMENT
GROWTH
SOLUTION
PROGRESS
MARKETING

Objectives of the Plan

- Improve NCLEX® passing rates
- Maintain improved passing rates
- Improve student recruitment & retention
- Improve continuous quality of program
- Align curriculum with new NCLEX® test plan

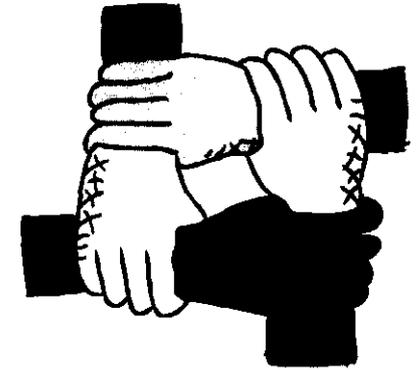
School Admission Criteria

- **PLAN**
 - Review & update pre-requisite requirements
 - Enhance performance predictor tools
 - Improve candidate screening
- **Action**
 - Establish Panel Review Committee to ensure selection of appropriate candidates
 - Initiate HESI/EVOLVE as an early intervention indicator.
 - Establish Advisory Board Committee

Early Intervention Program

- Plan
 - Enhance academic resources for students
 - Assess student's critical thinking & reasoning skills
 - Identify academic & psychosocial risk factors
 - Gain interdepartmental support
- Action
 - Establish an Academic Support Committee
 - Implement Academic and Personal Success Plans in term 1- Nursing Process, Critical thinking, Math, Medical Terminology, A &P, Study Skills, Test Taking Strategies, General Psych, and leadership

VICTORY Program



- Plan
 - Extend Classroom Support
 - Facilitate learning outside the classroom
 - Expanded academic support resources
- Action
 - Implement workshops- study groups
 - Set up time management plan
 - Personal intervention study plan
 - Library, Computer lab & open Learning lab

Learning Facilities & Resources

- Plan
 - Updated Texts
 - Expand Library and skill resources
 - Enhance technological resources
- Action
 - Renovated facilities
 - Invested in Laerdal® SimMan Manikin, CPO Unit
 - Introduced Elsevier-EVOLVE web-based learning
 - Updated instructional media and texts
 - Implemented online research database
 - Prep-U Lippincott's series
 - Student Information System-FAME



NCLEX® REVIEW

- Plan
 - Expand exam bank
 - Increase Student NCLEX® Prep Accountability
 - Enhance support environment for NCLEX® prep
 - HESI EVOLVE exam on entrance and exit
- Action
 - Establish NCLEX®-PN Readiness Agreement
 - Introduce Content Experts for NCLEX® Review
 - Implement NCLEX® Coordinator for tracking results

VN Curriculum

- Plan
 - Review and modify curriculum
 - Integrate resources to support curriculum revision
 - Enhance standardization of assessment and instruction
 - Strengthen remediation
 - Assess and update grading criteria

VN Curriculum

- Action
 - Revised Curriculum format & content with expert consultation
 - Restructure curriculum and syllabus into four term modular format
 - Incorporate Virtual Clinical Experience and EVOLVE online
 - Restructure Remediation Plan to include one retake

Faculty Enhancement

- Plan
 - Enhance faculty development leadership
 - Update Faculty Development Plan
 - Enhance Teaching Methodologies
- Action
 - Create Professional Development Calendar
 - Create Individual Development plan for each faculty member
 - Establish standard lectures, objectives & exams

Questions ?

THANK YOU !!

- For more information contact:
- Carol Williams, RN, BSN
- Program Director
- High Desert Medical College
- 661-579-2905
- Carol.williams@hdmedcollege.com