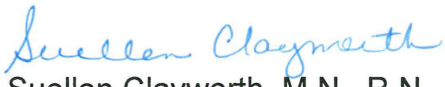
Agenda Item #11.B.6.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
dca
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES, AND HOUSING 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

DATE: August 28, 2013

TO: Board Members



FROM: Suellen Clayworth, M.N., R.N.
Nursing Education Consultant, Retired Annuitant

SUBJECT: Solano College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program – Reconsideration of Provisional Approval; Consideration of Request to Admit Students (Director: Lois Noyd, Vallejo, Solano County, Private)

On September 6, 2012, the Board placed the Solano College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program on provisional approval[1] for the two-year period from September 6, 2012, through September 30, 2014. That action was taken due to the program's noncompliance with Section 2530 (l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations which states:

> "The program shall maintain a yearly average minimum pass rate on the licensure examination that does not fall below 10 percentage points of the state average pass rate for first time candidates of accredited vocational nursing schools for the same period.
>
> (1) Failure to maintain the required yearly average minimum pass rate for two years or eight consecutive quarters may be cause to place a program on provisional accreditation."

The program was required to admit no additional students without prior approval by the full Board. Additionally, the Board required the program to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting all violations, and stated if the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's approval.

On September 19, 2012, the Notice of Change in Accreditation Status was forwarded to the program director. (See Attachment A)

---

[1] Prior to January 1, 2012, references in article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act and article 4 of the Psychiatric Technicians Law provided that the Board accredits all vocational nursing and psychiatric technicians programs. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 2883 and 4532 (Senate Bill 539, Chapter 338, Statutes of 2011), **accredit** was changed to **approve**. There was no change to the Board's authority or jurisdiction.

The program director now requests Board approval to admit 15 students into a full-time class commencing on September 30, 2013 and graduating on July 15, 2014.

History of Prior Board Actions

(See Attachment B, History of Prior Board Actions)

Enrollment

The program offers a full – time course of instruction that is 42 weeks in length. The program is required to obtain Board approval **prior** to the admission of each class. The pattern of admissions for proposed classes is seen in the enrollment table below.

The following table represents **projected** student enrollment based on current and proposed class starts and completions. The table indicates **a maximum enrollment of 15 students** for the period **November 2011 through September 2013**.

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		**#Students Admitted**	**#Students Current or Completed**	**Total Enrolled**
Start	**Completed**			
11/11		11	11	**11**
	9/12 (11/11 Class)		-11	11 – 11 = **0**
9/13		15 **(Proposed)**		0 + 15 = **15**

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 July 2010 through June 2013, specify the pass percentage rates for graduates of the Solano College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical/Vocational Nurses (NCLEX-PN®), and the variance from state average annual pass rates.

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	Variance From State Average Annual Pass Rate
Jul - Sep 2010	7	1	**14%**	76%	**33%**	75%	**-42**
Oct - Dec 2010	4	0	**0%**	77%	**26%**	76%	**-50**
Jan - Mar 2011	6	2	**33%**	80%	**20%**	77%	**-57**
Apr - Jun 2011	5	2	**40%**	71%	**23%**	76%	**-53**
Jul - Sep 2011	8	6	75%	74%	**43%**	76%	**-33**
Oct - Dec 2011	2	1	**50%**	74%	**52%**	75%	**-23**
Jan - Mar 2012	3	1	**33%**	77%	**56%**	74%	**-18**
Apr – Jun 2012	4	1	**25%**	72%	**53%**	74%	**-21**
Jul – Sep 2012	3	1	**33%**	74%	**33%**	74%	**-41**
Oct - Dec 2012	6	2	**33%**	70%	**31%**	74%	**-43**
Jan - Mar 2013	3	2	67%	75%	**38%**	73%	**-35**
Apr – Jun 2013	5	1	**20%**	78%	**35%**	73%	**-38**

***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.

This information substantiates the program's **noncompliance** with regulatory requirements for **twelve (12) consecutive quarters**.

Based on the **most recent data available** (April to June 2013), the program's average annual pass rate is **35%.** The California average annual pass rate for graduates from approved vocational nursing programs who took the NCLEX-PN® for the first time during the same period is 73%. The average annual pass rate for the Solano College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program is **38 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."

According to Board documentation, the Board - approved faculty totals seven (7), including the program director. The program director is approved to teach theory only. Of the total faculty, five (5) are approved to teach in the clinical area.

Based on a maximum enrollment of 15 students, one (1) instructor who is approved to teach theory and clinical is needed. Because the program has been on hiatus since September 2012 when the last class graduated, the director was asked to obtain letters of commitment from faculty members to assure that adequate faculty would be available to teach the requested new class. To date, the requested documentation has not been submitted; therefore, **it is unclear if adequate faculty will be available for the requested class.**

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."

Due to the length of time that has passed since the program last had students in clinical facilities, the program director was asked to complete, and have signed by facility representatives, updated Clinical Facility Approval Applications for all facilities at which the proposed students would be assigned clinical experience. To date, the requested documents have not been submitted. As a result, **it is unclear if 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.**

<u>Other Considerations</u>

As noted previously, the Board placed the Solano College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program on provisional approval on September 6, 2012. The Board specified that the program must demonstrate incremental progress in correcting all violations. Further, the Board stated, "If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's approval." At that time, the program's quarter pass rate was 33%; the average annual pass rate was 56%. Additionally, on November 9, 2012, the Board required the program to submit a comprehensive analysis of the program no later than December 15, 2012. Correspondence was sent to the program director on November 13, 2012, informing her of the Board's decision and the additional report required. (See Attachment C)

Thus far the program has failed to demonstrate incremental progress. The comprehensive analysis of the program that was due on December 15, 2012, was not submitted. On March 1, 2013, Antoinette Camasura, Program Director and Lois Noyd, Assistant Program Director, met with Suellen Clayworth, assigned Nursing Education Consultant, at the Board's office in Sacramento to discuss the curriculum revision on which they were working. At that time, the director stated she would submit the required program analysis by March 15, 2013. To date, the required analysis has not been submitted.

Further, the Board denied admission of an additional class in September 2012. On November 9, 2012, the Board again denied the program's request to admit an additional class. The program was expected to focus on its September 2012 graduates to assist them in being successful on the licensure examination. Of the 11 program graduates, six (6) graduates have tested to date. Four (4) passed the examination.

It must be noted that examination statistics as seen earlier in this report substantiate that the Solano College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program has failed to achieve an annual average pass rate on the NCLEX-PN® that is within ten (10) percentage points of the state average annual pass rate since the program's inception in November 2008, as evidenced by the twelve (12) consecutive quarters of examination statistics presented earlier. It is noted that the program's quarterly pass rates have been erratic and the average annual pass rate has not progressed consistently upward. In the most recent quarter reported, April to June 2013, 20% of the candidates who tested passed the examination; 80% failed. The program's quarterly pass rate is 20%; the average annual pass rate is 35%.

Program performance statistics specify that of the 91 students who have graduated from the program, 49 program candidates completed the NCLEX-PN® during the period August 2009 through June 2013. Of the total tested, 19 program candidates passed the NCLEX-PN®. As such, **39%** of the total program graduates tested have **passed** the examination; **61%** of those tested **failed.**

Of additional concern is the program's inability to retain a program director. Since the original director of the program left in late 2012 there have been four (4) directors approved. Three (3) of those directors left the program after short periods of time; one (1) after a few days, one (1) after one (1) month, and one (1) after six (6) months. The current director, Lois Noyd, was the assistant director of the program and reportedly had been working on a curriculum revision with the previous director, Antoinette Camasura.

On July 17, 2013, the current program director, Ms. Noyd, met with Cheryl Anderson, Supervising Nursing Education Consultant and Suellen Clayworth, NEC assigned to the program. Ms. Noyd identified interference from the owner as a major problem that had hindered program success, as well as a lack of adherence to approved policies and lack of holding instructors accountable for student progress. She reported that no student had ever been dropped from the program due to academic problems.

Ms. Noyd submitted a revised curriculum that appeared to be totally different than the one she had been working on with the previous director. She stated that she believes that she will be able to work successfully with the program owner. The Board representatives asked the director to submit the following documents following the meeting:

- Copies of the following policies:

- Admission and Screening
- Remediation
- Grading
- Attendance
- Credit Granting

- Copies of all Clinical Facility Applications with Corrected Dates.

- Evidence of commitment from approved faculty that they will teach.

On July 25, 2013, a packet containing some of the documents was hand delivered to the Board. Documentation that was missing includes the:

- **Copies of All Clinical Facility Applications with Corrected Dates**.

  The program failed to submit updated clinical facility applications. The program submitted unapproved clinical facility application forms that had been returned to the school in April 2013 for revision. Required revisions were not made.

- **Evidence of Commitment from Approved Faculty to Provide Instruction.**

  The program failed to submit any documentation regarding faculty commitment to teach in the program.

In addition to the documents requested in the July 17, 2013, meeting with Ms. Noyd, the director submitted a "Program Review" intended to meet the Board's requirement for a "comprehensive analysis" of the program. (See Attachment D)

As a result of the analysis, the director reports that the following program changes are being made:

#1. <u>C - NET</u>:

All students must achieve a passing grade of 75% on the English portion of the examination or they will not be admitted to the Vocational Nursing Program. All students must demonstrate a proficiency level in English. No student will be admitted without passing the C-NET examination.

#2. <u>Kaplan Reviews</u>:

All students will be required to be enrolled in the Kaplan online review program. This program is similar to ATI however it is much more students oriented. This program assists the student throughout the entire program and can he used as a continuing remediation tool. All students will be supplied with a textbook to accompany their computer access. Other schools who have used this program have demonstrated pass rates of 85-100%.

#3. NCLEX - PN Review:

All students are now required to attend a 3 day NCLEX- PN preparation. This workshop is arranged for the first week after the completion of the VN program. The students attend a 3 - day workshop and have 3 weeks of online practice examinations with the company who provided the workshop.

#4. Solano College of Nursing: NCLEX-PN Review (Computer Lab)

All students must attend the Solano computer lab after completing the course work. Each student must demonstrate competency in each of the subjects that will be tested on the NCLEX-PN. This competency is measured by a grade of not less than 85% on each practice test and each line item on the individual test.

All current graduates are currently participating in this program and doing well with the reviews. The activity will be closely supervised by an instructor to ensure that each student is held to a standard which includes the principles of honesty, integrity and professionalism.

Curriculum Review

While reviewing the "revised curriculum" submitted by Ms. Noyd, it was noted that one page of the "revised curriculum" was labeled "Curam College of Nursing". As a result of that discovery, the submitted curriculum was compared with the approved Curam College curriculum It was determined that the "revised" curriculum submitted by the Solano director is, in fact, a copy of the curriculum approved for Curam College.

Subsequent investigation revealed that the director of Curam College gave permission to administration of the Solano College of Nursing to use the Curam College of Nursing curriculum. (See Attachment E) It should be noted, however, that the permission was given based on a perceived change of administration of Solano College from the owner to the owner's daughter-in-law. In a phone conversation on August 2, 2013, however, the current director of the vocational nursing program stated to the assigned Nursing Education Consultant that it is her understanding that the owner of Solano College who has been the chief administrator of the school since its inception was the person who received permission to use the curriculum. Subsequently that owner instructed the program director to submit the Curam curriculum to the Board.

Although the Curam curriculum has been previously approved by the Board, that curriculum is based on prospective students having completed Anatomy and Physiology; Nutrition; and Pharmacology as required prerequisites. Solano College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program's current admission policy does not require any prerequisites, except that the applicant is a Certified Nursing Assistant. (See Attachment F)

As submitted, the Solano College version of the curriculum would offer only 476 theory hours, including only 20 hours of Pharmacology. Since no Anatomy and Physiology is included in the new curriculum; and only 20 hours of pharmacology are included, the curriculum does not meet requirements specified in section 2532(b) of the California Code of Regulations, which states,

> "The minimum hours required shall be as follows: Theory Hours-576, which shall include a minimum of 54 hours in pharmacology; Clinical Hours-954".

Given the foregoing, the submitted curriculum cannot be approved. On August 2, 2013, after the close of business and after the deadline for submission of revisions for this report, the director submitted a revised Admission Policy that included prerequisite classes. (See Attachment G) That policy will need to be reviewed within the parameters of the submitted curriculum to determine if the prerequisites will provide the number of hours needed to supplement the use of the submitted curriculum.

Based upon information obtained during meetings with program directors, subsequent discussion, and documentation submitted, the following violations of the California Code of Regulations were identified:

Section 2529(b) of the California Code of Regulations states:

> **"(b) Each vocational nursing program shall have one faculty member, designated as director who meets the requirements of subsection (c)(1) herein, who shall actively administer the program. The director is responsible for compliance with all regulations in Chapter 1, Article 5 (commencing with Section 2525 et seq.)."**

Violation #1: Information provided by program directors and submitted documents substantiate that the program lacks active administration by a program director. As submitted, the owner of the school initiates program decisions without discussion with the program director, as evidenced by the owner imposing a new curriculum without discussion with the director.

Plan of Correction #1: This violation is **not corrected.**

Section 2530(a) of the California Code of Regulations states:

> **"(a) The program shall have sufficient resources, faculty, clinical facilities, library, staff and support services, physical space, skills laboratory and equipment to achieve the program's objectives."**

Violation #2: To date, the program has failed to submit documentation substantiating sufficient faculty, clinical facilities, and other critical resources to support the proposed student population.

Plan of Correction #2: This violation is **not corrected.** Subsequent to the deadline for this report the director submitted letters of commitment from two instructors who are willing to teach in the program if another class is approved. The director also submitted six clinical facility applications. Four of the six applications had inconsistencies that made them not approvable.

Section 2530(l) of the California Code of Regulations states:

> **"(l) 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 #3: Published examination statistics substantiate that the program's average annual pass rates have been more than ten (10) percentage points below state average annual pass rates for the past twelve (12) consecutive quarters.

Plan of Correction #3: This violation is **not corrected.** The violation will be corrected when the program's pass rates improve consistent with regulatory requirements.

Recommendations:

1. Deny the Solano College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit 15 students into a full-time class commencing on September 30, 2013 and graduating on July 15, 2014.

2. Revoke the provisional approval of the Solano College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program.

3. Remove the program from the *List of California Approved Vocational Nursing Programs* effective immediately.

Rationale: As noted previously, the Board placed the program on provisional approval on September 6, 2012 for the two – year period from September 6, 2012 through September 30, 2014. That action was taken due to sustained noncompliance with regulatory requirements relative to program pass rates. The Board directed the program to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting its violations and stated if the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's

approval. On September 19, 2012, the Notice of Change in Accreditation Status was forwarded advising the program director of identified violations and required corrections.

Based on available information, the program has failed to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting identified violations.

Further, the program's instability in program administration is of great concern. The program was approved to commence its initial class on October 8, 2008. On August 18, 2009, initial accreditation was granted. The original director left the program in September 2012. Board records confirm that since that time, four (4) directors have been approved. Three (3) of those directors left the program after short periods of time; one (1) after a few days, one (1) after one (1) month, and one (1) after six (6) months.

Submitted information specifies that the program graduated its last class in September 2012. Since that time, program directors were reportedly implementing corrective measures, including the development of a quality curriculum that facilitated student achievement. To date, the program has failed to submit a curriculum that is consistent with requirements specified in California Code of Regulations.

It is also noted that published examination statistics substantiate that the program's average annual pass rates have been more than ten (10) percentage points below state average annual pass rates for the past twelve (12) consecutive quarters. At the time of placement on provisional approval, the program's quarter pass rate was 33%; the average annual pass rate was 56%. In the most recent reporting period, the program's quarter pass rate is 20%; the average annual pass rate is 35%.

Of the 91 students who have graduated from the program, 49 program candidates completed the NCLEX-PN® during the period August 2009 through June 2013. Of the total tested, 19 program candidates passed the NCLEX-PN®. As such, 39% of the total program graduates tested have passed the examination; 61% have failed.

Given the foregoing, revocation of the program's approval is prudent. Further, the recommended revocation will have no impact on enrolled students.

Attachment A: Notice of Change in Accreditation Status dated September 19, 2012
Attachment B: History of Prior Board Actions
Attachment C: Correspondence attached to electronic mail document following November 2012 Board Meeting informing director of Board's decision and directives dated 11-13-12
Attachment D: Solano College of Nursing Program Review July 2013
Attachment E: Email dated August 3, 2013, from Wayne Williams, Director of the Curam College Vocational Nursing Program to Suellen Clayworth, NEC, documenting permission

to allow Solano College of Nursing to utilize Curam's approved curriculum due to his understanding that Christine Reyes is currently administering the school.

Attachment F: Solano College Vocational Nursing Program's approved Admission Policy effective July 2013

Attachment G: Revised Admission Policy attached to electronic correspondence on 8/2/13 at 5:05 pm

Agenda Item #11.B.6., Attachment A

Notice of Change in Accreditation Status dated September 19, 2012:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
dca
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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

September 19, 2012

Wayne Williams, Ph.D., M.S.N., C.N.S., R.N.
Director, Vocational Nursing Program
Solano College of Nursing
1330 Springs Road
Vallejo, CA 94591

Subject: Notice of Change in Approval Status

Dear Mr. Williams:

Pursuant to the action of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) on September 6, 2012, the status of the Solano College of Nursing Vocational Nursing was changed to provisional approval for the two-year period from September 6, 2012, through September 30, 2014.

The purpose of this letter is to explain the areas of non-compliance found and the corrections required of your program to avoid losing approval.

Once you have reviewed this letter, please sign and return the enclosed "Acknowledgement of Change in Approval Status" form by **Friday, September 28, 2012.**

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 2527 (b) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

> "A school shall report to the Board within ten days of the termination of a faculty member."

Section 2529 (a) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

> "A school shall submit qualification of the proposed faculty members for approval by the Board prior to employment."

Section 2530 (k) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"The program shall have prior Board approval to increase the number of students per class and/or increase the frequency of admission of classes. Criteria to evaluate a school's request to increase the number of students per class and/or increase the frequency of class admissions include but are not limited to:

(1) Sufficient program resources as specified in section 2530(a).
(2) Adequacy of clinical experience as specified in section 2534.
(3) Licensure examination pass rates as specified in section 2530 (l).

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.

(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."

Program pass rates for the past ten (10) quarters are set forth in the following table for the Solano College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program.

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Pass Rates			
Quarter	**State Annual Average Pass Rate**	**Program Annual Average Pass Rate**	**Variance from State Annual Average Pass Rate**
Jan – Mar 2010	74%	**60%**	**-14**
Apr - Jun 2010	74%	**50%**	**-24**
Jul – Sep 2010	75%	**33%**	**-42**
Oct – Dec 2010	76%	**26%**	**-50**
Jan – Mar 2011	77%	**20%**	**-57**
Apr – Jun 2011	76%	**23%**	**-53**
Jul – Sep 2011	76%	**43%**	**-33**
Oct – Dec 2011	75%	**52%**	**-23**
Jan – Mar 2012	74%	**56%**	**-18**
Apr – Jun 2012	74%	**53%**	**-21**

Based on this data, the program failed to comply with regulatory requirements relative to the approval of program faculty, notification following termination of faculty, admission of students; and maintenance of compliant annual average pass rates.

REQUIRED CORRECTION(S)

1. The Solano College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program shall bring its average annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rate.

2. The program shall demonstrate incremental progress in correcting its violations. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's approval.

3. The program shall admit no additional students unless specifically approved by the full Board.

4. The program shall submit follow - up reports in nine (9) months, but no later than **June 1, 2013,** and 21 months, but no later than **June 1, 2014.** The report must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timelines 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.

5. The program shall comply with all approval 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.

6. Failure to take any of these corrective actions may cause the full Board to revoke the program's approval.

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

FUTURE BOARD ACTION

Your program will be placed on the **September 2014** Board Meeting agenda, at which point the Board may revoke or extend the program's approval. If you have additional information that you wish considered beyond the required corrections listed on page 3, you must submit this documentation by the fifteenth day of the second month prior to the 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 approval, 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 approval 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

Agenda Item #11.B.6., Attachment B

Solano College of Nursing
Vocational Nursing Program

History of Prior Board Actions

- On October 8, 2008, the Executive Officer approved Solano College of Nursing's request to begin a vocational nursing program with an initial full–time class of 30 students commencing October 13, 2008 only, with a projected graduation date of October 13, 2009; **and** approved the program curriculum for 1540 hours, including 584 theory, and 956 clinical hours.

- The program delayed commencement of the initial class until November 8, 2008.

- On **July 29 - 30, 2009,** the assigned consultant conducted an **onsite inspection** of the program to determine compliance with California Code of Regulations Article 5. **Two (2) violations were identified and corrected**

- On August 18, 2009, the Executive Officer approved initial full accreditation for the Solano College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program for the period from August 18, 2009, through August 17, 2013, and issued a certificate accordingly. Additionally, the program's request to admit a class of 30 students commencing September 8, 2009 only, to **replace** students graduating August 16, 2009, was approved. That class is projected to graduate May 11, 2010.

- On November 4, 2009, the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit a full – time class of 15 students commencing November 30, 2009 only, and graduating March 19, 2010.

- On February 12, 2010, the Board received correspondence from the director relative to proposed curriculum modifications.

- On June 14, 2010, the Board received correspondence from the director relative to program administration.

- On August 3, 2010, the Board issued a Notice of Violation to the program relative to noncompliance with regulatory requirements specified in California Code of Regulations Section 2530 (k). A response was requested by August 31, 2010.

- On September 1, 2010, the Board received correspondence from the director in response to the Notice of Violation.

- On February 17, 2011, the Board forwarded correspondence to the director advising that the program's average annual pass rates had been more ten (10) percentage points below the state average for four (4) quarters. The program was requested to submit its written plan for improving program pass rates by March 4, 2011.

- On March 4, 2011, the Board received the correspondence from the director relative to its plan to improve program pass rates.

- On May 16, 2011, the Board forwarded correspondence to the director advising that the program's average annual pass rates had been more ten (10) percentage points below the state average for five (5) quarters. The program was requested to submit a report relative to the effectiveness of its plan of correction by June 3, 2011.

- On October 14, 2011, the Board forwarded correspondence to the director advising that the program's average annual pass rates had been more ten (10) percentage points below the state average for six (6) quarters. The director was requested to provide documentation verifying implementation of all elements of the program's plan of correction, and resulting modifications by November 4, 2011.

- On November 9, 2011, the Board received correspondence from the director relative to program pass rates.

- On May 7, 2012, the Board forwarded correspondence advising the director that the program's average annual pass rates had been more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average for nine (9) quarters. The director was advised that the Board would consider provisional approval for the program on September 6, 2012.

- On June 27, 2012, the Board received correspondence and supporting documents from the director relative to the admission of a new class.

- On July 18, 2012, the assigned consultant forwarded correspondence requesting information relative to prior class admissions and current faculty.

- On August 8, 2012, the assigned consultant forwarded correspondence to the director requesting documents for dissemination to Board members.

- On September 6, 2012, the Board placed the program on provisional approval for the two – year period from September 6, 2012, through September 30, 2014, 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.

Additionally, the Board:

1. Required the program to bring its average annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rates.
2. Denied the program's request to admit a class of ten (10) students commencing September 10, 2012, and graduating June 14, 2013.

3. Required the program to obtain approval by the full Board prior to the admission of additional students.
4. Required the program to submit follow – up reports in nine (9) months, but no later than **June 1, 2013**, and 21 months, but no later than **June 1, 2014.** The reports must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions to improve program pass rates, timeline for implementation, and expected outcomes. 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.
5. Required 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.
6. Required the program to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting all violations. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's approval.
7. Failure to take any of these corrective actions may cause the full Board to revoke the program's approval.
8. Placed the program on the **September 2014** Board agenda for reconsideration of provisional approval.

- **On September 25, 2012, Ramoncito Llanos was approved as director of the program.**

- On October 2, 2012, the assigned consultant forward correspondence to the director requesting documents for dissemination to Board Members.

- **On October 25, 2012, Board staff discovered that Mr. Llanos had resigned from the position of director.**

- On November 9, 2012, the Board approved the following recommendations:

1. Deny the Solano College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit a class of 15 students on November 12, 2012, graduating on July 26, 2013, to **replace** a class that graduated September 21, 2012.

2. Continue to require the program to obtain approval by the full Board prior to the admission of additional students.

3. Require the new program director to submit a comprehensive analysis of the program no later than December 15, 2012, that includes specific actions planned to improve program pass rates, a timeline for implementation, and expected outcomes. 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.

- **On November 13, 2012, Julieta Mercado was approved as the new program director.**

- **On December 11, 2012, Ms. Mercado resigned as director of the program.**

- **On December 13, 2012, Antoinette Camasura was approved as the new program director.**

- On March 1, 2013, Antoinette Camasura, Program Director and Lois Noyd, Assistant Program Director, met with Suellen Clayworth, assigned Nursing Education Consultant, at the Board's office in Sacramento.

- **On June 6, 2013, the Board was informed that Ms. Camasura had resigned and Lois Noyd was approved as the new program director.**

Agenda Item #11.B.6., Attachment C

Correspondence attached to electronic mail document following November 2012 Board Meeting informing director of Board's decision and directives dated 11-13-12:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
dca
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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

November 13, 2012

Julie Mercado, Director
Solano College of Nursing
Vocational Nursing Program
1330 Springs Road
Vallejo, CA 94591

Dear Ms. Mercado:

On November 9, 2012, the Board approved the following recommendations for your program:

Recommendations:

1. Deny the Solano College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit a class of 15 students on November 12, 2012, graduating on July 26, 2013, to **replace** a class that graduated September 21, 2012.

2. Continue to require the program to obtain approval by the full Board prior to the admission of additional students.

3. Require the new program director to submit a comprehensive analysis of the program no later than December 15, 2012, that includes specific actions planned to improve program pass rates, a timeline for implementation, and expected outcomes. 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.

Rationale: The program admits only one class at a time. The most recent class graduated in September 2012. A new program director was approved on September 25, 2012. Denying admission of the requested November class will allow the new director time to adequately analyze the curriculum and plan appropriate revisions to be submitted for the February 2013 Board Meeting.

If you have questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Suellen Clayworth

SUELLEN CLAYWORTH, M.N., R.N.
Nursing Education Consultant, Retired Annuitant

Solano College of Nursing

Program Review: (July 2013)

#1. Examination Results Review:

We have reviewed all of the examinations that are given to the students so that we could identify any areas of general weakness for all of the students. If an area of overall student weakness is determined we will make adjustments the in class hours, skills lab hours to allow the student more time to grasp the concepts. We have also reviewed the teaching plans for any subject matter in which the students had not scored well made some adjustments in those areas.

#2. Entrance Exam Review (C-NET)

We have reviewed our entrance requirements especially the requirement to attain a passing grade of 75% on the English portion of the C-NET examination and we revised our policy related to the admission of students who do not attain that grade.

#3 Remediation Process:

We have reviewed our remediation process to ensure that we were utilizing the best methods of teaching to assist our students through the process.

#4. Faculty Review:

We have reviewed the teaching plans of each instructor who participates in both the theory and clinical settings to ensure that they are in compliance with the instructional plan of the school. In addition we have conducted a workshop for the instructors related to instructional/teaching methodology . In addition our instructors will be attending the fall conference of the California Vocational Nursing Educators where they will participate in a Question Writing session.

#5. Former Students:

We have identified all former students who did not pass the NCLEX-PN on their first try and have invited them back for additional instruction and remediation. In addition each of these students will be given a NCLEX-PN review course at the expense of the school.

#6 **Program Director**:

We have engaged the services of a new Program Director who will ensure that these new measures are implemented and will report to the administrator of the program on a monthly basis or sooner if there are any identified concerns or problems.

#7. **Clinical Settings**:

We have reviewed all of our clinical settings and have met with the Director of Nursing at each facility to ensure that our students are able to meet their clinical objectives in these settings.

#8. **School Resources**:

We have reviewed the current teaching resources that we have as well as our lab supplies to ensure that we have adequate resources to teach our students and for them to practice in the skills lab.

Program Changes/New Student Requirements :Eff: July 3, 2013

#1 **C-NET**:

All students must achieve a passing grade of 75% on the English portion of the examination or they will not be admitted to the Vocational Nursing Program. All students must demonstrate a proficiency level in English. NO student will be admitted without passing the C-NET examination.

#2. **Kaplan Reviews**:

All students will be required to be enrolled in the Kaplan online review program. This program is similar to ATI however it is much more students oriented. This program assists the student throughout the entire program and can be used as a continuing remediation tool. All students will be supplied with a textbook to accompany their computer access. Other schools who have used this program have demonstrated pass rates of 85-100%.

#3. **NCLEX-PN Review**:

All students are now required to attend a 3 day NCLEX-PN preparation. This workshop is arranged for the first week after the completion of the VN program. The students attend a 3 day workshop and have 3 weeks of online practice examinations with the company who provided the workshop

#4. Solano College of Nursing: NCLEX-PN Review (Computer Lab)

All students must attend the Solano computer lab after completing the course work. Each student must demonstrate competency in each of the subjects that will be tested on the NCLEX-PN and this competency is measured by a grade of not less than 85% on each practice test and each line item on the individual test.

All current graduates are currently participating in this program and doing well with the reviews. The activity will be closely supervised by an instructor to ensure that each student is held to a standard which includes the principles of honesty, integrity and professionalism.

We feel that this review was necessary and that we are now in a much better position to ensure that our graduates are better prepared to take and pass the NCLEX-PN on their first attempt.

We will continue to closely monitor those areas that we feel may have been overlooked in the past to also ensure that our students have the best possible learning environment.

Respectfully Submitted.

Lois Noyd R.N

Lois Noyd, RN
Program Director

Solano College of Nursing
Vocational Nursing Program

Email dated August 3, 2013, from Wayne Williams, Director of the Curam College Vocational Nursing Program to Suellen Clayworth, NEC, documenting permission to allow Solano College of Nursing to utilize Curam's approved curriculum due to his understanding that Christine Reyes is currently administering the school.

Suellen:

I spoke to Pam about this on Thursday after she called me to talk about this situation. Yes I did give Solano College of Nursing (Christine Reyes) permission to use our curriculum. I also indicated to Pam that the reason that I agreed to allow them to use the curriculum is because of Christine's involvement with the school.

Christine is currently administering the school and she has taken the school to a new level, she is committed to follow the rules and direction of the BVNPT and to tell the truth she is a breathe of fresh air to that school.

In addition she was one of my students in the first VN program that Solano offered and was always an exceptional student and a great care giver. I have no doubt that under her direction the school is going to succeed.

Wayne Williams

Agenda Item #11.B.6., Attachment F

Solano College Vocational Nursing Program's approved Admission Policy effective July 2013:

SOLANO COLLEGE OF NURSING

VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM

Admission Policy

A notification in writing will be sent to those qualified to be admitted into the program within 30 days prior to the start date.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Completion of an application to the Vocational Nursing Program
2. Be at least 18 years of age
3. Satisfactorily completed 12th grade or high school or its equivalent (Provide copy of Diploma, Transcript of Records or GED Certificate)
4. Pass Entrance Test in English Comprehension and Mathematics
5. Meet Health Requirements: Must pass physical exam including negative Tuberculin Testing (PPD), Hepatitis B Vaccination, Measles (Rubeola and Rubella) vaccination and Chicken Pox (Varicella) performed by your own physician. Students with Positive PPD should submit a copy of Chest X-ray result to the school indicating that the student does not have active Tuberculosis.
6. Current CPR Certificate
7. Free of Criminal Conviction
8. Must be a Certified Nurse Assistant
9. Student Liability Insurance- before being allowed to Clinical Setting
10. Two Letters of Recommendation- should be from an employer, instructor or other relevant person. A letter from a relative is not acceptable.
11. Proof of previous education or experience in health field- official transcript from accredited vocational, practical or registered nursing course, psychiatric technician courses, armed services nursing courses or course in Anatomy, Physiology, Nutrition, Medical Terminology, Pharmacology, Psychology and Growth and Development. Must be within the last five years.

    ***Foreign Transcript:** Transcript not in English must be translated into English and must bear the school seal and signed by the appropriate school official. Such course work must be verified as to content and completion.

Once Solano College of Nursing receives an application, the candidate will be contacted to:

a. Sign up to take basic Math, Reading and Language Assessment Test (C-Net)
b. Participate in oral interview with the Program Director and one instructor.

Re-Admission:

Students who have withdrawn or failed one level should contact the Program Director if he/she is interested in returning. The student is not re-accepted automatically into the program without re-evaluation, faculty approval and only if space is available for repeating students.

Agenda Item #11.B.6., Attachment G

Revised Admission Policy attached to electronic correspondence on 8/2/13 at 5:05 pm:

SOLANO COLLEGE OF NURSING

VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM

Admission Policy

A notification in writing will be sent to those qualified to be admitted into the program within 30 days prior to the start date.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Completion of an application to the Vocational Nursing Program
2. Be at least 18 years of age
3. Satisfactorily completed 12th grade or high school or its equivalent (Provide copy of Diploma, Transcript of Records or GED Certificate)
4. Pass Entrance Test in English Comprehension and Mathematics
5. Meet Health Requirements: Must pass physical exam including negative Tuberculin Testing (PPD), Hepatitis B Vaccination, Measles (Rubeola and Rubella) vaccination and Chicken Pox (Varicella) performed by your own physician. Students with Positive PPD should submit a copy of Chest X-ray result to the school indicating that the student does not have active Tuberculosis.
6. Current CPR Certificate
7. Free of Criminal Conviction
8. Pre-requisites:
    a. Must be a Certified Nurse Assistant
    b. Must have completed:
        i. Anatomy & Physiology – 36 units
        ii. Nutrition – 36 units
        iii. Pharmacology - 54 units
9. Student Liability Insurance - before being allowed to Clinical Setting
10. Two Letters of Recommendation – should be from an employer, instructor or other relevant person. A letter from a relative is not acceptable.
11. Proof of previous education or experience in health field – official transcript from accredited vocational, practical or registered nursing course, psychiatric technician courses, armed services nursing courses or course in Anatomy, Physiology, Nutrition, Medical Terminology, Pharmacology, Psychology and Growth and Development. Must be within the last five years.

***Foreign Transcript**: All foreign transcripts must be evaluated for equivalency to a degree in the United States. Transcript not in English must be translated into English and must bear the school seal and signed by the appropriate school official. Such course work must be verified as to content and completion.

Once Solano College of Nursing receives an application, the candidate will be contacted to:

a. Sign up to take basic Math, Reading and Language Assessment Test (C-Net) b. Participate in oral interview with the Program Director and one instructor.

Re-Admission:

Students who have withdrawn or failed one level should contact the Program Director if he/she is interested in returning. The student is not re-accepted automatically into the program without re-evaluation, faculty approval and only if space is available for repeating students.