

Agenda Item #17.B.



BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES, AND HOUSING AGENCY • GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN JR.

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
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DATE: November 4, 2015

TO: Board Members

FROM: John Brooks
Acting Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report on Decisions for Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technician Programs

The following is a summary of the Acting Executive Officer's (AEO) decisions for Vocational Nursing (VN) and Psychiatric Technician (PT) programs.

Effective August 6, 2015

1. **Allied Medical & Health Services VN Program – Consideration of Request to Admit Students (Director: Cora Barrios, Glendale, Los Angeles County, Private)**

The Allied Medical & Health Services VN Program requested approval to admit one (1) class of 12 students beginning October 16, 2015, with a projected graduation date of January 27, 2017, to **replace** the class scheduled to graduate September 26, 2015.

The AEO approved Allied Medical & Health Services VN Program's request to admit one (1) class of twelve students beginning October 16, 2015 and graduating January 27, 2017, only; **and** continued to require the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class; **and** continued to require the director to document that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.

Rationale: The program has demonstrated adequate resources to support the proposed students. The program's current average annual pass rate on the licensing examination is currently 90%, which is 18 percentage points above the state average annual pass rate.

Board staff will continue to monitor the program by tracking its licensure examination pass rate each quarter, reviewing all requests to admit students, reviewing Annual Reports submitted by the director, and performing approval surveys every four years.

2. American College of Nursing VN Program – Request to Admit Students - (Director: Felicidad Silva, Concord, Contra Costa County, Private)

The American College of Nursing VN Program requested approval to admit an evening class of 30 students commencing September 28, 2015, with a projected graduation date of September 23, 2016, to **replace** the evening class that graduated July 16, 2015.

Additionally, the program requested approval to admit a day class of 30 students commencing October 19, 2015, with a projected graduation date of October 13, 2016, to **replace** the day class that graduated July 16, 2015.

The AEO denied American College of Nursing VN Program's request for approval to admit an evening class of 30 students commencing September 23, 2015, with a projected graduation date of September 23, 2016, only, to **replace** the evening class that graduated on July 16, 2015; **and** approved the program's admission of an evening class of 20 students commencing September 23, 2015, with a projected graduation date of September 23, 2016, only, to **replace** the evening class that graduated on July 16, 2015.

Additionally, the AEO denied American College of Nursing VN Program's request for approval to admit a day class of 30 students commencing October 19, 2015, with a projected graduation date of October 13, 2016, only, to **replace** the day class that graduated on July 16, 2015; **and** continued to require the program to admit no additional students without prior approval by the Board.

Rationale: Since September 23, 2014, the American College of Nursing, VN Program has lacked consistent and active administration by a Board approved director during a time when students are enrolled. That failure is evidenced by the following:

- **September 23, 2014** - Termination of the director;
- **October 8, 2015** - Appointment & approval of a new director;
- **December 9, 2015** - Director began medical leave;
- **April 13, 2015** - Termination of the director; and
- **April 13, 2015** - Appointment & approval of a new director.

Further, the program failed to correct twelve (12) violations identified during an unannounced onsite inspection conducted October 14 and 15, 2014.

Given the program's persistent instability in program administration and its failure to correct identified violations of the California Code of Regulations, the Board placed the program on provisional approval

through May 31, 2017. Additionally, the program was required to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of additional classes.

On June 4, 2015, a new director was approved. The director has shown evidence of actively administering the program. As of June 29, 2015, documentation has been submitted substantiating that all of the identified violations have been addressed, and if the program continues to follow the implemented policies, the violations will be considered corrected. The director secured approvals for clinical facilities with adequate daily census of patients to afford a variety of clinical experiences consistent with competency-based objectives and theory being taught. Evidence has been provided verifying students, who were unable to graduate in January 2015 as scheduled due to the lack of maternity and pediatric nursing clinical experience, have now completed all required curriculum hours - theory and clinical.

Currently, the program's average annual pass rates is **61%**, which is **11 percentage** points **below** the state average annual pass rate. Limiting the number of students will allow the program time necessary to conduct the required comprehensive analysis of the program and evaluate the effectiveness of the recently initiated processes, which will also address the declining pass rate.

Board staff will continue to monitor the program by tracking its licensure examination pass rate quarterly, and analyzing the program's resources and progress in correcting current violations.

3. California Career Institute, Garden Grove, VN Program – Request to Admit Students. (Director: Abdel R. Yosef, Garden Grove, Orange County, Private)

The director of the California Career Institute, Garden Grove, VN Program requested approval to admit a part-time class of 30 students starting on September 9, 2015, with a projected graduation date of April 2, 2017, to **replace** the class that will graduate on September 4, 2015.

The AEO approved California Career Institute, Garden Grove, VN Program's request for approval to admit a part-time class of 30 students starting September 9, 2015, with a projected graduation date of April 2, 2017, **only**, to **replace** the class that graduates on September 4, 2015; **and** continued the program's requirement to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class.

Rationale: The program's average annual pass rate have been non-compliant with regulatory requirements four (4) of the last five (5) quarters. For the most recent quarter (April through June 2015), the program's average annual pass rate is 69%, three (3) percentage points below the State. On June 15, 2015, the director submitted to the Board an action plan developed to raise the program's licensure pass rates.

The program has shown sufficient faculty, and clinical sites that are adequate as to type and variety of patients treated, to enable current and proposed students to meet clinical objectives.

Board staff will continue to monitor the program's effectiveness by tracking class admissions, the effectiveness of employed interventions, and the program's licensure examination pass rates each quarter.

4. Curam College of Nursing VN Program – Request to Admit Students (Director: Wayne Williams, Sacramento, Sacramento County, Private)

The Curam College of Nursing, VN Program requested approval to admit a class of 20 students commencing August 10, 2015 with a projected graduation date of June 4, 2016, to **replace** the class that graduated June 12, 2015. Additionally, the director requested approval to admit a class of 20 students commencing October 19, 2015, with a projected graduation date of August 19, 2016, to **replace** the class scheduled to graduate on September 18, 2015.

The AEO approved Curam College VN Program's request to admit a class of 20 students starting August 10, 2015, **only**, that would graduate on May 27, 2016, to **replace** the class that graduated on June 12, 2015; **and** approved the program's request to admit a class of 20 students starting on October 19, 2015, **only**, that would graduate on August 19, 2016, to **replace** the class graduating on September 18, 2015; **and** continued to require the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of additional students.

Rationale: The program has been compliant with regulatory requirements for the last three (3) most recent quarters. The current average annual pass rate is 75%. As such, it is three (3) percentage points **above** the state average annual pass rate.

On August 4, 2015, the program obtained BPPE approval to operate for a four-year period. A copy of that approval was forwarded to the Board by the program director.

The program has demonstrated adequate resources to afford a variety of clinical experiences consistent with competency-based objectives and theory being taught.

Board staff will continue to monitor closely the program's effectiveness by tracking class admissions, resources, and the program's quarterly annual average pass rates.

5. West Coast Ultrasound Institute, Beverly Hills, VN Program – Request to Admit Students (Director: Karen Hall, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles County, Private)

West Coast Ultrasound, Beverly Hills, VN Program requested approval to admit 15 students into a 15-month full-time evening class commencing October 5, 2015 and graduating December 21, 2016. This is not a replacement class.

The AEO denied West Coast Ultrasound, Beverly Hills, VN Program's request to admit 15 students into a 15-month full-time class commencing October 5, 2015, with graduation projected December 21, 2016; **and** continued the program's requirement to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of future classes.

The AEO required the director to submit a report to the Board no later than **October 30, 2015**. The report must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, identification of elements negatively impacting student achievement, specific actions taken previously to improve program pass rates, the effect of employed interventions, revised plan to correct identified deficiencies, and a timeline for implementation.

Rationale: Published examination scores demonstrate the program's difficulties maintaining compliant pass rates on the licensure examination. The program was previously required to identify program deficiencies and an applicable plan of correction. Improvement was confirmed during Quarters 1 through 4 – 2014. However, a marked decline is identified during Quarter 1 – 2015 and Quarter 2 – 2015.

Based on published examination statistics for Quarter 2 - 2015, the program's average annual average pass rate is **42%**, which is **30** percentage points below the State average annual pass rate for first-time test takers. Submitted information indicates the program's current enrollment totals 35. It is prudent to require the director to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the program, and develop and implement actions to increase the program's pass rate, prior to the admission of additional students.

Board staff will continue to monitor closely the program's effectiveness by tracking class admissions, resources, and the program's quarterly annual average pass rates.

6. WestMed College, Merced, VN Program – Request to Admit Students (Director: Brook Offhaus, Merced, Merced County, Private)

The WestMed College, Merced, VN Program requested approval to admit 20 students and two (2) alternates on October 12, 2015, with a projected graduation date of December 1, 2016. This is not a replacement class.

Additionally, the program requested approval to admit 20 students and two (2) alternates on January 26, 2016, with a projected graduation date of March 16, 2017,

to **replace** the students who graduated on July 2, 2015.

The AEO approved WestMed College, Merced, VN Program's request to admit 20 students and two (2) alternates on October 12, 2015, with a projected graduation date of December 1, 2016, **only**. This is not a replacement class. The AEO approved the program's request to admit 20 students and two (2) alternates on January 26, 2016, with a projected graduation date of March 16, 2017, **only**, to **replace** the students who graduated July 2, 2015; **and** continued the program's requirement to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of additional classes.

Rationale: The program was placed on provisional approval from February 2012, through February 2015, due to twelve (12) consecutive quarters (Quarter 1 – 2011, through Quarter 4 - 2013) of non-compliant pass rates in relation to California Code of Regulations, section 2530(l). The director implemented programmatic changes, focusing on improving the program's average annual pass rates. As a result, published examination statistics evidence progressive improvement in the program's average annual pass rates.

From September 2013, through June 2015, the program's quarterly average annual pass rate improved from **37% to 88%**. The most recent average annual pass rate (Quarter 2 – 2015) of **88%**, is six (6) percentage points **above** the state average annual pass rate.

The program has provided documentation that confirms adequate resources, including faculty and facilities, to afford a variety of clinical experiences consistent with competency – based objectives and theory being taught for the current and proposed student population to achieve educational objectives.

The foregoing supports the recommendation to approve the program's admission of the requested class.

Effective August 13, 2015

7. Carrington College, Pomona – Request to Begin a VN Program (Director: Stephanie Olamide Ayo-Akinyemi, Pomona, Los Angeles County, Private)

Carrington College, Pomona submitted a request to begin a VN program with an initial full-time class of 30 students with three (3) alternates on November 9, 2015. The projected graduation date is November 7, 2016.

The program will utilize the Board-approved curriculum currently used at the other approved Carrington College VN programs in California.

The program's philosophy addresses the program's beliefs about Man, Environment/Society, Health, Nursing and Nursing Education and the Teaching/Learning Process. The program's conceptual framework is based on

progressive learning related to the nursing process, caring as a concept of practice, critical thinking, legal and ethical issues and the illness/wellness continuum.

The AEO approved the Carrington College, Pomona, request to begin a VN program with an initial full-time class of 30 students and three (3) alternates on November 9, 2015 only, and graduating November 7, 2016; **and** approved the program curriculum for 1530 hours, including 576 theory and 954 clinical hours; **and** required the program to obtain prior Board approval before admission of subsequent classes to maintain compliance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 2526(c) that states:

“(c) A Board representative shall make a survey visit prior to graduation of the initial class. A program shall not commence another class without prior Board approval.”

Rationale: The school has demonstrated compliance with requirements specified in California Code of Regulations Article 5. Schools of Vocational Nursing.

Board staff will monitor the program’s effectiveness by tracking class admissions, the effectiveness of the curriculum and employed instructional methodologies, and the program’s licensure examination pass rates each quarter.

8. Carrington College, San Jose, VN Program – Report of Violations (Director: Billy Hutchison, San Jose, Santa Clara County, Private)

The Carrington College, San Jose, VN Program was presented for consideration of violations identified in the course of evaluating a complaint received by the Board.

On April 18, 2012, the program received ongoing approval for a four-year period that ends November 5, 2015. At that time a major curriculum revision was approved and the program’s ongoing admission of three (3) classes of thirty (30) students per year to **replace** graduating classes, only, was continued.

On August 6, 2015, the Board received an anonymous complaint regarding the program. Documentation requested of the program in response to the complaint identified violations of the VN Rules and Regulations.

The AEO required the Carrington College, San Jose, VN Program to submit verifiable plans for clinical placements for Maternity and Pediatric Nursing for students who were to have completed program requirements on August 10, 2015 **prior to graduation; and** required the program to submit verifiable plans for clinical placements for Maternity and Pediatric Nursing for currently enrolled students, no later than **September 30, 2015; and** required the program to submit a written policy and plan that ensures notification to this Board within 10 days of faculty termination, no later than **September 30, 2015; and**, effective immediately, rescinded approval for ongoing admissions; **and** required the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of any students; **and** required the program to document adequacy

of faculty and facilities to support the objectives of the program prior to the admission of students; **and** placed the program on the Board's November 2015 agenda for consideration of placement on provisional approval.

Rationale: A complaint regarding the program led to the identification of critical violations of the VN Practice Act and VN Rules and Regulations, as noted, above. Currently, the program lacks adequate clinical facilities for the current enrollment. Administrative officials of the college voluntarily suspended VN program admissions at the San Jose campus until deficits are corrected.

In addition, the program now has six (6) consecutive quarters of non-compliant pass rates on the licensure examination. Documentation of implementation of the improvement plan is pending.

Given the as yet uncorrected violations and the six (6) consecutive quarters of non-compliant pass rates, it is reasonable to rescind ongoing admissions and require the program to document the adequacy of resources to support the students and the objectives of the program prior to the admission of more students. It is also reasonable to place the program on the November 2015 agenda for consideration of provisional approval.

Effective September 2, 2015

9. American College of Nursing PT Program – Consideration of Request to Admit Students (Director: Faye Silva, Concord, Contra Costa County, Private)

The American College of Nursing PT Program requested approval to admit an evening class of 30 students commencing November 16, 2015, with a projected graduation date of November 23, 2016, to **replace** the class that graduated on August 10, 2015.

The AEO denied American College of Nursing PT Program's request for approval to admit an evening class of 30 students commencing November 16, 2015, with a projected graduation date of November 23, 2015, only, to **replace** the evening class that graduated on August 10, 2015; **and** approved the program's admission of an evening class of 20 students starting November 16, 2015, with a projected graduation date of November 23, 2016, only, to **replace** the evening class that graduated on August 10, 2015; **and** continued to require the program to admit no additional students without prior approval by the Board.

Rationale: Since September 23, 2014, the American College of Nursing PT Program has lacked consistent and active administration by a Board approved director during a time when students are enrolled. That failure was evidenced by the following:

- Termination of the program director on **September 23, 2014**;

- Failure to hire new director approved by the Board until **December 16, 2014**;
- Termination of new director effective **April 13, 2015**; and
- Appointment and Board - approval of new director on **April 13, 2015**.

Further, the program failed to correct six (6) of the 11 violations identified during an unannounced onsite inspection conducted October 14 and 15, 2014.

Given the program's persistent instability in program administration and its failure to correct identified violations of the California Code of Regulations, the Board placed the program on provisional approval through May 31, 2017. Additionally, the program was required to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of additional classes.

On June 4, 2015, a new director was approved by the Board. The director has shown evidence of actively administering the program. As of June 29, 2015, documentation substantiating that all of the identified violations have been addressed was submitted. Adherence to the submitted policies should correct identified violations.

Currently, the program's average annual pass rate is **100%**, which is **22 percentage** points **above** the state average annual pass rate. However, the last program candidate tested in Quarter 3, 2014. Since the initiation of the program, there have been **28** graduates, **seven (7)** have taken the licensure examination and **six (6)** passed. Twelve (12) candidates completed the program in February 2015, and five (5) candidates completed the program in August 2015. None of the recent graduates have taken the licensure examination, to date.

Limiting the number of students will allow program staff the time necessary to conduct the required comprehensive analysis of the program and evaluate the effectiveness of recently initiated processes.

Board staff will continue to monitor the program by tracking its licensure examination pass rate quarterly, and analyzing the program's resources and progress in correcting current violations.

10. Community Enhancement Services (CES) VN Program – Report of Unannounced Program Visit (Director: Oleg Khilkevich, Burbank, Los Angeles County, Private).

On August 17 and 18, 2015, an unannounced onsite inspection of the Community Enhancement Services (CES) VN Program was conducted. During that inspection, four (4) violations of the California Code of Regulations were identified.

The AEO issued the CES VN Program a *Notice of Violations* specifying the following:

- a. Areas of noncompliance with California Code of Regulations; and
- b. Required corrections.

Additionally, the AEO required the Community Enhancement Services (CES) VN Program to correct all identified violations and submit documentation confirming the corrections thereof no later than **September 30, 2015**; and continued to require the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of additional students.

Rationale: Published examination data demonstrate the program's difficulties maintaining compliant annual average pass rates. Statistics confirm the program's **noncompliance for seven (7) of the previous nine (9) consecutive quarters**. Board files substantiate prior efforts to achieve sustained improvement. As such, an unannounced site visit was conducted; three (3) violations were identified.

Documentation in student records evidenced that the program's attendance and remediation policies were not being followed. Students were allowed to miss without consequence both theory and clinical days as long as the hours were made up. This action diluted the correlation of theory and clinical learning, which disrupts the student's ability to meet the program's learning objectives. Additionally, the program lacks physical space and supplies in the skills lab.

Board staff will continue to monitor the program's effectiveness by tracking class admissions, the effectiveness of employed interventions, and the program's licensure examination pass rates each quarter.

11. CNI College VN Program – Consideration of Report of Program Inspection (Director: Jayne Grint, Orange, Orange County, Private)

On October 22, 2013, the CNI College (also known as Career Networks Institute) VN Program was granted continued approval for the four - year period ending September 16, 2017. The program was also granted continued approval of ongoing admissions to **replace** graduating classes, only, with the following stipulations:

- a. No additional classes are added to the program's pattern of admissions without prior Board approval. The program's pattern of admissions will include admission of a full-time class of 45 students four (4) times each calendar year to **replace** graduating classes only; and a part-time class of 50 students each March, July, and November to **replace** graduating students only.
- b. The director documents that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.
- c. The program maintains an average annual pass rate that is compliant with Section 2530 (l) of the Code.

At that time the program's average annual pass rate was 83%.

On August 18 and 19, 2015, with falling pass rates on the licensure examination and complaints regarding the program, an unannounced program inspection was conducted by two (2) Board representatives. A total of **11 violations** were identified.

The AEO rescinded approval for ongoing admissions and required the CNI College VN Program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of any students, effective immediately. The program must document the adequacy of faculty and facilities to support the objectives of the program prior to the admission of students. **Additionally**, the program was required to submit verifiable plans for clinical placements for Pediatric Nursing for students who were to have completed program requirements on September 25, 2015, prior to graduation of those students, and no later than **September 15, 2015; and** required the program to submit verifiable plans for clinical placements for Pediatric Nursing for currently enrolled students, no later than **September 30, 2015; and** required the program to correct violations identified during the onsite inspection and submit a report identifying implemented interventions to include the following no later than **November 1, 2015**.

- a. Plan, including implementation timeline, for evaluation of the curriculum.
- b. Proposed policies and implementation plan for admission, screening, and selection criteria.
- c. Proposed policy and implementation plan for attendance, including make-up for missed theory and clinical time.
- d. Proposed policy and implementation plan for remediation and determination of the need for removal from the program.
- e. Timeline by which the evaluation of all clinical facilities will be accomplished.
- f. Documentation of verifiable placements for all enrolled students, in a manner consistent with the Board-approved Instructional plan, for clinical experience in the care of sick children.

Further, the program was required to submit a written plan for improvement of the program's NCLEX-PN[®] pass rates no later than **November 1, 2015**.

Rationale The recent unannounced program inspection, prompted by falling average annual pass rates and consumer complaints, identified a

total of **11** violations. A total of **two (2)** violations are now **corrected**. The documentation provided by the school demonstrates deficits in policies, and implementation of those policies, that affect:

- a) The admission, screening and selection of program applicants;
- b) Attendance, make-up of missed time, and, therefore, ability of the students to accomplish the objectives of the program; and
- c) Remediation and determination of the need for removal of students from the program.

Further, up until very recently, there was an absence of clinical experience in the care of sick children. The program has now obtained Board approval of two (2) facilities that offer experience to a limited number of students.

The program's average annual pass rate on the licensing examination has fallen from 86% in the third quarter of 2013 to the current rate of **58%**, which is **14** percentage points **below** the state average annual pass rate. Violations identified in the program inspection are likely contributing factors to the decrease in the program's pass rates on the licensure examination.

Falling pass rates and identified violations support the rescinding of approval for ongoing admissions and the requirement that the program document adequacy of resources to support the admission of further students.

Board staff will continue to closely monitor the program as they develop appropriate policies and procedures to correct the violations. In addition, Board staff will closely monitor the program's pass rates and review submitted materials related to the documentation of adequate resources to support students.

12. Gurnick Academy of Medical Arts, Concord, PT Program – Consideration of Request to Admit Students (Director: Larisa Revzina, Contra Costa, Private)

Gurnick Academy of Medical Arts, Concord, PT Program, requested approval to admit a class of 15 students into its daytime class commencing September 28, 2015 and graduating September 23, 2016. The proposed day class would **replace** day students scheduled to graduate October 2, 2015.

The program also requested approval to admit a class of 15 students into an evening class commencing September 28, 2015 and graduating September 23, 2016. The proposed evening class would **replace** evening students scheduled to graduate October 2, 2015.

The program also requested ongoing admission of two (2) classes per year of 15 students per class. One (1) class would be a day class and one (1) would be an evening class. These classes would **replace** graduating classes, only.

The AEO approved Gurnick Academy of Medical Arts, Concord, PT Program's request to admit a day-time class of 15 students commencing September 28, 2015, graduating September 23, 2016, only, to **replace** day students scheduled to graduate October 2, 2015; **and** approved the program's admission of a class of 15 students into an evening class commencing September 28, 2015, and graduating September 23, 2016, only, to **replace** evening students scheduled to graduate October 2, 2015; **and** required the program to continue obtaining Board approval prior to the admission of each class.

Rationale: The program has demonstrated that it has sufficient resources to support the number of students in the current and proposed classes. In addition, the program's pass rate supports the recommendations to approve the two (2) requested classes.

While the recent decrease in the program's average annual pass rate seems to be related to quarters with only one (1) candidate, denial of the request for ongoing admissions is reasonable until a period of stable pass rates is demonstrated.

Board staff will continue to monitor the program by tracking its licensure examination pass rate quarterly, reviewing Annual Reports submitted by the program, and performing approval surveys every four (4) years. The next program record survey is due in two (2) years.

13. Los Angeles Unified School District, North Valley Service Center, VN Program – Report of Program Closure (Director: Carol Govier, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, Adult School)

On June 24, 1968, the Board approved Los Angeles Unified School District's request to begin a VN program. On December 5, 1968, the Board granted initial full accreditation for the Los Angeles Unified School District VN Program. On June 1, 1984, the Board granted continued accreditation for the Los Angeles Unified School District VN Program. The program included a regional occupational site based in the North Valley Service Center.

On August 3, 2015, the Board was notified that the last class had graduated and the program was closed and would no longer admit students.

On August 6, 2015, the Board received written confirmation from the North Valley Service Areas Assistant Principal that the VN Program was now closed. The last students graduated on June 4, 2015.

The AEO accepted the voluntary closure of the Los Angeles Unified School District's North Valley Service Center VN Program; **and** removed the program from the *List of Approved Vocational Nursing Programs*, effective immediately.

Rationale: On August 3, 2015, the Board received communication from the program director that the school district had elected to close the VN

program. Written confirmation from school administration was received on August 6, 2015.

Based on submitted program documents and materials, the program admitted its last class of students in December 2013. Documentation from the administrator indicates that the class completed program requirements on June 4, 2015. Applications for the licensing examination have already been submitted by the program for all 12 graduates.

14. North-West College Riverside VN Program - Report of Program Records Survey for Continued Approval (Director: Adnan AlMouazzen, Riverside, Riverside County, Private)

In accordance with Section 2883 of the VN Practice Act, it is the Board's duty, through an official representative, to inspect or review all schools of vocational nursing in California. Written reports of the representatives' inspections or visits shall be made to the Board. Such inspections or visits determine program compliance with Article 5 of the VN Rules and Regulations.

The North-West College, Riverside, VN Program, was inspected on August 12, 2015. The program was analyzed to determine compliance with Article 5 of the VN Rules and Regulations. No violations were noted.

The AEO continued approval of the North-West College, Riverside, VN Program for a four-year period from September 17, 2015 to September 16, 2019, and issued a certificate accordingly; **and** continued approval of the program's ongoing admissions of four (4) full-time classes of 30 students each calendar year and two (2) part-time classes of 30 students every 18 months to **replace** graduating students 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 admission is four (4) full-time classes of 30 students each calendar year; **and** two (2) part-time classes of 30 students every 18 months to **replace** graduating students only.
- b. The director documents that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.
- c. The program maintains an average annual pass rate that is no more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average pass rate.

Rationale: The program has demonstrated compliance with Article 5 of the VN Rules and Regulations. No violations were noted.

Currently, the program's average annual pass rate is **75%**, three (3) percentage points **above** the state average annual pass rate. From January 2012 through June 2015, the program's average annual licensure pass rate has consistently remained three (3) to nineteen

(19) percentage points **above** the state average annual pass rate. The program has demonstrated that there are adequate resources including faculty and clinical facilities to support current and prospective students.

Board staff will continue to monitor the program by tracking its licensure examination pass rate each quarter, reviewing Annual Reports submitted by the director, and performing approval surveys every four years.

15. Yuba College VN Program - Report of Program Closure (Director: Vacant, Yuba City, Yuba County, Community College)

In 1954, the Board approved commencement of the Yuba Community College VN Program. On May 5, 2009, the Board granted full accreditation for the program through May 12, 2013.

On August 19, 2015, the Board received written correspondence from the Yuba Community College Director of Nursing and Allied Health that the Yuba College VN Program is closed and will not be reopening. The last class of students graduated in 2008. No students are currently enrolled.

The AEO removed the Yuba College VN Program from the Board's *List of Approved Vocational Nursing Schools*, effective immediately.

Rationale: Yuba College has confirmed the official closure of the VN program. The college reports no plans to offer a vocational nursing program in the future.

Effective September 24, 2015

16. Institute of Medical Education, Oakland, VN Program – Consideration of Revocation of Program Approval (Director: VACANT, Oakland, Alameda County, Private)

Institute of Medical Education, San Jose, VN Program – Consideration of Revocation of Program Approval (Director: VACANT, San Jose, Santa Clara County, Private)

On August 21, 2015, the Board directed issuance of a *Notice of Correction* requiring Institute of Medical Education (IME), Oakland and San Jose, VN Programs, to, within seven (7) days of the notice, present written evidence that it has current approval to operate from the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (Bureau). In the event the programs failed to respond, the Board delegated to the AEO authority to revoke approval of one or both of the VN programs, such revocation(s) to be effective immediately, and to remove the program(s) from the Board's *List of Approved Vocational Nursing Programs*.

On August 26, 2015, the Board issued a *Notice of Required Correction* to the IME, Oakland and San Jose, VN Programs, to, within seven (7) days of the notice, present written evidence that it has approval to operate from the Bureau. Copies of *Notices* were sent to the owner. The *Notices* were sent per first – class and certified mail.

On September 14, 2015, all mailed documents were returned by the U.S. Postal Service. A stamp affixed to the documents stated, “Return to Sender; Unable to Forward.”

The AEO revoked approval of the IME, Oakland and San Jose, VN Programs, effective immediately and removed the programs from the *List of Approved Vocational Nursing Programs*.

Rationale: The programs failed to comply with requirements specified in the Notice of Required Corrections.

17. College of Nursing and Technology VN Program – Request to Admit Students (Director: Paul Peters, Reseda, Los Angeles County, Private)

The College of Nursing and Technology VN Program requested approval to admit 30 students into a part – time evening/weekend (Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday) class commencing November 17, 2015, and graduating April 30, 2017. This class will **replace** students that graduated on June 20, 2015.

The AEO approved the College of Nursing and Technology VN Program’s request to admit 30 students into a part – time evening/week-end (Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday) class commencing November 17, 2015, and graduating April 30, 2017, only, to **replace** students that graduated on June 20, 2015; **and** continued the program’s requirement to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of future classes; **and** required the program director to submit a written report **no later than March 1, 2016**, to include the following:

- a. Analysis of the program;
- b. Identification of program elements negatively impacting student achievement;
- c. Specific actions taken to improve program pass rates;
- d. Timeline for implementation; and
- e. Effect of employed interventions.

Rationale: The program’s pass rates have been compliant with regulatory requirements for the last twenty-one (21) consecutive quarters. The program’s current average annual pass rate is **62%**, which is **10 percentage points below** the state average annual pass rate. Due to the consistent decline in program pass rates, requiring the program to complete a comprehensive analysis is warranted.

Board staff will continue to monitor closely the program's effectiveness by tracking class admissions, resources, and the program's quarterly annual average pass rates.

18. Eastern Sierra College Center VN Program – Consideration of Request to Admit Students (Director: Annette Hodgins, Bishop, Inyo County, Community College)

The Eastern Sierra College Center VN Program requested approval to admit one (1) class of twelve (12) students beginning January 11, 2016, graduating December 9, 2016.

The AEO approved the Eastern Sierra College Center VN Program's request to admit one (1) class of twelve (12) students beginning January 11, 2016, graduating December 9, 2016, only; **and** continued the program's requirement to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class; **and** continued to require the director to document that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.

Rationale: The program has documented adequate resources, including faculty, clinical facilities, and physical resources, to support the requested students. Innovative, albeit challenging, methods are utilized to deliver education to this remote location. The program will be supplementing the delivery of distant lectures with an on-site subject expert.

Violations identified during the recent unannounced program inspection have been corrected. When licensure pass rates of the individual students who graduated from this campus in December 2014 are considered, the program pass rate for the program is **82%**.

These factors support the recommendation to approve the admission of the requested students at this time.

19. Kern River Valley College Center VN Program – Consideration of Request to Admit Students (Director: Annette Hodges – Lake Isabella, Kern County, Community College)

On December 10, 2014, the Board approved the Kern River Valley College Center, VN Program for the period December 15, 2014, through December 14, 2018. This was the first four (4) year approval for this new program.

The program requested approval to admit one (1) class of twelve (12) students beginning January 11, 2016, graduating December 9, 2016.

The AEO approved the Kern River Valley College Center VN Program's request to admit one (1) class of twelve (12) students beginning January 11, 2016, graduating December 9, 2016, only, continued the program's requirement to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class; **and** continued to require the director

to document that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.

Rationale: The program has documented adequate resources, including faculty, clinical facilities, and physical resources, to support the requested students. Innovative, albeit challenging, methods are utilized to deliver education to this remote location. The program will be supplementing the delivery of distant lectures with an on-site subject expert.

Violations identified during the recent unannounced program inspection have been **corrected**. When licensure pass rates of the individual students who graduated from this campus in December 2014 are considered, the program pass rate is **77%**.

These factors support the recommendation to approve the admission of the requested students at this time.

20. North-West College, Riverside, VN Program - Request to Increase Class Size. (Director: Adnan AlMouazzen, Riverside, Riverside County, Private)

North West College, Riverside, VN Program requested approval to increase the number of students admitted per class to 45. As presented, the director reports a high number of applicants seeking program admission, and the necessity to reject qualified applicants due to current limitations on class admissions.

Currently, the program is approved to admit four (4) full – time classes, 30 students per class, per calendar year and two (2) part – time classes, 30 students per class, every 18 months to **replace** graduating students.

The AEO required the North – West College, Riverside, VN Program to complete a program analysis regarding the decreasing NCLEX-PN® pass rates to include:

- a. Identification of reasons or issues that may have caused the drop in the licensure pass rates;
- b. Report of actions taken by the program to correct the identified issues; and
- c. Specification of plans to prevent the identified issues from reoccurring.

The completed report is to be submitted to the Board **no later than October 30, 2015**.

The AEO approved North – West College, Riverside, VN Program's request to admit 45 students to the projected class commencing October 12, 2015 with graduation expected on May 15, 2017 **only**. Further, the AEO continued approval of the program's current ongoing admissions of four (4) full-time classes each calendar year and two (2) part-time classes every 18 months to **replace** graduating students 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 admission is

four (4) full-time classes of 30 students each calendar year **and** two (2) part-time classes of 30 students every 18 months to **replace** graduating students only.

- b. The director documents that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.
- c. The program maintains an average annual pass rate that is no more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average pass rate.

Rationale: Currently, the program's average annual pass rate is **75%**, three (3) percentage points **above** the state average annual pass rate. However, statistics reported for Quarter 2 – 2015, confirm a 27 percentage point decline in the program's quarter pass rate and a decline in the average annual pass rate of ten (10) percentage points. While the program has provided evidence of adequate resources including faculty and clinical facilities, to support current and prospective students, it is prudent, to require the director to analyze programmatic issues causing the program's current drop in the quarterly, and annual average pass rates, of the NCLEX-PN® licensure examination for first time test takers, prior to increasing the number of students admitted in the ongoing admission pattern.

Board staff will continue to monitor the program by tracking its licensure examination pass rate each quarter, reviewing Annual Reports submitted by the director, and performing approval surveys every four years.

Effective October 15, 2015

21. Carrington College, Sacramento, VN Program – Consideration of Request to Admit Students. (Director: L. Casey-Evans – Sacramento, Sacramento County, Private)

On June 19, 2015, following consideration of a report of violations identified during the course of investigation of complaints, the AEO rescinded approval for ongoing admissions to the Carrington College, Sacramento, VN Program.

The program has now requested approval to admit one (1) class of 22 students beginning November 9, 2015 and graduating November 4, 2016.

The AEO approved the Carrington College, Sacramento, VN Program's request to admit one (1) class of 22 students beginning November 9, 2015, graduating November 4, 2016, **only; and** continued the program's requirement to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class; **and** continued to require the director to document that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.

Rationale: The program has maintained an average annual pass rate on the licensure examination that exceeds the state average annual pass rate for longer than the past three (3) years. The program has corrected the identified violations and provided verification of clinical placements that meet the requirements of the regulations and are consistent with the Board-approved Instructional Plan. The program has adequate resources, including faculty and clinical facilities, to support the current and proposed enrollment.

22. El Monte–Rosemead Adult School VN Program – Request for Continued Approval (Director: Paula Franden, El Monte, Los Angeles County, Adult School)

In accordance with Section 2883 of the VN Practice Act, it is the Board’s duty, through an official representative, to inspect or review all schools of vocational nursing in California. Written reports of the representative’s visits or inspections shall be made to the Board. Such inspections determine program compliance with Article 5 of the VN Rules and Regulations.

A Program Records Survey was completed by the El Monte–Rosemead Adult School VN Program in October 2015. The program was reviewed to determine compliance with Article 5 of the VN Rules and Regulations. No violations were noted.

The AEO continued approval of the El Monte – Rosemead Adult School VN Program for the period December 5, 2015, through December 4, 2019, and issued a certificate accordingly; **and** continued approval of the program’s ongoing admissions to **replace** graduating classes, only, with the following stipulations:

- a. No additional classes are added to the program’s approved pattern of admissions without prior Board approval. The program’s approved pattern of admissions includes one (1) full - time class of 15 students and one (1) alternate every 46 weeks;
- b. The director documents that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.
- c. The program’s average annual pass rates remain no more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rate.

Rationale: The analysis conducted by Board staff of the Program Record Survey provided by the director, substantiates the program has maintained full compliance of Article 5 of the California Code of Regulations. The program has confirmed possession of the resources, faculty and facilities, required to achieve the program’s educational objectives.

The program has maintained licensure pass rates more than ten (10) percentage points above the state average annual pass rate since inception. The current average annual pass rate is 81%. Based on this data the recommendation to continue approval is warranted.

Board staff will continue to closely monitor the program's effectiveness by tracking class admissions, attrition rates, the program's licensure examination pass rates quarterly, reviewing Annual Reports submitted by the program, and performing approval surveys every four (4) years.

23. Medical Allied Career Center VN Program – Request to Admit Students (Director: Alfie Ignacio, Santa Fe Springs, Los Angeles County, Private)

The Medical Allied Career Center VN Program requested Board approval to admit a part-time class of 20 students commencing November 3, 2015 with a projected graduation date of July 13, 2017, to **replace** students who graduated April 2, 2015.

The AEO approved Medical Allied Career Center VN Program's request to admit 20 part – time students commencing November 3, 2015, graduating July 13, 2017, **only, to replace** the class that graduated April 2, 2015; **and** continued the program's requirement to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class.

Rationale: In April, 2015, the director implemented a corrective action plan to increase NCLEX-PN® pass rates. Based on the most recent data available (July through September 2015), the program's average annual pass rate is **71%**, which is **1** percentage points **below** the state.

The program has the resources, faculty and facilities, adequate to deliver the approved program at the current enrollment.

Board staff will continue to monitor the program's effectiveness by tracking class admissions, the effectiveness of employed interventions, and the program's licensure examination pass rates each quarter.

Effective October 21, 2015

24. Marian College, Los Angeles, VN Program – Consideration of Request to Admit Students (Director: Lynette Ferro Mutia, Los Angeles, Los County, Private)

Marian College, Los Angeles, VN Program requested approval to admit 15 students into a full-time class commencing November 23, 2015, graduating on February 28, 2017, to **replace** the class scheduled to graduate November 19, 2015.

The AEO approved Marian College, Los Angeles, VN Program's request to admit 15 students into a part-time class commencing November 23, 2015, **graduating** February 28, 2017; **only, to replace** the class graduating November 19, 2015; **and** required the program to continue obtaining Board approval prior to the admission of each class.

Rationale: As previously noted, the program has been compliant with regulatory requirements regarding program pass rates for nine (9) consecutive quarters from July 2013 through September 2015. The program's **current** average annual pass rate is **68%**, **4** percentage points **below** the state.

The program has adequate resources, including faculty and facilities, to support current and proposed enrollment.

Board staff will continue to monitor closely the program's effectiveness by tracking class admissions, resources, and the program's quarterly annual average pass rates.

25. Trinity School of Health and Allied Sciences VN Program – Request to Admit Students (Director: Mark Acedo, Gardena, Los Angeles County, Private)

Trinity School of Health and Allied Sciences VN Program requested Board approval to admit a full time class of 30 students commencing November 30, 2015 with a projected graduation date of December 2, 2016, to **replace** students who graduated May 29, 2015.

The AEO approved Trinity School of Health and Allied Sciences VN Program's request to admit a full time class of 30 students commencing November 30, 2015 with a projected graduation date of December 2, 2016, **only**, to **replace** students who graduated May 29, 2015. Additionally, the AEO continued the program's requirement to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of future classes.

Rationale: Based on published examination statistics the program's most current Quarter 3, 2015 average annual average pass rate is 71%, which is 1 percentage points **below** the state average annual pass rate for first time test takers. The program did not commence the approved June 2015, class due to inadequate time to populate the class.

The program has provided documentation substantiating adequate resources, faculty and facilities, to deliver the approved program at the current and requested enrollment.

Board staff will continue to monitor closely the program's effectiveness by tracking class admissions, resources, and the program's quarterly annual average pass rates.

Effective October 22, 2015

26. Unitek College, Concord – Request to Begin a VN Program (Director: Samantha Manlosa Sanchez, Concord, Contra Costa County, Private)

Unitek College, Concord, submitted a request to begin a vocational nursing program with an initial full-time class of 36 students on November 9, 2015. The projected graduation date is October 14, 2016.

The program will utilize the Board-approved curriculum currently approved for all Unitek College VN Programs in California.

The program's philosophy addresses the program's beliefs about Man, Environment/Society, Health, Nursing and Nursing Education and the Teaching/Learning Process. The program's conceptual framework is based on the concept of caring and is supported with threads that include Maslow's Hierarchy of Need, Roy's Theory of Adaptation, and Watson's Theory of Human Caring.

The school has submitted documentation of approval of the Concord campus by the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education.

The AEO approved the Unitek College, Concord, request to begin a VN program with an initial full-time class of 36 students on November 9, 2015 only, and graduating October 14, 2016; **and** approved the program curriculum for 1569 hours, including 603 theory and 966 clinical hours; **and** required the program to obtain prior Board approval before admission of subsequent classes to maintain compliance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 2526(c) that states:

“(c) A Board representative shall make a survey visit prior to graduation of the initial class. A program shall not commence another class without prior Board approval.”

Rationale: The school has demonstrated compliance with requirements specified in California Code of Regulations Article 5. Schools of Vocational Nursing.

Board staff will monitor the program's effectiveness by tracking class admissions, the effectiveness of the curriculum and employed instructional methodologies, and the program's licensure examination pass rates each quarter.