

Agenda Item #21.



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

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS

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DATE: April 30, 2016

TO: Board Members

FROM: Cheryl C. Anderson, M.S., R. N.
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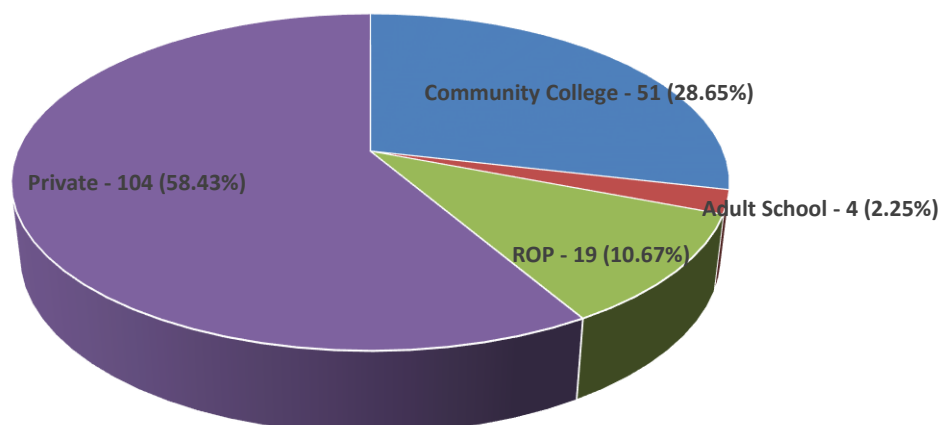
SUBJECT: Education Division Report

Program Distribution.

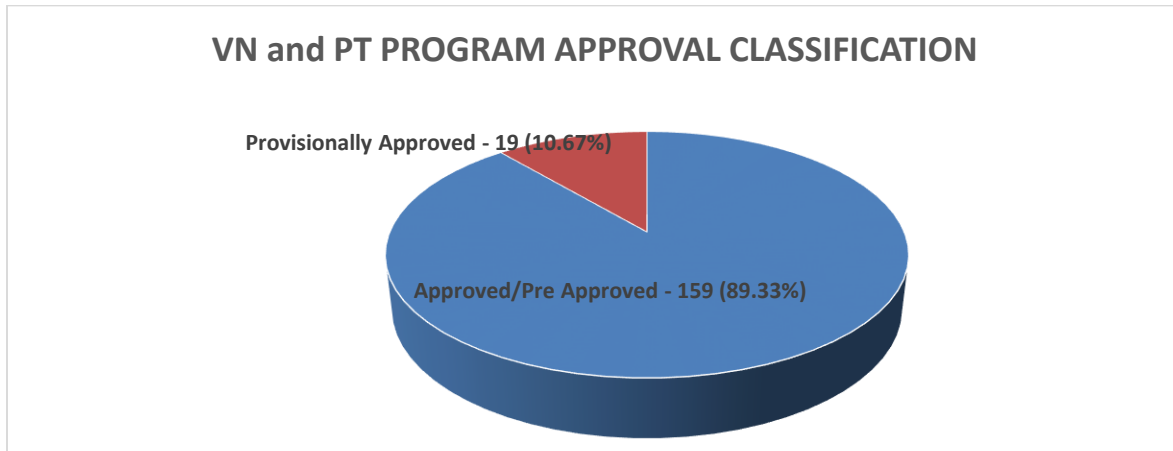
	VN Program	PT Program	Totals
# Approved Programs	137	13	150
# Pre - Approved Programs	8	1	9
# Provisionally Approved Programs	17	2	19
Sub Total	162	16	178
# Proposed Programs	3	1	4
TOTAL PROGRAMS (Approved, Preapproved, Proposed)	165	17	182

Currently, a total of 178 programs are approved to offer educational programs leading to vocational nurse (VN) and psychiatric technician (PT) licensure. Of the total programs, 58.43% are proprietary programs; 28.65% are community college based programs; 10.67% are based in adult schools; and 2.25% are based in regional occupational centers.

VN and PT PROGRAM CLASSIFICATION



Of the total Board – approved programs, 91.01% are VN programs; 8.98% are PT. Of the total VN and PT programs, 89.33% are approved or preapproved programs; 10.67% are provisionally approved programs.



Of the total provisionally approved programs, 89.47% are VN programs and 10.53% are PT programs.

➤ **Programmatic Issues.**

A. Pass Rate Statistics.

The performance of program graduates on VN and PT licensure examinations is a critical variable used to evaluate programs' effectiveness in achieving consumer protection. **California Code of Regulations [VN - §2530 (I); PT - §2585 (I)]** specifies that all VN and PT programs shall maintain an average annual pass rate that does not fall **below** ten (10) percentage points of the state average annual pass rate for first time program candidates of approved VN and PT programs for the same period.

The current requirement was added per amendment in 2000. A thorough analysis of the effectiveness of this language in achieving consumer protection is in progress.

➤ **Vocational Nursing Programs.**

Of the total VN programs, 95.06%, 154 programs, are approved/provisionally - approved by the Board. The remaining 4.94%, 8 programs, are pre - approved programs.

a. Approved VN Programs.

Based on published examination statistics for Quarter 1 - 2016, the **quarter** pass rate for first – time candidates from approved VN programs is **75.46%**; the **average annual** pass rate is **74.56%**.

b. Provisionally Approved VN Programs.

Effective February 8, 2016, the number of VN programs on provisional approval totals 17. Based on published examination statistics for Quarter 1 - 2016, the **quarter** pass rate for provisionally approved VN programs is **45.31%**; the **average annual** pass rate is **55.62%**.

c. Statistical Comparison – VN Programs [California (CA) Pass Rates vs National (NATL) Pass Rates]

Based on published examination statistics for Quarter 1 - 2016, the **quarter** pass rate for first – time candidates from approved and provisionally approved VN programs is **73.32%**; the **average annual** pass rate for first – time **CA VN** program candidates during Quarter 1, 2016 is **73.72%**.

By comparison, the **NATL** pass rate for first – time **VN** program candidates who completed the NCLEX/PN® during Quarter 1 - 2016 is **82.59%**. The **average annual** pass rate for first – time **VN** program graduates during Quarter 4 – 2015 is **82.16%**.

Based on a comparative analysis of examination statistics from 2012 – 2016, the **quarter** pass rate of **CA VN** Programs averages ten (10) percentage points **below NATL** [All Member Board **VN/PN** Programs] pass rates. Similar deficits are identified in **average annual pass rates**.

NCLEX/PN Statistical Comparison			
	Qtr. 1 - 4	Qtr. 1 - 4	
	Total # Tested	Total # Passed	%Candidates Passed
National			
2016	10,787	8,909	82.59%
2015	50,975	41,740	81.88%
2014	55,480	45,588	82.17%
2013	58,574	49,574	84.63%
2012	62,155	52,448	84.38%
Total	237,971	198,259	83.31%
California			
2016	1,117	819	73.32%
2015	6,388	4,628	72.45%
2014	7,309	5,227	71.51%
2013	7,269	5,535	76.15%
2012	7,252	5,362	73.94%
Total	29,335	21,571	73.53%

➤ **Psychiatric Technician Programs.**

Of the total PT programs, 15 (93.75%) are approved/provisionally approved programs. The remaining program (6.25%) is preapproved.

a. Approved PT Programs.

Based on published examination statistics for Quarter 1 - 2016, the **quarter** pass rate for approved/preapproved PT programs is **70.27%**; the **average annual** pass rate is **71.84%**.

b. Provisionally Approved PT Programs.

Effective February 8, 2016, the number of PT programs on provisional approval totals two (2). Based on published examination statistics for Quarter 1 - 2016, no candidates tested during the **quarter** for provisionally approved PT programs; the **average annual** pass rate is **62.69%**.

c. Pass Rates - Approved/Provisionally Approved PT Program.

Overall, the **quarter** pass rate for all first – time candidates from PT programs who completed the **CA** Psychiatric Technician Licensure Examination during Quarter 1 - 2016 is **70.27%**. The **average annual** pass rate for first – time PT program candidates during Quarter 1 - 2016 is **70.78%**.

d. Statistical Comparison – Approved/Preapproved PT Programs 2012 - 2016

The following table presents a statistical comparison of examination pass rates for all **CA** PT programs from 2012 – 2016.

CA PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN LICENSURE EXAMINATION			
	Qtr. 1 - 4	Qtr. 1 - 4	
	Total # Tested	Total # Passed	%Candidates Passed
2016	111	78	70.27%
2015	528	399	75.57%
2014	625	501	80.16%
2013	459	395	86.06%
2012	514	415	80.74%
Total	2,237	1,788	78.93%

The Education Division continues to provide assistance to all programs for whom deficiencies are identified. Prior to placement on provisional approval, the goal is identification of problems areas impacting student comprehension, **and** the development and implementation of effective strategies for resolution of identified program elements negatively impacting student achievement.

After the Board places programs on provisional approval, the Education Division prepares and mails the official *Notice of Change in Approval Status* advising the program director of specific areas of noncompliance and requirements for correction. Additionally, consultants continue to provide assistance in identifying program elements that negatively impact student comprehension and recommend strategies to maximize student achievement.

B. Program Complaints.

From February 1, 2016, through April 29, 2016, the Education Division received complaints from faculty, students, and consumers alleging misconduct by **8** current programs. All are currently approved or provisionally approved programs. Irrespective of origin, each complaint is thoroughly analyzed and investigated by a NEC relative to regulatory authority and compliance, adequacy for the enrolled and projected student populations, and other critical factors based on the allegation. Upon completion, the NEC forwards a response to the complainant, informs the program of the complaint, and requests a response.

C. Program Requests.

From February 1, 2016, through April 29, 2016, the Education Division processed **43** major requests from VN and PT programs. Those requests include, but are not limited to, program approvals, major curriculum revisions, approval to admit students, approval to alter class size, and other critical program elements. Each request was analyzed to ensure compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements and established professional standards. Upon completion, a detailed report was prepared for presentation and action by the full Board and Executive Officer.

From February 1, 2016, through April 29, 2016, the Education Division processed **247** requests for approval of new faculty and **124** requests for approval of new clinical facilities for existing and proposed VN and PT programs. Each request was evaluated relative to regulatory compliance, consistency with the Board – approved curriculum, and adequacy for the enrolled and projected student populations.

D. Program Inspections.

The purpose of inspections is to determine the program's compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements and required corrections specified by the Board. Such inspections serve to identify existing and potential program deficiencies, elements negatively impacting student achievement, and strategies for correction.

From February 1, 2016 through April 29, 2016, the Education Division completed an inspection of **15** programs (Onsite Inspections – 7; Program Record Surveys – 8). Of the total onsite inspections, two (2) programs were inspected prior to completion of the initial class; the remaining programs were inspected as a result of deficiencies and submitted complaints.

Of the total provisionally approved **VN** programs, Division staff have completed onsite inspections of **14 (82.35%)**. Additionally, an onsite inspection of **1 (50.00%)** provisionally approved **PT** program has been completed.

E. Meetings.

To facilitate resolution of critical programmatic issues, the Education Division continues to hold meetings onsite in addition to teleconference, thus maximizing our responsiveness to program issues and concerns. From February 1, 2016, through April 29, 2016, the Education Division has conducted meetings and teleconferences with representatives of **90** existing programs.

Additionally, the Education Division continues to meet and consult with representatives of DCA's Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (Bureau) relative to VN and PT programs that are also under the jurisdiction of the Bureau.

F. Correspondence.

Since February 1, 2016, the Education Division has responded to **2,126** inquiries per email, fax, U.S. Postal Service and FedEx received from programs, licensees, and consumers. Of those, **1,673** required a response. **Written responses** totalled **1,289**; **telephone responses** totalled **384**.

Proposed Programs

On February 28, 2014, the Board authorized a moratorium on the analysis of new proposals until February 28, 2015. Additionally, the Board authorized staff to send follow – up letters to those non – responsive proposed programs advising that the Board would remove them from the queue effective April 18, 2014. At that time, 146 requests for commencement of new vocational nursing and psychiatric technician programs awaited initial analysis. That backlog resulted from the prolonged shortage of NECs the Board experienced from 2009 through January 7, 2014. Subsequently, the Board extended the moratorium through February 28, 2016.

As reported at the February 2016 Board meeting, ten (10) proposals remained [VN - 8; PT - 2] remained, effective January 27, 2016.

Effective February 28, 2016, the moratorium ended. Since that time, one additional proposal and six (6) applications have been received. Effective April 29, 2016, three (3) proposals await analysis [VN - 2; PT - 1].