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Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians

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DATE	November 8, 2025
TO	Board Members
REVIEWED BY	Judith D. McLeod DNP, CPNP, RN Supervising Nursing Education Consultant (SNEC)
PREPARED BY	Roberta Thomson Ed.D. RN Nursing Education Consultant (NEC)
SUBJECT	Consideration of Provisional Approval
PROGRAM	San Bernardino Valley College Psychiatric Technician Program (Program) (Program Director: Reshmi Saji Kappattil, San Bernardino, San Bernardino County, Community College)

Please note: Board Nursing Education Consultants make recommendations. The recommendations are forwarded to the Education and Practice Committee for review and recommendation or to the Executive Officer or full Board for action.

BACKGROUND:

On August 14, 2025, the Program informed the BVNPT that the Program Director had been placed on administrative leave and the Dean of Science would be administering the program until such time as the college could identify a new program director. The NEC explained that a Verification of Faculty Qualifications form (55M-10) and supporting documents would need to be submitted to the BVNPT for approval. The Program submitted credentials for several faculty members, but incomplete Faculty Verification of Qualification forms and missing documentation prevented their approval.

Complaints from students who had graduated on August 8, 2025, were made to the licensing division, stating that their Records of PT Program (ROPP) had not been submitted to licensing. According to the Program, the submission of the documents was pending verification of students' completion of program hours.

Complaints from students and faculty to the BVNPT ranged from compromised test bank security, lack of verifiable attendance records, makeup hours not in accordance with the approved attendance policy and clinical hours being logged at times the students were not permitted to be on the state hospital grounds.

On September 4, 2025, an unannounced visit was made to the program. A meeting was held with the Dean of Science and a professional expert who accompanied the Dean. As the meeting progressed numerous faculty members joined the meeting. The NEC attempted to provide a realistic appraisal of the current status of the Program. One faculty member asked, "How much trouble are we in?" The Dean responded that the minor concerns were repairable.

The NEC outlined the following issues:

1. A qualified program director would need to be in place by October 14, 2025, for the program to continue. This individual must meet all the qualifications set forth in California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2584. The verification of the candidate's qualifications and documentation of education, professional experience, current active professional license and proof of courses in teaching, curriculum development and administration are necessary. The individual cannot be placed in the Program Director's Position until approved by the BVNPT.
2. Attendance records for the cohort that graduated on August 8, 2025, must be collected and verified.
3. The Records of PT Program need to be completed and verified.
4. Clinical experience at Patton State Hospital needs to be for the hours when students can be on the grounds and providing direct patient care.
5. Attendance, remediation and make-up policies require revision for compliance with applicable regulations and submission to the BVNPT for approval.

On September 5, 2025, Program Director was approved. The Program Director met with the NEC on September 18, 2025, and requested approval of an Assistant Program Director due to the her need to take family medical leave.

On September 29, 2025, the Program Director notified the BVNPT that she would be stepping down as Program Director and the Assistant Program Director would be assuming the Program Director position. The NEC requested that a Faculty Verification of Qualification be submitted.

The new Program Director was approved on October 1, 2025.

STAFF ANALYSIS:

Review of results of the last eight quarters of the California Psychiatric Technician Licensure Examination (CAPTLE) pass rates substantiated that the program has been out of compliance seven of the last eight quarters.

The NEC reviewed and analyzed the documents provided by the Program Director to verify adequate resources including clinical facilities and classrooms to accommodate the students' learning needs and ability to meet the Program's approved objectives.

Submitted documentation by the Program Director substantiates adequate resources including faculty and facilities for students to achieve programmatic learning objectives. There is a discrepancy between the hours the students are assigned during the mental disorders experience and the hours the facility has available for students. The students are assigned two 12 hour clinical days, when only eight hours are available. Program states that three 8-hour days are not available. Additional experiences for mental disorders are needed.

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.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Place the Program on Provisional Approval for a period of two years commencing on November 18, 2025.
2. Rescind the Program's current pattern of admission.
3. Place the Program on the November 2027 Board agenda for reconsideration of provisional approval.
4. Require the Program to comply with all requirements listed below.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

1. Require the Program to submit a comprehensive analysis report in 3 months, with a submission date no later than February 7, 2026, in conjunction with the Application for Continued Approval, in nine months from this report, but no later than August 1, 2026, and in 18 months from this report, but no later than May 1, 2027. The report must include a comprehensive analysis of the Program, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. The following elements must be addressed in the analysis.
 - a. Terminal Objectives
 - b. Evaluation of Current Curriculum including:
 - 1- Instructional Plan
 - 2- Daily Lesson Plans for each Term
 - c. Student Policies including:
 - 1- Admission Criteria
 - 2- Screening and Selection Criteria
 - 3- Attendance Policy
 - 4- Remediation Policy
 - 5- Evaluation Methodology for Student Progress including evaluation of clinical practice
 - 6- Credit Granting Policy
 - d. Evaluations of approved clinical facilities which determine adequacy in number and variety of patients to accommodate current and projected student enrollment.
 - e. Faculty Meeting Methodology
 - f. Documentation of resources, including faculty and facilities, for all terms for all current cohorts.
2. Admit no additional classes without prior approval by the Board.
3. Require the Program, when requesting approval to admit students, to:

- a. Submit all documentation in final form, using the forms provided by the NEC, no later than by the fifteenth day of the second month preceding the month of the Board meeting.
 - b. Provide documentation that adequate resources, i.e., faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.
 - c. Ensure that the Program maintains an average annual pass rate that is compliant with California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2585(l).
4. Provide a maximum of 10 students to each instructor in clinical experiences. California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2588(c) states, “for supervision of clinical experience, there shall be a maximum of 15 students for each instructor.” Recommendation of one instructor for every 10 students in clinical experiences will enable more focused instruction and enhanced learning to closely monitor and evaluate the clinical performance of students.
5. Notify the NEC in the event a current class is displaced from clinical sites.
6. Continue the Program’s requirement to comply with all of the approval standards set forth in Article 4 of the Psychiatric Technicians Law, commencing with the California Business and Professions Code, Section 4530, and in Article 5 of Chapter 2, Division 25, Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations commencing with Section 2580.
7. Demonstrate incremental progress in California Psychiatric Technician Licensure Examination (CAPTLE) pass rates.
8. Submit attendance records to the BVNPT at the conclusion of each term that state beginning and end time for each student and their signature on a daily basis. Each instructor will verify that the attendance record is correct and a true representation of the hours each student was in class or the patient area of the clinical site.
9. Record absences and proof of appropriate make-up activities as outlined in the attendance policy.
10. Maintain remediation records and submit them to the BVNPT at the end of each month for NEC review.
11. If the Program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the Program’s approval.
12. Submit an additional mental health clinical site by January 2, 2026, to ensure sufficient clinical site availability for students during the mental health clinical experience.
13. Any material changes in circumstances affecting any information contained in the documents submitted by the Program to the Board, require the Program to notify the NEC immediately, in writing, per California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2581(g).

RELEVANT PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Enrollment

California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2585(k) 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 2585(a). (2) Adequacy of clinical experience as specified in Section 2588. (3) Licensure examination pass rates as specified in Section 2585(l).

The Program is approved to offer a 46-week full-time class. The program's pattern of admissions will include admission of one class of 45 students two times per calendar year, only.

The following table represents current student enrollment based on class starts and completion dates. The table indicates a maximum enrollment of 48 students for the period August 2024 through August 2025.

ENROLLMENT DATA TABLE

Class Start Dates	Class Completion Dates	Number of Students Admitted	Number of Students Current	Number of Graduated	Total Enrolled
8/12/2024 FT *(8/8/2025)		22	19		19
1/21/2025 FT *12/19/2025)		28	26		19 + 26 = 45
	8/8/2025 (12/2024)			-19	45 – 19 = 26
8/25/2025 FT *(8/7/2026)		22	22		26 + 22 = 48

*Indicates projected graduation date

Licensing Examination Statistics

California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2585(l) 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 approved psychiatric technician schools for the same period.

The following statistics, furnished by Psychological Services, LLC (PSI) and printed by the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians for the period October 2024 through September 2025, specify the pass percentage rates for graduates of the Program on the California Psychiatric Technician Licensure Examination (CAPTLE).

CALIFORNIA PSYCHIATRICTECHNICIAN LICENSURE EXAMINATION DATA

Quarterly Statistics					Annual Statistics		
Quarter	# Candidates in Quarter	# Passed in Quarter	% Passed in Quarter	State Quarterly Pass Rate	Program Average Annual Pass Rate	State Average Annual Pass Rate CCR §2585(l)	Variance from State Average Annual Pass Rate
Oct – Dec 2023	22	11	50%	70%	56%	74%	-18
Jan – Mar 2024	26	20	77%	79%	66%	75%	-9
Apr – Jun 2024	11	4	36%	63%	62%	73%	-11
Jul – Sep 2024	3	2	67%	80%	60%	73%	-13
Oct – Dec 2024	16	7	44%	70%	59%	73%	-14
Jan – Mar 2025	14	7	50%	65%	45%	69%	-24
Apr – Jun 2025	11	5	45%	60%	48%	68%	-20
Jul – Sep 2025	No tests this quarter			65%	46%	65%	-19

*The Annual Pass Rate changes every quarter. It is calculated by dividing the number of candidates who passed during the current and previous three quarters by the number of

candidates who tested during the same period. If no data is available for the relevant period, the statistic is carried over from the last quarter for which data is available.

Based on the most current data available (July – September 2025), the Program's average annual pass rate is 46 percent. The California average annual pass rate for graduates from approved psychiatric technician programs who took the licensure examination for the first time during the same period is 65 percent. The average annual pass rate for the Program is 19 percentage points below the state average annual pass rate.

Faculty and Facilities

California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2588(c) states:

For supervision of clinical experience, there shall be a maximum of 15 students for each instructor.

The current number of approved faculty totals 15, including the Program Director. The Program Director has 100 percent administrative duties. Of the total faculty, 14 are designated to teach clinical. Based upon a maximum proposed enrollment of 48 students, four instructors are required for clinical supervision. The utilization of faculty at clinical facilities is such that clinical instruction is covered adequately.

California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2588(b) states, in part:

Schools shall have clinical facilities adequate as to number, type, and variety of patients treated, to provide clinical experience for all students in the areas specified by Section 2587. 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.

Submitted documentation indicates the Program has sufficient clinical facilities to afford the number, type and variety of patients that will provide clinical experience consistent with Board-approved competency-based objectives and theory being taught for current and proposed student enrollment. There is a discrepancy between the hours the students are assigned during the mental disorders experience and the hours the facility has available for students. The students are assigned two 12-hour clinical days, when only eight hours are available at the facility. Program states that three 8-hour days are not available. Additional experiences for mental disorders are needed.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Program History

Agenda Item 6.F.I.

Attachment A

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY COLLEGE PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

Program History

- In 1970, the Board approved the request of San Bernardino Valley College to begin a Psychiatric Technician Program effective August 1970.
- In February 1971, the Board approved full initial accreditation for the San Bernardino Valley College Psychiatric Technician Program, effective for the first class that began August 1970.
- On May 4, 1984, the Board approved continued accreditation for the four - year period from May 4, 1984, through May 3, 1988.
- On November 8, 1985, the Board ratified the Nursing Education Consultant's authorization to increase the class size of admitted classes from 30 to 45 students per semester, effective October 18, 1985.
- On May 23, 1986, a new Program Director was approved.
- On January 4, 2002, the Board approved continued full accreditation for the four-year period from February 8, 2002, to February 8, 2006. The Board also approved revision of the Program's philosophy and terminal objectives.
- On September 16, 2005, the Executive Officer approved continued full accreditation for San Bernardino Valley College Psychiatric Technician Program for the four-year period from February 8, 2006, through February 7, 2010, and issued a certificate accordingly.
- On May 29, 2009, a new Program Director was approved.
- On April 1, 2010, the Board received the Program Records Survey and attachments.
- On July 20, 2010, the Executive Officer approved continued full accreditation for San Bernardino Valley College Psychiatric Technician Program for the four-year period from February 8, 2010, through February 7, 2014, and issued a certificate, accordingly, and continued the Program's current approval of a pattern of admission to admit 45 students twice yearly in August and January.

- On January 24, 2014, the Executive Officer approved:
 1. Granted continued full approval for the San Bernardino Valley College Psychiatric Technician Program for a four-year period from February 8, 2014, through February 7, 2018, and issued a certificate accordingly.
 2. Continued approval of the Program's pattern of admission to replace graduating classes, only, with the following stipulations:
 - (a) No additional classes are added to the program's pattern of admission without prior Board approval. The program's pattern of admission will include admission of one class of 45 students two times per year in August and January, only.
 - (b) The Program 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 California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2585(l).
- On February 6, 2018, the Board rendered the following decisions:
 1. Approved full continued approval for San Bernardino Valley College Psychiatric Technician Program for a period of four years.
 2. Continued approval of the Program's pattern of admissions 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 one class of 45 students two times per calendar year, only.
 - b. The Program 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 California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2585(l).
- On March 8, 2022, The Executive Officer rendered the following decisions.
 1. Granted continued full approval for the San Bernardino Valley College, Psychiatric Technician Program for a four-year period beginning February 7, 2022, and issued a certificate accordingly.
 2. Required the Program to comply with the requirements listed below.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

1. Notify the NEC in the event a current class is displaced from clinical sites.
2. Continued approval of the Program's current pattern of admissions 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 one class of 45 students two times per calendar year, only.
 - b. The Program 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 California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2585 (I).
3. Comply with all approval standards in Article 4 of the Psychiatric Technician Law, commencing at Business and Professions Code Section 4530, and Article 5 of the California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2580.
4. 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.