



DIVERSION/DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

**Hilton Los Angeles Airport
5711 West Century Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90045**

January 8, 2015

Thursday, January 8, 2015 – 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

9.0 Call to Order

9.0.1 Review and Vote on Whether to Approve the Minutes of:

- May 7, 2014
- August 7, 2014
- October 9, 2014

9.1 Complaint Intake and Investigations Update

9.2 Discipline and Probation Update

9.3 Diversion Program Update and Statistics

9.3.1 Diversion Evaluation Committee Members

9.4 Update: “Uniform Standards Regarding Substance-Abusing Healing Arts Licensees” – Business and Professions Code, Section 315 et. seq.

9.5 Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

9.6 Adjournment

NOTICE:

All times are approximate and subject to change. Items may be taken out of order to maintain a quorum, accommodate a speaker, or for convenience. The meeting may be canceled without notice. For verification of the meeting, call (916) 574-7600 or access the Board’s Web Site at <http://www.rn.ca.gov>. Action may be taken on any item listed on this agenda, including information only items.

Public comments will be taken on agenda items at the time the item is heard. Total time allocated for public comment may be limited.

The meeting is accessible to the physically disabled. A person who needs a disability-related accommodation or modification in order to participate in the meeting may make a request by contacting the Administration Unit at (916) 574-7600 or email webmasterbrn@dca.ca.gov or send a written request to the Board of Registered Nursing Office at 1747 North Market #150, Sacramento, CA 95834. (Hearing impaired: California Relay Service: TDD phone # (800) 326-2297. Providing your request at least five (5) business days before the meeting will help to ensure the availability of the requested accommodation.

Board members who are not members of this committee may attend meetings as observers only, and may not participate or vote. Action may be taken on any item listed on this agenda, including information only items. Items may be taken out of order for convenience, to accommodate speakers, or maintain a quorum.



DIVERSION/DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: May 7, 2014

SITE: Hilton Sacramento Arden West
2200 Harvard Street
Sacramento, CA 95815

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cynthia Klein, RN, Chair
Beverly Hayden-Pugh, MA, RN
Raymond Mallel
Imelda Cejas-Butkiewicz

STAFF PRESENT: Louise Bailey, M.Ed., RN, Executive Officer
Stacie Berumen, Assistant Executive Officer
Beth Scott, Deputy Chief, Discipline, Probation & Diversion
Shannon Silberling, Deputy Chief, Complaints and Investigations
Carol Stanford, Diversion Program Manager

The Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 1:13 p.m.

9.1 REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES:

Approve/Not Approve: Minutes of March 6, 2014

**M/S/C: Motion by Beverly Hayden-Pugh, Second by Imelda Cejas-Butkiewicz,
Committee approves March 6, 2014 meeting minutes.**

9.2 Complaint Intake and Investigations Update

PROGRAM UPDATES

COMPLAINT INTAKE:

Staff

Complaint Intake is fully staffed.

Program

Fingerprint Requirement – We continue to refer licensees who failed to provide proof of fingerprint submission for the retroactive fingerprint project. These licenses were inactivated and are currently being referred to Complaint Intake to open a complaint so we may issue a citation for non-compliance.

Enforcement management met with BRN fingerprint staff to develop the plan to initiate fingerprinting the large number of nurses who do not fully meet the fingerprint requirements in CCR 1419(b). BRN subject matter experts continue to work to resolve these issues with DCA BreZe staff. It will be very difficult to have such a large group of licensees fingerprinted if we are having issues processing the results.

There is no delay entering complaints into BreZe however we will be experiencing an increase in the number of applicant conviction complaints since we will have hundreds of spring grads.

The complaint intake unit has been utilizing our new enforcement NEC to assist in determining the direction we take on cases that are more complex practice cases.

INVESTIGATIONS:

Staff

Investigations is fully staffed.

Program

The longest delay in the investigation process continues to be obtaining records. We continue to use the subpoena process and look for any ways to decrease the time it takes.

Investigators are focused on clearing all the oldest cases. There are approximately 46 cases over one year old that have not been completed.

Our new enforcement NEC is assisting in reviewing investigative cases that would have otherwise been sent out for expert review. This helps reduce our case time prior to transmitting to the AGO as well as our closure time, should the allegations not be substantiated.

Statistics

The following are internal numbers (end of month) across all investigators not broken out on the performance measurement report.

BRN Investigation Unit	Apr 2013	May 2013	Jun 2013	Jul 2013	Aug 2013	Sep 2013
Total cases assigned	272	267	253	266	279	270
Total cases unassigned (pending)	117	72	104	83	64	104
Average days to case completion	272	238	292	275	263	212
Average cost per case	\$3,561	\$3,028	\$3,105	\$3,211	\$3,194	\$2,920
Cases closed	29	37	42	35	34	23

BRN Investigation Unit	Oct 2013	Nov 2013	Dec 2013	Jan 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2014
Total cases assigned	256	252	243	223	236	251
Total cases unassigned (pending)	89	59	58	49	52	49
Average days to case completion	278	215	294	326	301	327
Average cost per case	\$3,447	\$2,792	\$3,312	\$3,529	\$3,804	\$3,776
Cases closed	36	34	19	33	28	49

As of April 23, 2014, there were 421 DOI investigations pending.

Please review the enforcement statistics reports in 9.3 for additional breakdown of information.

Outreach:

Item #1

We attended the Professional Development Insurance Network (PDIN) meeting on 03/27/14. The meeting did not include any guest speakers, but issues were discussed in reference to the recent fraud experienced by the different medical insurance carriers.

They reported an increase in fraud with substance abuse programs. Recent cases suggest the programs are employing their participants and testing them on a daily basis without informing them of the daily charges submitted to their (the employees/participants) insurance company. The Dept. of Health Care Services is also conducting weekly operations to audit these programs to minimize the exposure.

Also discussed were a couple of physicians who have been overprescribing methadone. The FBI Supervisor participated in the meeting and extended his support in any investigations involving fraud. The next meeting will be scheduled for May.

Item #2

We attended the Residential Placement Protocols (RPP) Taskforce. The focus was on several residential care facilities in the Los Angeles area which had a number of issues. Although the most obvious problems are facilities that are unlicensed, there are facilities that are licensed but caring for more residents than they should be, facilities that are providing substandard care, facilities where the owner holds on to the resident's EBT or Cal Fresh cards, but provides very little food in return, facilities with fire code or health violations, etc.

New contacts were made with the Supervising Investigator for the LA DA's office and with the Investigation Agent in Charge for the Social Security Administration.

9.3 Discipline and Probation Update

PROGRAM UPDATE

Staff

The Probation Unit is fully staffed with 6 monitors and one Office Technician (OT).

The new cite and fine AGPA began on April 1, 2014. The vacant discipline manager position is pending; and should be filled in May.

Program – Discipline

The discipline unit is working with the Attorney General office to complete our cases in a timely manner.

Below reflects FY2014 to present (July 1, 2013-April 21, 2014) decision statistics:

Decisions Adopted by Board	1,039
Pending Processing by legal support staff	68
Accusations/ PTR served	1,313

Staff continues to increase its usage of citation and fine as a constructive method to inform licensees and applicants of violations which do not rise to the level of formal disciplinary action. The discipline unit is concentrating on processing cite and fine cases.

The BRN continues to issue citations for address change violations pursuant to the California Code of Regulations §1409.1. The BRN website was updated with a reminder of the address change requirement.

Citation information below (FY 2014), statistics from July 1, 2013 – October 3, 2013.

Number of citations issued	187
Total fines ordered	\$96,075.00
Fines paid (amounts only include payments from fines issued in current fiscal year)	\$62,778.00

Statistics - Discipline

It is hoped that BreEZe will provide accurate performance measure statistics, formerly the E19 report, by April 30, 2014. An update will be provided at the meeting.

Program – Probation

The case load per probation monitor is approximately 142.

Statistics – Probation

Below are the statistics for the Probation program from July 1, 2013 to April 18, 2014.

Probation Data	Numbers	% of Active
Male	230	27%
Female	628	73%
Chemical Dependency	415	49%
Practice Case	215	25%
Mental Health	2	0%
Conviction (Alcohol/Drug = 94)	226	26%
Advanced Certificates	83	10%
Southern California	404	48%
Northern California	440	51%
Tolled at the AG	14	1%
Pending with AG/Board	99	12%
License Revoked YTD	20	2%
License Surrendered YTD	60	6%

Terminated YTD	15	1.5%
Successfully completed YTD	108	12%
Active in-state probationers	858	
Completed/Revoked/Terminated/ Surrendered YTD	203	
Tolled Probationers	249	
Active and Tolled Probationers	1,107	

9.4 Diversion Program Update and Statistics

Program Update

In March 2014, the Diversion Program staff participated in the National Organization for Alternative Program (NOAP) educational conference in San Diego. This is the only educational training put on specifically for alternative to discipline and discipline programs throughout the country. The Diversion Program Manager was one of the speakers at the conference. Some of the topics covered at the conference were: *Update on Treatment of Health Care Professionals; HIPPA and Privacy Risks; Avoiding Countertransference and Codependency When Working with Other HealthCare Professionals.*

There were also topics such as: *It's Not your Mama's Weed Anymore* which provided information regarding the potency of Marijuana showing it is not the same as in the 60's. Its potency levels have increased from 2% to 30% and it causes psychotic breaks in some users. Since 2007, it has highest rate of dependence after alcohol. As a result of its increase in use, some states have seen a 400% increase in Emergency Rooms visits. Other presentations such as, *Drug Diversion in the Healthcare Setting*, provided information that Fentanyl is now the most widely diverted narcotic and *Neuroscience of Addiction, Trauma and Recovery from Both – The Brain as Healing Ground* discussed how thoughts, emotions, and behaviors affect recovery and the brain's structure in relation to fear and stress. These important topics provided current information to keep the California program abreast of current trends and future issues that may have an impact on the nursing population.

On June 26 and 27, the Diversion Program Manager will present information about the BRN's Diversion Program at the 2nd Annual Dave E. Smith, MD Symposium in San Francisco. This symposium is free to all those who register and will provide CE's for those healthcare professionals who attend. There will be information and topics such as: *The New ASAM Criteria and SAM-5: Implications for Addiction Medicine; Health Care Reform: Opportunities and Challenges for Behavioral Health Care Providers; Update on Addiction Treatment; Models of Recovery for Health Care Professionals*, etc. The Symposium will be held at the J W Marriott San Francisco Union Square with an expected attendance of over 300 Healthcare professionals and providers.

Additional information from the NOAP conference and the upcoming Symposium is available upon your request.

Contractor Update

Maximus, the contracted vendor for the Diversion Program had its second consecutive 3-year International Standards Organization (ISO) certification. The ISO provides an external quality review of the program. The focus of the evaluation is on the contract, and how the internal quality practices monitor and support adherence to the contract requirements. Maximus again passed this strict independent review. The California Diversion Program is the only ISO-certified health professionals monitoring program in the world.

In March, Maximus hired a new Clinical Case Manager, John Olive, RN, to replace Bill Frantz, RN. John brings the following qualifications to the position:

Diploma in Nursing (Psychiatric) University of Wales, Bangor UK 1995

Post Graduate Diploma (Drug Addiction) John Moores Univ. Liverpool UK 1998

Masters of Science (Drug Use and Addiction) John Moores Univ. Liverpool UK 1999.

John and his wife, who is also a RN, relocated to the Sacramento area in 2001. Since coming to the U.S, and earning his California RN license in 2011, John has worked at St. Helena Hospital and Heritage Oaks Hospital in Sacramento. The BRN welcomes John and his family as a part of the Maximus team.

Diversion Evaluation Committees (DEC)

There are currently 3 vacancies at this time: one physician, one registered nurse and one public member. Recruitment efforts continue.

Statistics

The Statistical Summary Report for November through March is attached. As of March 31, 2014, there were 1,867 successful completions.

9.4.1 Diversion Evaluation Committee Members

BACKGROUND:

In accordance with B & P Code Section 2770.2, the Board of Registered Nursing is responsible for appointing persons to serve on the Diversion Evaluation Committees. Each Committee for the Diversion Program is composed of three registered nurses, a physician and a public member with expertise in substance use disorders and/or mental health.

APPOINTMENT

Below is the name of the candidate who is being recommended for appointment to the Diversion Evaluation Committees (DEC). Her application and résumé is attached. If appointed, her term will expire June 30, 2017.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>DEC</u>	<u>NO</u>
Paul Glibert	Nurse	Los Angeles	3

REAPPOINTMENTS

Below are the names of candidates who are being recommended for reappointment to the Diversion Evaluation Committees (DEC). Their applications and résumés are attached. If appointed, their terms will expire June 30, 2018.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>DEC</u>	<u>NO</u>
Diane Hambrick	Physician	Bay Area	2
Diane Alvy	Nurse	Los Angeles	3
Grace Murphy	Nurse	Los Angeles	3
Thomas Dosumu-Johnson	Physician	Palm Springs	6
Mary Richards	Nurse	San Jose	7
Dianne Souza	Public	San Diego	10

Below are the names of candidates who are being recommended for term extensions to the Diversion Evaluation Committees (DEC). Their applications and résumés are attached. If appointed, their terms will expire June 30, 2017.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>DEC</u>	<u>NO</u>
Ernestine Leverette	Nurse	Santa Ana	14

Below are the names of candidates who are being recommended for term extensions to the Diversion Evaluation Committees (DEC). Their applications and résumés are attached. If appointed, their terms will expire June 30, 2016.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>DEC</u>	<u>NO</u>
Richard Jaco	Nurse	Sacramento	1
Suzette Otlewis	Nurse	Orange County	4
Edy Stumpf	Public	Orange County	4
Michael Mayo	Public	Central Valley	5
Dianne Christoffels	Nurse	San Diego	10

TRANSFER

Below is the name of the DEC member who is being recommended for a transfer from the Sacramento DEC No. 12 to the DEC committee listed below.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>DEC</u>	<u>NO</u>
Sharon Fritz	Nurse	Ontario	9

RESIGNATION

Below is a Diversion Evaluation Committee Member who resigned for personal reasons.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>DEC</u>	<u>NO</u>
Phillip Belleville	Public	Santa Ana	14

**9.5 Update: “Uniform Standards Regarding Substance-Abusing Healing Art Licensees”
Business and Professions Code, Section 315**

BACKGROUND:

As directed by the Board at its November 2013 meeting, staff conducted a comparative analysis of the Uniform Standards, Diversion Program, and Probation Program, including the potential fiscal impact. Staff met with Legal Counsel to discuss a number of issues related to Uniform Standards, including the specific recommendations from Doreatha Johnson, Deputy Director, DCA Legal Affairs. Legal Counsel advised the Board continue with the regulatory process, although the Attorney General’s Office has not rendered its opinion relative to the Uniform Standards. The Board will be notified if changes are necessary as a result of the opinion.

Staff submitted a report of its findings to the Committee at its March 2014 meeting.

The Medical Board of California has promulgated regulations implementing the Uniform Standards. A comparison was made and is provided for the committee’s consideration at the May 2014 meeting.

Public Comment:

Marnie Smith, CNA
Tricia Hunter, ANAC
Dr. Grinstead, Ph.D.
Grace Corse, SEIU
Genie King, SEIU

9.6 Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

No public comment for items not on the agenda.

The Chair adjourned the committee meeting at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Approved: _____



DIVERSION/DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: August 7, 2014

SITE: Hilton Orange County – Costa Mesa
3050 Bristol Street
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cynthia Klein, RN, Chair
Imelda Cejas-Butkiewicz

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Beverly Hayden-Pugh, MA, RN
Raymond Mallel

STAFF PRESENT: Louise Bailey, M.Ed., RN, Executive Officer
Stacie Berumen, Assistant Executive Officer
Beth Scott, Deputy Chief, Discipline, Probation & Diversion
Shannon Silberling, Deputy Chief, Complaints and Investigations
Carol Stanford, Diversion Program Manager

The Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 1:51 p.m. The committee met as a sub-committee due to the lack of a quorum.

9.1 REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES:

Approve/Not Approve: Minutes of May 7, 2014

M/S/C: The sub-committee deferred action on the May 7, 2014, minutes to the October 9, 2014, committee meeting.

9.2 Complaint Intake and Investigations Update

PROGRAM UPDATES

COMPLAINT INTAKE:

Staff

Complaint Intake has gained many new positions through a Budget Change Proposal (BCP) approved for fiscal year 2014/15 – 1 Associate Governmental Program Analyst, 2 Staff Services Analysts, 1 Office Technician and 2 Office Assistants.

We hope to have all staff hired by the end of September.

Program

Complaint intake continues to work complaints , ensuring cases are moving to investigations in a timely manner and that aging cases are worked as priority.

INVESTIGATIONS:

Staff

Investigations has gained many new positions from the BCP approved for fiscal year 2014/15 – 5 Special Investigators and 1 Office Technician. Interviews are being conducted the weeks of July 28 thru August 8, 2014 to fill the positions in northern and southern California with anticipated start dates of September 2, 2014.

Program

Investigators are focused on clearing all aging cases. There are approximately 59 cases over one year old that have not been completed.

Statistics

The following are internal numbers (end of month) across all investigators not broken out on the performance measurement report.

BRN Investigation Unit	Jul 2013	Aug 2013	Sep 2013	Oct 2013	Nov 2013	Dec 2013
Total cases assigned	266	279	270	256	252	243
Total cases unassigned (pending)	83	64	104	89	59	58
Average days to case completion	275	263	212	278	215	294
Average cost per case	\$3,211	\$3,194	\$2,920	\$3,447	\$2,792	\$3,312
Cases closed	35	34	23	36	34	19

BRN Investigation Unit	Jan 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2014	Apr 2014	May 2014	June 2014
Total cases assigned	223	236	251	242	244	236
Total cases unassigned (pending)	49	52	49	74	70	71
Average days to case completion	326	301	327	229	230	209
Average cost per case	\$3,529	\$3,804	\$3,776	\$3,772	\$2,289	\$3,106
Cases closed	33	28	49	37	45	31

As of July 18, 2014, there were 468 DOI investigations pending.

Outreach:

The Southern Investigation Unit presented the “BRN Updates 2014” to licensed staff at St. Jude Medical Center in Fullerton and the leadership staff of AMN Health Care (home health agency) in San Diego in July. St. Jude’s outreach effort was our second co-presentation with our DEA partners. We continually present the BRN Updates 2014 to various local chapters of facility Ombudsman.

We continue to participate in southern regional outreach meetings including the Insurance Fraud Task Force, Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force, the FBI Medical Fraud Task force, the Southern District Attorneys Working Group, and the Residential Care Placement Program.

The Northern Investigation Unit attended the June meeting of the Northern Enforcement Network, a workgroup of health related investigation staff. This workgroup has developed working partnerships with the US Drug Enforcement Agency and CA Dept. of Justice MediCal Fraud & Elder Abuse investigators.

9.3 Discipline and Probation Update

PROGRAM UPDATE

Staff

The Probation Unit has added an additional probation monitor position at the Associate Governmental Program Analyst level; this position was filled with the promotion of an existing probation monitor. The vacancy for a probation monitor at the Staff Services Analyst level is pending recruitment efforts.

The citation and fine unit has advertised an additional position for Staff Services Analyst – Limited Term, this position will be filled as soon as possible.

Program – Discipline

The discipline unit is working with the Attorney General office to complete our cases in a timely manner and streamline our processes for efficiency.

Below reflects FY2014 (July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014) decision statistics:

Decisions Adopted by Board	1,338
Pending Processing by legal support staff	0
Accusations/ PTR served	1,531

Staff continues to increase its usage of citation and fine as a constructive method to inform licensees and applicants of violations which do not rise to the level of formal disciplinary action. The discipline unit is concentrating on processing cite and fine cases.

Statistics - Discipline

The BRN continues to work with the DCA BreeZe team to verify the accuracy of the performance measures statistics, formally the E19 report.

Program – Probation

The case load per probation monitor is approximately 144.

Statistics – Probation

Below are the statistics for the Probation program from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

Probation Data	Numbers	% of Active
Male	233	27%
Female	629	73%

Chemical Dependency	403	47%
Practice Case	218	25%
Mental Health	1	0%
Conviction (Alcohol/Drug = 102)	240	28%
Advanced Certificates	83	10%
Southern California	443	51%
Northern California	405	48%
Tolled at the AG	14	1%
Pending with AG/Board	103	12%
License Revoked YTD	26	3%
License Surrendered YTD	80	9%
Terminated YTD	26	3%
Successfully completed YTD	136	16%
Active in-state probationers	862	
Completed/Revoked/Terminated/ Surrendered YTD	268	
Tolled Probationers	254	
Active and Tolled Probationers	1,116	

9.4 Diversion Program Update and Statistics

Program Update

On June 26 and 27, the Diversion Program Manager presented information regarding the BRN's Diversion Program at the 2nd Annual Dave E. Smith, MD Symposium in San Francisco. This intensive two-day program was led by industry leaders in Addiction Medicine and was designed for Psychologists, Social Workers, Alcohol and Drug Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and other Addiction Treatment Professionals. The conference addressed Advances in Addiction Medicine and Recovery and there were presentations and discussions surrounding addiction treatment in the era of health care reform and parity. New tools in addiction medicine and advances in diagnostic solutions were presented along with the most up to date information relating to treatment and recovery.

The Diversion Liaison Committee Meeting is scheduled for September 24th at the Hilton Garden Inn in Sacramento. The Diversion Discipline Committee chairperson, Executive Officer, Staff, and DEC Member Chairs are invited to attend. This meeting is held annually and will address any trends and current information relating to the Diversion Program.

The Nurse Facilitator's Conference is scheduled for September 25th also at the Hilton Garden Inn in Sacramento. This conference is conducted to develop greater communication between the facilitators, Board staff and the contractor. There will be discussion regarding the facilitator's role and responsibilities as outlined in the Contract, uniform standards, guidelines and policies.

Contractor Update

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Diversion Program contract was posted on June 30, 2014. It was made available for interested parties on the Department of General Services Web site at www.dgs.ca.gov. This has been an extensive collaborative process between several Boards, committees and the Department of Consumer Affairs. BRN is looking forward to the bidding process.

Diversion Evaluation Committees (DEC)

There are currently one public member and two physician member vacancies at this time. Recruitment continues.

Statistics

The Statistical Summary Report for the fiscal year 2013/2014 is attached. As of June 30, 2014, there were 1,893 successful completions.

9.4.1 Diversion Evaluation Committee Members

BACKGROUND:

In accordance with B & P Code Section 2770.2, the Board of Registered Nursing is responsible for appointing persons to serve on the Diversion Evaluation Committees. Each Committee for the Diversion Program is composed of three registered nurses, a physician and a public member with expertise in substance use disorders and/or mental health.

RESIGNATION

Below is a Diversion Evaluation Committee Member who resigned for personal reasons.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>DEC</u>	<u>NO</u>
David Smith	Physician	San Jose	7

9.5 Update: “Uniform Standards Regarding Substance-Abusing Healing Art Licensees” Business and Professions Code, Section 315

BACKGROUND:

As directed by the Board at its November 2013 meeting, staff conducted a comparative analysis of the Uniform Standards, Diversion Program, and Probation Program, including the potential fiscal impact. Staff met with Legal Counsel to discuss a number of issues related to Uniform Standards, including the specific recommendations from Doreathea Johnson, Deputy Director, DCA Legal Affairs. Legal Counsel advised the Board continue with the regulatory process, although the Attorney General’s Office has not rendered its opinion relative to the Uniform Standards. The Board will be notified if changes are necessary as a result of the opinion.

Staff submitted a report of its findings to the Committee at its March 2014 meeting.

The Medical Board of California has promulgated regulations implementing the Uniform Standards. A comparison was made and is provided for the committee's consideration at the May 2014 meeting.

Staff will facilitate discussion of each standard in conjunction with the attachments.

The committee discussed standards 1 and 2 at this meeting and will continue to discuss at each meeting until all have been discussed.

The Chair asked for clarification whether the evaluations conducted in the Probation Program are considered, "clinical diagnostic evaluations."

Public Comment:

Tricia Hunter, ANAC

9.6 Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

No public comment for items not on the agenda.

The Chair adjourned the committee meeting at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Approved: _____



DIVERSION/DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: October 9, 2014

SITE: Hilton Garden Inn – San Francisco/Oakland Bay Bridge
1800 Powell Street
Emeryville, CA 94608

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cynthia Klein, RN, Chair
Imelda Cejas-Butkiewicz

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Beverly Hayden-Pugh, MA, RN
Raymond Mallel

STAFF PRESENT: Louise Bailey, M.Ed., RN, Executive Officer
Stacie Berumen, Assistant Executive Officer
Beth Scott, Deputy Chief, Discipline, Probation & Diversion
Shannon Silberling, Deputy Chief, Complaints and Investigations
Carol Stanford, Diversion Program Manager

The Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 1:51 p.m. The committee met as a sub-committee due to the lack of a quorum.

9.0 REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES:

Approve/Not Approve: Minutes of May 7, 2014

M/S/C: The sub-committee deferred action on the May 7, 2014, minutes to the January 8, 2015, committee meeting.

Approve/Not Approve: Minutes of August 7, 2014

M/S/C: The sub-committee deferred action on the August 7, 2014, minutes to the January 8, 2015, committee meeting

9.1 Complaint Intake and Investigations Update

PROGRAM UPDATES

COMPLAINT INTAKE:

Staff

Complaint Intake has gained many new positions through a Budget Change Proposal (BCP) approved for fiscal year 2014/15 – 1 Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA), 2 Staff Services Analysts (SSA), 1 Office Technician (OT) and 2 Office Assistants (OA).

One of the SSA positions was for an Expert Analyst and we have filled that position by promoting Felicia Woodard. She previously worked in Complaint Intake as an Office Technician.

We filled one of the Office Assistant positions with Janet Schroeder. She is transferring from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Program

Complaint intake continues to work new complaints, ensuring cases are moving to investigations in a timely manner and that aging cases are worked as a priority.

INVESTIGATIONS:

Staff

The investigation unit has gained many new positions from the BCP approved for fiscal year 2014/15 – 5 Special Investigators and 1 Office Technician.

Three of the five Investigator positions have been filled. Staff began work on various dates in September 2014. There are two remaining southern positions pending. Interviews will be conducted in October.

We are in the process of filling our Office Technician vacancy.

Program

Investigators are focused on clearing all aging cases. There are approximately 51 cases over one year old that have not been completed. The new field investigators will help us keep cases in house that are more appropriate for investigation by the board.

Statistics

The following are internal numbers (end of month) across all investigators not broken out on the performance measurement report.

BRN Investigation Unit	Sep 2013	Oct 2013	Nov 2013	Dec 2013	Jan 2014	Feb 2014
Total cases assigned	270	256	252	243	223	236
Total cases unassigned (pending)	104	89	59	58	49	52
Average days to case completion	212	278	215	294	326	301
Average cost per case	\$2,920	\$3,447	\$2,792	\$3,312	\$3,529	\$3,804
Cases closed	23	36	34	19	33	28

BRN Investigation Unit	Mar 2014	Apr 2014	May 2014	June 2014	Jul 2014	Aug 2014
Total cases assigned	251	242	244	236	225	218
Total cases unassigned (pending)	49	74	70	71	88	116
Average days to case completion	327	229	230	209	228	227
Average cost per case	\$3,776	\$3,772	\$2,289	\$3,106	\$3,743	\$3,453
Cases closed	49	37	45	31	28	39

As of September 25, 2014, there were 433 DOI investigations pending.

9.2 Discipline and Probation Update

PROGRAM UPDATE

Staff

The Probation Unit added an additional probation monitor at the Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA) level. The Probation Unit has advertised for one additional monitor at the Staff Services Analyst (SSA) level and one additional Office Technician (OT). This will give the Probation Unit a total of 9 monitors and 2 technical support staff.

The Citation and Fine unit has begun recruitment for the vacant AGPA position and the Discipline unit has advertised for two SSA positions and one OT position.

Program – Discipline

The discipline unit is noticing an increase in cases involving fraud in the area of Basic Life Support (BLS) certification and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) training. The BRN has received notification that 72 RNs from a single facility submitted false or invalid BLS and or ACLS certification.

The BRN will begin posting accusations to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN-Nursys) system at the time of service as opposed to waiting for the final decision to be rendered.

An alert will be added to the Nursys system when a citation is final to comply with CCR 1435.7, which mandates notification to other boards of nursing and other regulatory agencies. The alert will stay on the system for 3 years.

The Discipline unit is working with the Attorney General's office to complete our cases in a timely manner and streamline our processes for efficiency.

Below reflects FY2015 (July 1, 2014-September 22, 2014) decision statistics:

Decisions Adopted	444
Pleadings served	249
Petitions to Revoke Probation served	27
Surrenders signed by E. O.	43

Statistics - Discipline

The BRN continues to work with the DCA BreeZe team to verify the accuracy of the performance measures statistics, formally the E19 report.

Program – Probation

The case load per probation monitor is approximately 143.

Statistics – Probation

Below are the statistics for the Probation program from July 1, 2014 to September 22, 2014.

Probation Data	Numbers	% of Active
Male	241	27%
Female	668	73%
Chemical Dependency	408	45%
Practice Case	228	25%
Mental Health	1	0%
Conviction (Alcohol/Drug = 102)	272	30%
Advanced Certificates	93	10%
Southern California	478	52%
Northern California	417	47%
Tolled at the AG	14	1%
Pending with AG/Board	102	11%
License Revoked YTD	11	1%
License Surrendered YTD	28	3%
Terminated YTD	5	%
Successfully completed YTD	20	2%
Active in-state probationers	909	
Completed/Revoked/Terminated/ Surrendered YTD	64	
Tolled Probationers	256	
Active and Tolled Probationers	1165	

9.3 Diversion Program Update and Statistics

Program Update

Staff members of the Board of Registered Nursing have become aware of false information being disseminated by stakeholders and others as it relates to the (BRN), the Diversion Program, Enforcement, and the Probation Program. It appears that providing information to administrators, nursing schools, and hospitals is now more crucial than ever. To counteract some of this misinformation and to help others become aware of the Diversion Program, the BRN has been

invited to give presentations at training sessions and major conferences. On September 19th, the Deputy Chief, Beth Scott and the Diversion Program Manager, Carol Stanford presented information regarding the BRN's enforcement processes and the Diversion Program at a class in southern California entitled BRN Drug Diversion. There were several questions and statements that were addressed to clarify the misconceptions surrounding the purpose of the BRN and the Diversion Program.

On September 24th, the Diversion Liaison Committee Meeting was held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Sacramento. The Executive Officer, Louise Bailey, the Deputy Chief, Beth Scott, the Diversion Program Manager, Carol Stanford and staff, the Maximus Project Director, Virginia Matthews and case managers, along with representatives from all of the Diversion Evaluation Committees were in attendance. There were approximately 38 attendees. This is an annual required meeting of the DLC Committee to maintain the continuity and integrity of the program. Several issues were addressed and the minutes of the meeting are available upon request.

On September 25th the Nurse Facilitator's Conference was conducted at the Hilton Garden Inn in Sacramento. It was attended by the Deputy Chief, Beth Scott, the Diversion Program Manager, Carol Stanford and staff, the Probation Program Manager, Sheila Granby and staff and representatives of the Nurse Support Groups throughout the State. There were approximately 65 attendees. There was lively conversation and training that occurred with several issues addressed and clarified. This is also a vital conference to maintain valuable communication between the facilitators, board staff and the contractor. The minutes of this meeting are available upon request.

Contractor Update

The Diversion Program Contract was awarded to Maximus, the current contract is valid for a period of five years. The Department of Consumer Affairs support and expertise in this process is to be commended along with their staff, William Pequinot, who was instrumental in working with the health care boards to maintain a comprehensive and thorough bidding process. The BRN is thankful to the DCA for their support and professionalism throughout the bidding process.

The Diversion Program staff is meeting with the contractor on a regular basis to develop and update the forms for the new contract which will begin January 1, 2015.

Diversion Evaluation Committees (DEC)

There are currently one public member and three physician member vacancies at this time. Recruitment continues.

Statistics

The Statistical Summary Report for July and September is attached. As of August 31, 2014, there were 1,906 successful completions.

9.3.1 Diversion Evaluation Committee Members

BACKGROUND:

In accordance with B & P Code Section 2770.2, the Board of Registered Nursing is responsible for appointing persons to serve on the Diversion Evaluation Committees. Each Committee for the

Diversion Program is composed of three registered nurses, a physician and a public member with expertise in substance use disorders and/or mental health.

APPOINTMENT

Below is the name of the candidate who is being recommended for appointment to the Diversion Evaluation Committees (DEC). His application and résumé is attached. If appointed, his term will expire November 30, 2018.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>DEC</u>	<u>NO</u>
James Collier	Physician	Emeryville	13

RESIGNATION

Below is a Diversion Evaluation Committee Member who resigned for personal reasons.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>DEC</u>	<u>NO</u>
Sam Shapiro	Physician	Burbank	9

9.4 Update: “Uniform Standards Regarding Substance-Abusing Healing Art Licensees” Business and Professions Code, Section 315

BACKGROUND:

As directed by the Board at its November 2013 meeting, staff conducted a comparative analysis of the Uniform Standards, Diversion Program, and Probation Program, including the potential fiscal impact. Staff met with Legal Counsel to discuss a number of issues related to Uniform Standards, including the specific recommendations from Doreathea Johnson, Deputy Director, DCA Legal Affairs. Legal Counsel advised the Board continue with the regulatory process, although the Attorney General’s Office has not rendered its opinion relative to the Uniform Standards. The Board will be notified if changes are necessary as a result of the opinion.

Staff submitted a report of its findings to the Committee at its March 2014 meeting.

The Medical Board of California has promulgated regulations implementing the Uniform Standards. A comparison was made and is provided for the committee’s consideration at the May 2014 meeting.

Staff will facilitate discussion of each standard in conjunction with the attachments.

The committee discussed standards 3 and 4 at this meeting and will continue to discuss at each meeting until all have been discussed.

Public Comment:

Tricia Hunter, ANAC

9.5 Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

No public comment for items not on the agenda.

The Chair adjourned the committee meeting at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Approved: _____

DRAFT

BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
Diversion/Discipline Committee
Agenda Item Summary

AGENDA ITEM: 9.1
DATE: January 8, 2015

ACTION REQUESTED: Information Only: Complaint Intake and Investigations Update

REQUESTED BY: Cynthia Klein, RN, Chairperson

BACKGROUND:

PROGRAM UPDATES

COMPLAINT INTAKE:

Staff

Complaint Intake has gained many new positions through a Budget Change Proposal (BCP) approved for fiscal year 2014/15 – 1 Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA), 2 Staff Services Analysts (SSA), 1 Office Technician (OT) and 2 Office Assistants (OA).

We have filled all of our BCP positions.

Program

Complaint intake continues to work new complaints, ensuring cases are moving to investigations in a timely manner and that aging cases are worked as a priority.

INVESTIGATIONS:

Staff

The investigation unit has gained many new positions from the BCP approved for fiscal year 2014/15 – 5 Special Investigators and 1 Office Technician.

We have filled all but 1 of our BCP positions, which is a northern special investigator.

Program

Investigators are focused on clearing all aging cases. There are approximately 16 cases over one year old that have not been completed. The new field investigators will help us keep cases in house that are more appropriate for investigation by the board.

Investigative staff continues to attend Task Force meetings and develop working relationships with allied agencies.

Statistics

The following are internal numbers (end of month) across all investigators not broken out on the performance measurement report.

BRN Investigation Unit	Dec 2013	Jan 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2014	Apr 2014	May 2014
Total cases assigned	256	252	243	223	242	244
Total cases unassigned (pending)	89	59	58	49	74	70
Average days to case completion	278	215	294	326	229	230
Average cost per case	\$3,447	\$2,792	\$3,312	\$3,529	\$3,772	\$2,289
Cases closed	36	34	19	33	37	45

BRN Investigation Unit	June 2014	Jul 2014	Aug 2014	Sep 2014	Oct 2014	Nov 2014
Total cases assigned	236	225	218	285	287	290
Total cases unassigned (pending)	71	88	116	47	80	104
Average days to case completion	209	228	227	219	294	221
Average cost per case	\$3,106	\$3,743	\$3,453	\$2,809	\$3,481	\$2,641
Cases closed	31	28	39	47	37	34

As of December 29, 2014, there were 391 DOI investigations pending.

NEXT STEP:

Continue to review and adjust internal processes and work with DCA to create reports to monitor statistics for improvement in case processing time frames. Follow directions given by committee and/or board.

FISCAL IMPACT, IF ANY:

None at this time. Updates will be provided at each DDC meeting for review and possible action.

PERSON TO CONTACT:

Shannon Silberling, Deputy Chief
Complaint Intake and Investigations
(916) 515-5265

BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
Diversion/Discipline Committee
Agenda Item Summary

AGENDA ITEM: 9.2
DATE: January 8, 2015

ACTION REQUESTED: Information Only: Discipline and Probation Update

REQUESTED BY: Cynthia Klein, RN, Chairperson

BACKGROUND:

PROGRAM UPDATE

Staff

The Probation Unit has filled the vacancy for a probation monitor at the Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA) and at the Staff Services Analyst (SSA) level. The Probation Unit has one vacancy in the Office Technician (OT) position as one of our OTs, was promoted to a SSA position in the Licensing Unit.

The Citation and Fine Unit has a vacancy for a SSA, Limited Term position and has begun the recruitment process. The Discipline Unit has hired one SSA and is awaiting hiring approval for a vacant SSA position, which will be in the decision processing section. We currently have one vacant discipline analyst at the SSA level; recruitment has begun for this vacancy. The discipline unit filled one OT position and will fill the final OT position in the near future.

Program – Discipline

The Discipline Unit is working with the Attorney General’s office to complete our cases in a timely manner and streamline our processes for efficiency.

Below reflects FY2015 (July 1, 2014 – December 29, 2014) decision statistics:

Decisions Adopted	859
Pleadings served	526
Petitions to Revoke Probation served	50
Surrenders signed by E. O.	147

Statistics - Discipline

The BRN continues to work with the DCA BreeZe team to verify the accuracy of the performance measures statistics, formally the E19 report.

Program – Probation

The case load per probation monitor is approximately 143.

Statistics – Probation

Below are the statistics for the Probation program from July 1, 2014 to December 30, 2014.

Probation Data	Numbers	% of Active
Male	238	26%
Female	689	74%
Chemical Dependency	409	44%
Practice Case	234	25%
Mental Health	1	0%
Conviction (Alcohol/Drug = 98)	283	31%
Advanced Certificates	91	10%
Southern California	500	54%
Northern California	414	45%
Tolled at the AG	13	01%
Pending with AG/Board	118	13%
License Revoked YTD	15	01%
License Surrendered YTD	47	05%
Terminated YTD	14	01%
Successfully completed YTD	59	06%
Active in-state probationers	927	
Completed/Revoked/Terminated/ Surrendered YTD	135	
Tolled Probationers	265	
Active and Tolled Probationers	1,192	

NEXT STEP:

Follow directions given by committee and/or board.

FISCAL IMPACT, IF ANY:

AG's budget line item will be closely monitored. Updates will be provided at each DDC meeting for review and possible action.

PERSON TO CONTACT:

Beth Scott, Deputy Chief of Discipline,
Probation, and Diversion
(916) 574-8187

BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
Diversion/Discipline Committee
Agenda Item Summary

AGENDA ITEM: 9.3
DATE: January 8, 2015

ACTION REQUESTED: Information Only: Diversion Program Update

REQUESTED BY: Cynthia Klein, RN, Chairperson

BACKGROUND:

Program Update

Virginia Matthews, Maximus Project Director, and Carol Stanford, Diversion Program Manager presented information concerning Diversion and the Board of Registered Nursing to over 60 nurse supervisors and managers at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center on November 26, 2014, and to several graduating nurses at Everest College on December 17th. The supervisors were thankful for information they felt would help provide added protection for patients while also being able to refer nurses suffering from mental illness and substance use disorders to a place for the help they need. The professors appreciated the information and indicated they were aware of a significant need for this type of training and information in the nursing schools.

Effective December 31, 2014, Carol Stanford, the Diversion Program Manager, and LaConstance Johnson, Office Technician (OT) for the program retired from state service. The Board of Registered Nursing would like to thank both for their service to the program. Connie was the Office Technician for 6 years. Carol Stanford was an Associate Governmental Program Analyst in the Diversion Program for 6 years and the Program Manager for 8 years. Both will be missed.

Several applications have been received for both positions and they will be filled as soon as possible. Information regarding the new Diversion Program Manager and the new OT will be provided at an upcoming DDC meeting. Recruitment efforts continue.

Contractor Update

Maximus, the Diversion Program Contractor is in the process of updating their computer processes beginning in early 2015 as outlined in the contract requirements. These requirements for updated technological processes will assist the program in providing easier access to forms and reporting requirements by the program stakeholders.

Diversion Evaluation Committees (DEC)

There is currently one physician member vacancy at this time. Recruitment continues.

Statistics

The Statistical Summary Report for September, October, and November is attached. As of November 30, 2014, there were 1,927 successful completions.

NEXT STEP:

None

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION, IF ANY:

None at this time. Updates will be provided at each DDC meeting for review and possible action.

PERSON TO CONTACT:

Beth Scott, Deputy Chief of Discipline,
Probation, and Diversion
(916) 574-8187

**BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
DIVERSION PROGRAM
STATISTICAL SUMMARY
September 1, 2014 - November 30, 2014**

	CURRENT MONTHS	YEAR TO DATE (FY)	PROGRAM TO DATE
INTAKES COMPLETED	38	63	4,920
INTAKE INFORMATION			
Female	28	44	3,850
Male	10	19	1,043
Unknown	0	0	27
Average Age	35-59		
Most Common Worksite	Unemployed		
Most Common Specialty	ER/Med-Surg		
Most Common Substance Abused	Alcohol		
PRESENTING PROBLEM AT INTAKE			
Substance Abuse (only)	24	38	3,114
Mental Illness (only)	2	3	160
Dual Diagnosis	9	19	1,571
Undetermined	3	3	75
REFERRAL TYPE*			
Board	27	45	3,601
Self	11	18	1,319
*May change after Intake			
ETHNICITY (IF KNOWN) AT INTAKE			
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0	36
Asian/Asian Indian	0	1	113
African American	1	1	159
Hispanic	1	4	207
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	1	24
Caucasian	35	54	4,043
Other	0	2	72
Not Reported	0	0	266
CLOSURES			
Successful Completion	21	34	1,927
Failure to Derive Benefit	0	0	120
Failure to Comply	3	4	964
Moved to Another State	0	0	52
Not Accepted by DEC	1	2	57
Voluntary Withdrawal Post-DEC	3	6	329
Voluntary Withdrawal Pre-DEC	10	15	501
Participant Withdrawn-Failure to sign con	0	1	1
Closed Public Risk	3	8	307
No Longer Eligible	0	0	16
Clinically Inappropriate	1	2	27
Client Expired	0	0	39
Sent to Board Pre-DEC	0	0	1
TOTAL CLOSURES	42	72	4,341
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 452 (as of November 30, 2014)			

**BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
DIVERSION PROGRAM
STATISTICAL SUMMARY
September 1, 2014 - November 30, 2014**

	CURRENT MONTHS	YEAR TO DATE (FY)	PROGRAM TO DATE
INTAKES COMPLETED	38	63	4,920
INTAKE INFORMATION			
Female	28	44	3,850
Male	10	19	1,043
Unknown	0	0	27
Average Age	35-59		
Most Common Worksite	Unemployed		
Most Common Specialty	ER/Med-Surg		
Most Common Substance Abused	Alcohol		
PRESENTING PROBLEM AT INTAKE			
Substance Abuse (only)	24	38	3,114
Mental Illness (only)	2	3	160
Dual Diagnosis	9	19	1,571
Undetermined	3	3	75
REFERRAL TYPE*			
Board	27	45	3,601
Self	11	18	1,319
*May change after Intake			
ETHNICITY (IF KNOWN) AT INTAKE			
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0	36
Asian/Asian Indian	0	1	113
African American	1	1	159
Hispanic	1	4	207
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	1	24
Caucasian	35	54	4,043
Other	0	2	72
Not Reported	0	0	266
CLOSURES			
Successful Completion	21	34	1,927
Failure to Derive Benefit	0	0	120
Failure to Comply	3	4	964
Moved to Another State	0	0	52
Not Accepted by DEC	1	2	57
Voluntary Withdrawal Post-DEC	3	6	329
Voluntary Withdrawal Pre-DEC	10	15	501
Participant Withdrawn-Failure to sign con	0	1	1
Closed Public Risk	3	8	307
No Longer Eligible	0	0	16
Clinically Inappropriate	1	2	27
Client Expired	0	0	39
Sent to Board Pre-DEC	0	0	1
TOTAL CLOSURES	42	72	4,341
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 452 (as of November 30, 2014)			

BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
Diversion/Discipline Committee Meeting
Agenda Item Summary

AGENDA ITEM: 9.3.1

DATE: January 8, 2015

ACTION REQUESTED: Diversion Evaluation Committee Members

REQUESTED BY: Cynthia Klein, RN, Chairperson

BACKGROUND:

In accordance with B & P Code Section 2770.2, the Board of Registered Nursing is responsible for appointing persons to serve on the Diversion Evaluation Committees. Each Committee for the Diversion Program is composed of three registered nurses, a physician and a public member with expertise in substance use disorders and/or mental health.

We are recruiting for one physician vacancy. There are no new DEC member applications submitted for review and approval at this time.

NEXT STEP: Continue recruiting efforts

**FINANCIAL
IMPLICATIONS:** None

PERSON TO CONTACT: Beth Scott, Deputy Chief of Discipline,
Probation and Diversion
(916) 574-8187

BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
Diversion/Discipline Committee
Agenda Item Summary

AGENDA ITEM: 9.4
DATE: January 8, 2015

ACTION REQUESTED: Update: “Uniform Standards Regarding Substance-Abusing Healing Arts Licensees” – Business and Professions Code, Section 315

REQUESTED BY: Cynthia Klein, RN, Chairperson

BACKGROUND:

As directed by the Board at its November 2013 meeting, staff conducted a comparative analysis of the Uniform Standards, Diversion Program, and Probation Program, including the potential fiscal impact. Staff met with Legal Counsel to discuss a number of issues related to Uniform Standards, including the specific recommendations from Doreathea Johnson, Deputy Director, DCA Legal Affairs. Legal Counsel advised the Board continue with the regulatory process, although the Attorney General’s Office has not rendered its opinion relative to the Uniform Standards. The Board will be notified if changes are necessary as a result of the opinion.

Staff submitted a report of its findings to the Committee at its March 2014 meeting.

The Medical Board of California has promulgated regulations implementing the Uniform Standards. A comparison was made and is provided for the committee’s consideration at the May 2014 meeting.

Staff will continue to facilitate discussion of each standard in conjunction with the attachments.

The committee reviewed the following standards:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Standard #1 | Are the BRN evaluations considered “clinical diagnostic evaluations?” |
| Standard #2 | Public Comment made by ANA/C who opposes testing two times per week. |
| Standard #3 | No issues identified. |
| Standard #4 | * Concerns with number of tests for Diversion Program participants when they are not working and have no income.
* Cost of testing is \$62.50 plus collection fee. Total of \$10,000 to test each year. |

- * Mandatory testing each week takes away board's discretion and ability to conduct "random" testing.
- * Public comment made by ANA/C and SEIU relative to opposition of this uniform standard.

NEXT STEP:

Review each standard and make a recommendation to the board. Follow directions given by committee and/or board.

FISCAL IMPACT, IF ANY:

None at this time

PERSON TO CONTACT:

Stacie Berumen
Assistant Executive Officer
(916) 574-7600

Ronnie Whitaker
Legislative and Regulatory Analyst
(916) 574-7600

**Board of Registered Nursing – Diversion/Discipline Committee
Uniform Standards Comparison**

DRAFT 9-2-14

B&P Code Section 315(c)(1) Specific requirements for a clinical diagnostic evaluation of the licensee, including, but not limited to, required qualifications for the providers evaluating the licensee.

UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY	DIVERSION PROGRAM	PROBATION PROGRAM	PROGRAMMATIC CONSIDERATION & ISSUES	FISCAL IMPLICATIONS
<p>#1: Specifies the qualifications for the practitioner conducting the clinical diagnostic evaluation, method for conducting the evaluation, content of the evaluation report, timeframe for submission of the report, relationship prohibitions between licensee and evaluator, and action to be taken if the evaluator determines that the licensee is a threat to himself, herself, or others. The evaluator must be Board approved.</p>	<p>Conforms to the Standard, except for minor differences, which are being addressed in the new contract and/or the 2014 Request for Proposal (RFP).</p>	<p>The Disciplinary Guidelines do not have a “clinical diagnostic evaluation” condition. However, the Probation Program is in conformance with several of the Standard requirements based on Conditions 14, Physical Examination, and 18, Mental Health Examination, and Board policies and procedures.</p> <p>The Board preapproves the examiner based on the criteria set forth in Uniform Standard #1.</p> <p>Areas of differences are: 1) The evaluator, not the Board, determines the treatment plan. (Found in Uniform Standard #6) 2) The evaluator must notify the Board “immediately,” if the RN is unable to practice safely and the RN is directed to cease practice immediately; the case is transmitted to the Attorney General’s Office.</p>	<p>1) The Standard is conditional, reading in pertinent part: “If a healing arts board orders a licensee... to undergo a clinical diagnosis evaluation...” (Emphasis added.) All “substance abusing licensees” would not have to have the evaluation; the Board could identify the criteria that would trigger the clinical diagnostic evaluation. Additionally, the Board may elect to define “substance-abusing licensees” and other categories for licensees who are on probation for drug-related offenses. These might include “history of substance abuse in sustained recovery” and “conviction of driving under the influence.” The Board would determine the probationary conditions to be imposed for the other categories. The Standards are geared to licensees who are not in recovery or in the early stages, which is the licensee population in the Diversion Program. To be placed on probation, the registered nurse is required to provide evidence of sustained recovery and the grounds for the probation usually occurred 18 months or more prior to the probation.</p> <p>2) The Board is creating a list of evaluators to which it can assign probationers; establishment and maintenance of such a list is a major undertaking. Options for conforming to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost to the Board – Additional staff to review and approve evaluators prior to evaluations. Then create and maintain list of clinical evaluators. • Cost to RN – cost of clinical diagnostic evaluation.

**Board of Registered Nursing – Diversion/Discipline Committee
Uniform Standards Comparison**

		<p>The Standard requires notification within 24 hours, if the evaluator determines that the RN is a threat to himself, herself, or others. This exceeds the standard.</p> <p>3) The evaluator’s written report is due within 45 days of the effective date of the Board decision, with a possible one-time extension up to 45 days. The Standard requirement is no later than 10 days from date the evaluator is assigned and a 30 day extension may be given. The Conditions require the RN to cease practice, if a report is not received; the Standard requires the RN to cease practice, during the evaluation phase. This does not meet the standard.</p>	<p>the Standard include A) requiring the RN to submit the evaluator’s credential prior to the evaluation for Board approval and “assignment”, and B) use the Diversion Program contractor’s evaluators list to either assign or have the RN select an evaluator.</p> <p>3) To conform to the Standard, the Disciplinary Guidelines can be amended to address the four areas of nonconformance as well as to include the Standard requirements that are currently specified in Board policies, e.g., relationship requirements, evaluator qualifications, etc.</p>	
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B&P Code Section 315(c)(2) Specific requirements for the temporary removal of a licensee from practice, in order to enable the licensee to undergo the clinical diagnostic evaluation described in subdivision (a) and approved by the board, and specific criteria that the licensee must meet before being permitted to return to practice on a full-time or part-time basis.

UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY	DIVERSION PROGRAM	PROBATION PROGRAM	PROGRAMMATIC CONSIDERATION & ISSUES	FISCAL IMPLICATIONS
<p>#2: Requires the board to order the licensee to cease practice until the clinical diagnostic evaluation report is reviewed by diversion/probation staff. The licensee must test</p>	<p>B&P Code, Section 315.4(d) exempts the BRN Diversion Program from the cease practice requirement specified in the Uniform Standards when the Board orders the licensee to undergo a clinical</p>	<p>Does not comply with the Standard. The RN is not required to cease practice during the evaluation period or to test at least 2 times per week. Disciplinary Guidelines Conditions 14 and 18</p>	<p>Although not required, the Diversion Program not only conforms to but exceeds the cease practice requirement; the RN is usually not working for the first 6 to 9 months in the Program. As an additional safeguard, the RN must place his/her license in inactive status until the cease practice is rescinded and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost to the Board – additional NEC for Probation Program • Cost to licensee – loss of wages during cease practice – undetermined. Average

**Board of Registered Nursing – Diversion/Discipline Committee
Uniform Standards Comparison**

<p>randomly at least two times per week during this time and the cease practice continues until the licensee has at least 30 days of negative drug screens. The Diversion or Probation Manager determines if the licensee is safe to return to practice, using specified criteria.</p>	<p>diagnostic evaluation.</p>	<p>specify that the evaluator, not the Program Manager, makes the determination related to safety to practice. Condition 7 specifies that the licensee must obtain prior approval from the Board before commencing or continuing any employment.</p>	<p>the RN is approved to return to work. The RN is not required to test twice per week for at least 30 days of negative screens, during the clinical diagnostic evaluation. The frequency of testing during the cease practice is 24 – 36 times per year. Arguably, based on statutory construction, 315.4(d) may also exempt licensees in the Diversion Program from the drug testing requirement.</p> <p>B&P Code Section 315.4(a) specifies that the board <i>may</i> adopt regulations related to the cease practice for major violations and when the board orders a licensee to undergo a clinical diagnostic evaluation pursuant to the uniform and specific standards adopted and authorized under Section 315; thus making adoption of regulations for Standards 2 and 10 permissive. However, the Legislative Counsel opinion, Attorney General Office unofficial opinion, and the DCA Legal Counsel Opinion have advised that the legislative intent in enacting the statute was not to make adoption of the standards discretionary. The argument was raised by the Medical Board of California (MBC) in its 2012 Sunset Review Report. DCA staff response referenced the three opinions and recommended the MBC fully implement the Uniform Standards as required by SB1441.</p>	<p>RN annual income in 2012 was \$89,940 (BRN 2012 Survey of RNs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost to licensee for drug testing – approximately \$800; \$100/test x 8 tests)
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B&P Code Section 315(c)(3) Specific requirements that govern the ability of the licensing board to communicate with the licensee’s employer about the licensee’s status or condition.

UNIFORM STANDARD	DIVERSION PROGRAM	PROBATION PROGRAM	PROGRAMMATIC CONSIDERATION &	FISCAL IMPLICATIONS
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**Board of Registered Nursing – Diversion/Discipline Committee
Uniform Standards Comparison**

SUMMARY			ISSUES	
#3: Requires the licensee to provide specified information related to employers and supervisors and to give written consent authorizing the board, employers, and supervisors to communicate.	Conforms to Standard.	Conforms to Standard.	None	None
B&P Code Section 315(c)(4) Standards governing all aspects of required testing, including but not limited to, frequency of testing, randomness, method of notice to the licensee, number of hours between the provision of notice and the test, standards for specimen collectors, procedures used by specimen collectors, the permissible locations of testing, whether the collection process must be observed by the collector, backup testing requirements when the licensee is on vacation or otherwise unavailable for local testing, requirements for the laboratory that analyzes the specimens, and the required maximum timeframe from the test to the receipt of the result of the test.				
UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY	DIVERSION PROGRAM	PROBATION PROGRAM	PROGRAMMATIC CONSIDERATION & ISSUES	FISCAL IMPLICATIONS
#4: Establishes two levels of testing: Level 1 (Year 1) 52 – 104 tests per year; Level 2 (Years 2 -5) 36 – 104 tests per year. After year 5, testing is 1 time per month if there have been no positive tests in the previous 5 consecutive years of probation or diversion. The board may increase frequency for any reason. Testing frequency exceptions are: 1) licensee has participated in treatment or monitoring program that required testing, 2) violation was outside of employment, 3) not employed in healthcare field, 4) licensee is on tolled	Conforms to the Standard <i>except</i> for drug frequency testing requirements. The Program has more stringent requirement during the first 6 to 9 months when the RN is not working. The RN is required to test a minimum of 24 to 36 times per year; the Standard sets the minimum at 12 tests per year, if the RN is not working. However, the Standard requires the RN to do Level 1 testing for 60 days prior to returning to work and for a full year upon returning to work in healthcare. The Diversion Program does not require Level 1 testing upon return	The contract with the drug testing contractor specifies notification within 48-72 hours; however, results are usually returned within 1 day. The drug testing contractor substantially meets the specified testing standards. The Probation and Diversion Programs use the same lab. However, the Program does not conform to the drug testing frequency requirements. Condition 17 requires the RN to participate in a random drug screen program, but does not specify the frequency of testing. The probation monitor	The Probation Program Manager compiles the program’s statistical data in Excel, and uses it to generate the reports submitted to the Board; however, the data is limited. The drug testing contractor provides the historical information/data specified in the Standard on an individual basis for every RN participating in the drug testing program, and the information is maintained in the RN’s probation file. However, the contract does not require the contractor to provide aggregate data or cumulative statistical report(s). The drug testing contractor would be able to provide all the post-implementation data, on an individual basis, for each RN participating in the drug testing program except for: effective date of the Board’s decision, the general range of testing; dates removed or suspended from practice;	Cost to Board – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased cost of adjudicating complaints • Increased staff cost for monitoring and data input • Cost of obtaining aggregate data and reports from drug testing contractor • Cost of modifying BreZE Cost to Licensee – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum \$2,200/year due to increase of minimum number of tests from 30 to 52 @ \$100/test. • Loss of wages as a result of voluntary license

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<p>status, and 5) substance abuse disorder is not diagnosed. The Standard also specifies drug testing standards and requires collection of specified data for 2 years prior to implementation, if available, and for 3 years post-implementation.</p>	<p>to work. The DEC determines the frequency of testing based on the totality of its assessment of the participant and consistent with the industry drug testing standards, but usually not less than 24 times/year.</p>	<p>increases the frequency of testing as dictated by circumstances in each case. The RN is not required to do Level 1 testing for 60 days prior to returning to practice or for a full year upon returning to practice, even if the Level 1 testing requirement has not been met.</p> <p>The ability of the Board to conform to the pre and post-implementation data report requirements of the Standard are unknown.</p>	<p>and final outcome of the probation. The latter information, in addition to the other contractor provided information, is maintained in the RN's probationer file. As with the pre-implementation data, the contractor does not provide aggregate data.</p> <p>The feasibility of obtaining the pre and post-implementation data from the Board's previous computer systems and/or BreZE to generate the required reports is being explored; but it is unknown what the systems will be able to generate. Staff is working with the Department to determine the most effective and efficient way(s) to obtain the data from DCA-systems and will also explore the availability of data from drug testing contractor. Because the required reports pertain to program evaluation, the data collection portion of the Standard does not have to be adopted into regulation.</p> <p>The drug testing frequency has been a major issue since its initial proposal by the Substance Abuse Coordination Committee (SACC). The high frequency of testing is not consistent with industry standards, as was testified to at SACC meetings, nor is it substantiated by preliminary findings of the Respiratory Care Board. In its 2012 Sunset Review Report, the Respiratory Care Board reported the following:</p> <p>"... the number of tests ordered has more than doubled and positive test</p>	<p>surrenders due to cost of complying with probation conditions.</p>
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			<p>results nearly doubled. However, closer examination of this data reveals that <u>the number of probationers who tested positive remained unchanged from FY 2009-10 to FY 2011-12.</u> In fact, review of the data showed the number of probationers who actually tested positive for a banned substance, eliminating those probationers with valid (and legitimate prescriptions) actually fell from the five in FY 2009-10 to four in FY 2011-12.</p> <p>While the data does not take into consideration earlier detection, it does appear to present signs that more frequent testing is <i>not</i> conducive to more probationers testing positive. It is possible, that because the Respiratory Care Board does not generally place chronic substance users/abusers on probation and generally revokes or denies licensure to these individuals, that more frequent testing will not show desired results for this Board. However, the Board acknowledges that it is far too early to make any conclusions until further data is gathered.”</p> <p>The Respiratory Care Board also reported that of its 100 probationers in FY 11/12, six voluntarily surrendered their license. Four of these surrenders were a direct result of the increase in testing to 36 – 104 times per year in July 2011. The licensees stated that they could not afford all the costs associated with probation, specifically citing the costs of drug testing that could be as</p>	
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			<p>much as \$3,500 to \$7,000 the first year of probation.</p> <p>The Board should also anticipate an increase in the number of RNs voluntarily surrendering their licenses as a result of increased costs associated with the probation program, including the increased drug testing. Additionally, there may be a decrease in the number of stipulated agreements, as licensees request hearings to contest the charges or to modify the Uniform Standard requirements. Clearly, this will have a fiscal impact, but more importantly, it will increase the length of time it takes to bring complaints to resolution and protect consumers.</p> <p>Conformance with the increased drug testing will result in increased staff workload due to: increased reports from the contractor, which must be reviewed, acted upon, and filed; increased data entry into Excel and BreZE; and increased frequency in changes to drug testing schedule for the licensees.</p>	
B&P Code Section 315(c)(5) Standards governing all aspects of group meeting attendance requirements, including, but not limited to, required qualifications for group meeting facilitators, frequency of required meeting attendance, and methods of documenting and reporting attendance or nonattendance by licensees.				
UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY	DIVERSION PROGRAM	PROBATION PROGRAM	PROGRAMMATIC CONSIDERATION & ISSUES	FISCAL IMPLICATIONS
#5: Specifies the criteria that the board must consider when determining the frequency of group meetings and sets forth the qualifications and requirements for the	Conforms to standard.	Conforms to standard.	The Board requirements for nurse support groups (NSG) and NSG facilitators exceed the Standard. The NSG must be approved by the Board and there are currently 44 approved NSGs located geographically throughout the state. The Board has policies and	None.

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meeting facilitator.			procedures detailing: 1) the NSG approval process, which includes completion of an application and an interview with the facilitator; 2) facilitator/co-facilitator criteria; 3) role and responsibilities for NSGs and facilitators; 4) procedural requirements addressing confidentiality, reports, accessibility to participants, and fees; and 5) handling of complaints regarding NSGs.	
B&P Code Section 315(c)(6) Standards used in determining whether inpatient, outpatient, or other type of treatment is necessary.				
UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY	DIVERSION PROGRAM	PROBATION PROGRAM	PROGRAMMATIC CONSIDERATION & ISSUES	FISCAL IMPLICATIONS
Specifies the criteria to be used in determining type of treatment, including evaluator’s recommendation from the clinical diagnostic evaluation in Standard #1, scope of substance abuse, licensee’s treatment history, and documented length of sobriety.	Conforms to the Standard.	Partial conformance. The Standard specifies that the Board makes the determination regarding the type of treatment. The Disciplinary Guidelines specify that the healthcare professional conducting the evaluation makes the determination.	Treatment determinations must be made by appropriately licensed healthcare professionals. Options to address this issue include amending the probation condition(s) to include all the Standard criteria as factors to be considered by the evaluator in determining the type of treatment and 1) deem the evaluator to be an agent of the Board and implement his or her treatment plan, or 2) have board staff review the healthcare provider’s recommendation and either approve the recommendation or communicate with the evaluator if there are issues/concerns.	Increased cost associated with board staff review and approval of treatment recommendations.
B&P Code Section 315(c)(7) Worksite monitoring requirements and standards, including, but not limited to, required qualifications of worksite monitors, required methods of monitoring by worksite monitors, and required reporting by worksite monitors.				
UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY	DIVERSION PROGRAM	PROBATION PROGRAM	PROGRAMMATIC CONSIDERATION & ISSUES	FISCAL IMPLICATIONS
#7: Sets forth worksite monitor (WSM) criteria, including prohibited financial,	Conforms to the standard.	Substantial compliance. Three requirements are not met: 1) the supervisor/WSM are	The higher standards set by the probation conditions should not be eliminated.	None.

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<p>personal, or familial relationships between the WSM and the licensee; WSM’s scope of practice; licensure status, i.e., active and unrestricted, and no discipline within the last 5years.</p>		<p>encouraged to but are not legally required to report suspected substance abuse, either verbally or in writing, to the Board; 2) the supervisor and WSMs must have no current discipline, rather than the required 5 years; and 3) the probationer is required to complete and sign a consent form allowing the Board to communicate with the employer, but the supervisor is not required to complete a consent form. The relationship prohibition is discussed with the supervisor at time of the job approval, but is not specified in the probation conditions.</p> <p>The Probationary Conditions and Program requirements exceed the Standard in several ways, including: 1) requiring RN to practice for at least 6 months, 2) setting employment limitations, and 3) specifying the supervision/monitoring requirements with minimum being in person contact between probationer and WSM twice during the shift.</p>		
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B&P Code Section 315(c)(8) Procedures to be followed when a licensee tests positive for a banned substance.				
UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY	DIVERSION PROGRAM	PROBATION PROGRAM	PROGRAMMATIC CONSIDERATION & ISSUES	FISCAL IMPLICATIONS
<p>#8: When a licensee tests positive for a banned substance, the board shall order the licensee to cease practice, and, if working, the licensee must leave work, and the board shall notify the employer and WSM. If the positive is confirmed, Standard 9 is implemented. If positive is not confirmed, the cease practice is lifted. When determining if a test is positive, the board should, as applicable: 1) consult the specimen collector and the laboratory; 2) communicate with licensee and/or any other physician who is treating the licensee; and 3) communicate with any treatment provider, including group facilitator/s.</p>	<p>Although B&P Code Sections 315.2(d) and 315.4(d) exempt the Diversion Program from the cease practice requirement, the Program conforms to the Standard, except, if it is a confirmed positive, the RN is permitted to return to work after two negative tests and not the month of “continuous drug testing” specified in Standard 10. (Standard 9 is cited in this Standard, and Standard 9 requires conformance with Standard 10.)</p>	<p>Not in conformance with the Standard in that the cease practice is not immediate. Based on advice from Legal Counsel, the RN is notified and given 5 days to provide an explanation. If the positive is confirmed and the probationer does not respond or the explanation is not acceptable, the RN is told to cease practice and the case is referred to the Attorney General’s (AG’s) Office for filing of an accusation and or a petition to revoke the license.</p>	<p>B&P Code Section 315.2(a) authorizes the Board to order an RN who tests positive for any substance prohibited under the terms of the RN’s probation to cease practice; the Standard is consistent with the statute. As a result of legal challenges to the immediate cease practice order and based on Legal Counsel advice, the Board’s procedure is to notify the RN of the positive and instructs him or her to provide a written explanation within 5 days. Adoption of the Standard as written, without notice and an opportunity to be heard, may be a violation of the licensee’s right to due process, and as such does not conform to the Administrative Procedure Act Consistency Standard. Government Code, Section 11349(d) defines “consistency” as “...harmony with, and not in conflict with or contradictory to, existing statutes, court decisions, or other provisions of law.” Currently, the mandate is only to adopt regulations related to the probationers.</p> <p>The Probation Program is more stringent as it relates to positive tests for prohibited substances and failure to participate in a drug testing program. Condition 17 specifies that a confirmed positive for a prohibited drug may result in suspension from practice as well as referral to the Attorney General’s Office for filing of an accusation or a petition to revoke the probation. Board policy is</p>	<p>See Standard 10</p> <p>If implemented as written, the RN may be subject to unwarranted loss of income.</p>

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			<p>to suspend the RN from practice and the RN is not permitted to return to work until there is a final decision on the AG’s filing. The Condition also specifies that the Board may suspend the RN’s practice for failure to participate in the drug testing program.</p> <p>As previously stated, B&P Code Section 315.4(a) specifies that the board <i>may</i> adopt regulations related to the cease practice for major violations and when the board orders a licensee to undergo a clinical diagnostic evaluation pursuant to the uniform and specific standards adopted and authorized under Section 315; thus making adoption of regulations for Standards 2 and 10 permissive. This Standard cites Standard 9, which defines ingestion as major violation as specified in Standard 9 and the licensee is subject to the consequences specified in Standard 10. The intertwining of Standards 8, 9, and 10 raises the question if the Board must adopt regulations related to the cease practice requirements specified/referenced in any of the three Standards since the adoption of regulations is at the Board’s discretion. However, as stated in the Standard 2 discussion, the Legislative Counsel opinion, Attorney General Office unofficial opinion, and the DCA Legal Counsel Opinion have advised that the legislative intent in enacting the statute was not to make adoption of the standards discretionary.</p>	
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B&P Code Section 315(c)(9) Procedures to be followed when a licensee is confirmed to have ingested a banned substance.

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UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY	DIVERSION PROGRAM	PROBATION PROGRAM	PROGRAMMATIC CONSIDERATION & ISSUES	FISCAL IMPLICATIONS
<p>#9: When a board confirms that a positive drug test is evidence of use of a prohibited substance, the licensee has committed a major violation, as defined in Uniform Standard #10 and the board shall impose the consequences set forth in Uniform Standard #10.</p>	<p>B&P Code Section 315.4(d) exempts the Diversion Program from the cease practice requirement for major violations. However, as stated in response to Standard 8, the participant is ordered to cease practice and to have two consecutive negative drug tests, instead of the minimum month of continuous drug testing required in the Standard, prior to return to work.</p>	<p>The Disciplinary Guidelines do not categorize violations as major or minor. Upon confirmation of ingestion of a banned substance, the RN, if practicing, is instructed to cease practice, and the case is referred to the Attorney General’s Office for filing of an accusation or petition to revoke probation. The RN is not permitted to return to work. The licensee is not ordered to undergo a new clinical diagnostic evaluation or to drug test as required in Standard 10.</p>	<p>The probationary condition is more stringent than Uniform Standard 10. Increased testing is not warranted since the RN is not permitted to return to work.</p> <p>B&P Code Section 315.4(d) makes adoption of regulations related to the cease practice for major violations and when the board orders a licensee to undergo a clinical diagnostic evaluation pursuant to the uniform and specific standards adopted and authorized under Section 315 permissive. However, the Legislative Counsel opinion, Attorney General Office unofficial opinion, and the DCA Legal Counsel Opinion have advised that the legislative intent in enacting the statute was not to make adoption of the standards discretionary. (See Standard 2 and 8.)</p>	<p>See Standard 10</p>
<p>B&P Code Section 315(c)(10) Specific consequences for major and minor violations. In particular, the committee shall consider the use of a “deferred prosecution” stipulation described in Section 1000 of the Penal Code, in which the licensee admits to self-abuse of drugs or alcohol and surrenders his or her license. That agreement is deferred by the agency until or unless licensee commits a major violation, in which case it is revived and license is surrendered. (Note: The Uniform Standard does not address the “deferred prosecution” language. The language would have to be included in the Board’s decision placing the licensee on probation. The Standard is not applicable to the Diversion Program.)</p>				
UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY	DIVERSION PROGRAM	PROBATION PROGRAM	PROGRAMMATIC CONSIDERATION & ISSUES	FISCAL IMPLICATIONS
<p>#10: Lists actions that would constitute a major violation, e.g., failure to complete a board-ordered program, multiple minor violations, treating patients while under the influence of</p>	<p>Conforms to the applicable requirements of the Standard. (B&P Code, Section 315.2(d) exempts the Program from requiring a licensee to cease practice if he or she tests positive for a</p>	<p>Substantial conformance. The Disciplinary Guidelines do not use the major and minor violation designations. Actions specified as a major violation would result in referral to the Attorney</p>	<p>The Disciplinary Guidelines are more stringent in that they do not permit an RN to return to work, until a decision has been rendered on the petition to revoke or the filing of an accusation. However with two exceptions, i.e., cease practice for confirmed ingestion of a prohibited substances and failure to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost to Board associated with increased staff/staff time to change drug testing frequency, notify probationer and contractor of frequency,

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<p>drugs/alcohol, testing positive and confirmation for substance abuse, failure to obtain biological testing for substance abuse, etc. The consequences for a major violation include 1) a cease practice order, with requirement to undergo a clinical diagnostic evaluation and licensee must test negative for at least a month of continuous drug testing before being allowed to return to work; 2) termination of contract/agreement; and 3) referral for disciplinary action. The Standard also identifies actions that would constitute a minor violation, e.g., untimely receipt of required documents, unexcused non-attendance at group meetings, failure to contact a monitor, etc., as well as the consequences for such violations.</p>	<p>prohibited substance and Section, 315.4(d) exempts the Program from requiring a participant to cease practice for a major violation.)</p>	<p>General’s Office; however, a cease practice or suspension of practice order does not go into effect immediately, unless authorized by statute or a probationary condition. The minor violations would, at a minimum, result in a violation letter listing the violation(s), any corrective action that the licensee must take, and the consequences of any further violation(s).</p> <p>The registered nurse is ordered to cease practice if he or she tests positive for a prohibited substance and fails to provide an acceptable explanation within 5 days or if he or she violates a condition of probation that includes a cease practice order. The RN is not ordered to undergo a clinical diagnostic evaluation or to tests as required; however, the RN is also not permitted to return to work until a decision is reached on the Attorney General’s Office filing. The consequences for minor violations vary, but do not include removal from practice, issuance of a</p>	<p>submit physical or mental health evaluation, the RN is permitted to continue to work until the filing of petition to revoke probation or an accusation after committing any of the other major violations. Amending the Guidelines to make the cease practice effective immediately upon notification of the violation and a period to respond would strengthen the Probation Program.</p> <p>As a consequence of a major violation, the licensee is required to “test negative for at least a month of continuous drug testing before being allowed to return to work.” The term “continuous drug testing” is vague and lacks clarity.</p> <p>B&P Code Section 315.4(d) makes adoption of regulations related to the cease practice for major violations and when the board orders a licensee to undergo a clinical diagnostic evaluation pursuant to the uniform and specific standards adopted and authorized under Section 315 permissive. However, the Legislative Counsel opinion, Attorney General Office unofficial opinion, and the DCA Legal Counsel Opinion have advised that the legislative intent in enacting the statute was not to make adoption of the standards discretionary. (See Standard 2, 8, and 9)</p>	<p>follow-up on testing results, filing, and inputting data into system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs to RN associated with loss of income and increased testing.
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		citation and fine/or warning, or re-evaluation/testing.		
B&P Code Section 315(c)(11) Criteria that a licensee must meet in order to petition to return to practice on a full-time basis.				
UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY	DIVERSION PROGRAM	PROBATION PROGRAM	PROGRAMMATIC CONSIDERATION & ISSUES	FISCAL IMPLICATIONS
<p>#11: The licensee shall meet the following criteria before submitting a request (petition) to return to full-time practice: 1) demonstrate sustained compliance with current recovery program; 2) demonstrate the ability to practice safely as evidenced by current worksite reports, evaluations, and any other information relating to the licensee’s substance abuse; and 3) negative drug screening reports for at least 6 months, two positive worksite monitor reports, and complete compliance with other conditions of the program.</p>	<p>Substantial conformance. Participants generally work part-time by choice or due to job availability. The Diversion Evaluation Committee seldom imposes the part-time practice restriction. If it did, it would take the specified criteria, except 6 months of negative drug screens, into consideration in rendering its decision.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>
B&P Code Section 315(c)(12) Criteria that a licensee must meet in order to petition for reinstatement of a full and unrestricted license.				
UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY	DIVERSION PROGRAM	PROBATION PROGRAM	PROGRAMMATIC CONSIDERATION & ISSUES	FISCAL IMPLICATIONS
<p>#12: Sets forth criteria licensee must meet to request (petition) for a full and unrestricted license, including: 1) sustained compliance with the terms</p>	<p>Diversion Program participants do not have “restricted” licenses. When approved to return to work, participants will have practice restrictions, which are determined by</p>	<p>As a result of several of the probationary conditions, the registered nurse will have a “restricted” license until successful completion of probation. The</p>	<p>The Diversion Program has very stringent practice requirements. The participant must keep his/her license in inactive status until the Diversion Evaluation Committee determines that the RN is safe to return to practice, which is generally after 6 to 9 months</p>	<p>None.</p>

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<p>of the disciplinary order, if applicable; 2) successful completion of recovery program, if required; and 3) continuous sobriety for three (3) to five (5) years.</p>	<p>the Diversion Evaluation Committee after careful consideration of multiple factors related to the participant’s recovery and compliance with contract requirements.</p>	<p>restrictions include prior Board approval for any job requiring an RN license, may not supervise other RNs, cannot be a faculty member in a Board-approved prelicensure nursing program or a Board-approved continuing education course, and periodic work performance evaluations from supervisor.</p>	<p>with full-contract compliance. When the registered nurse is permitted to return to work, appropriate safeguards/practice restrictions are put in place to ensure consumer/patient protection, including approval of any RN position or change(s) in position, initially may not have access to or administer controlled substances, and supervision by a worksite monitor. The RN may petition to “transition” from the Program after a minimum of two years of full compliance with his/her Diversion Program contract, including completion of any treatment requirements. The RN must complete a “Transition Paper” and the Gorski Relapse Prevention Program, and meet with the DEC to request approval for the transition. During the transition period the RN is required to continue random drug testing, have prior approval for job changes, submit monthly self-reports, have in-person contact with WSM at least once a week, and pay fees. The WSM must submit monthly reports. The transition period is generally one year.</p>	
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B&P Code Section 315(c)(13) If a board uses a private-sector vendor that provides diversion services, standards for immediate reporting by the vendor to the board of any and all noncompliance with process for providers or contractors that provide diversion services, including, but not limited to, specimen collectors, group meeting facilitators, and worksite monitors; standards requiring the vendor to disapprove and discontinue the use of providers or contractors that fail to provide effective or timely diversion services; and standards for a licensee’s termination from the program and referral to enforcement.

UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY	DIVERSION PROGRAM	PROBATION PROGRAM	PROGRAMMATIC CONSIDERATION & ISSUES	FISCAL IMPLICATIONS
<p>#13: Sets forth vendor reporting time for major and minor violations; approval process, criteria, and requirements for specimen collectors,</p>	<p>Conforms to the Standard.</p>	<p>The Standard does not apply to the Probation Program.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>

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group meeting facilitators, and worksite monitors, treatment providers; and general vendor requirements.				
B&P Code Section 315(c)(14) If a board uses a private-sector vendor that provides diversion services, the extent to which licensee participation in that program shall be kept confidential from the public.				
UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY	DIVERSION PROGRAM	PROBATION PROGRAM	PROGRAMMATIC CONSIDERATION & ISSUES	FISCAL IMPLICATIONS
<p align="center">#14:</p> <p>Requires the board to disclose the name, any practice restrictions, and a detailed description of any restrictions to the public for licensees who are participating in a board monitoring/diversion program regardless of whether the licensee is a self-referral or a board referral. However, the disclosure shall not contain information that the restrictions are a result of the licensee’s participation in a diversion program.</p>	<p>Does not conform. Applicants to the Program and participants in the Program during the first 6 to 9 months are not permitted to work and must put their licenses in inactive status. The inactive status information is available to the public on the BRN website.</p>	<p>The Standard does not apply to the Probation Program.</p>	<p>Since the inception of the Program, a participant’s records and participation in the Diversion Program have been confidential. The confidential nature of the Program is a factor in registered nurses voluntarily entering the Program. Implementation of the Standard would breach the confidential nature of the Diversion Program authorized by statute. Specifically, B&P Code, Section 2770.12(b) requires that participant records of participants in the Diversion Program be kept confidential, and 2770.12(c) sets forth the circumstances under which the registered nurse waives any confidentiality rights. The Board has maintained the confidentiality of participant records both internally and externally; only limited BRN staff is allowed access to the records. Compliance with Standard 14 would require more BRN staff to have access to the records to make the information available to the public. But more importantly, the public would be able to determine that the licensee is a participant in the Board’s Diversion Program, since license restrictions can only be imposed via Board discipline or participation in the Diversion Program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional staff /staff time required to input and maintain information related to practice restrictions and detailed description of any restriction. • Additional cost to modify BreEZe.

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			<p>Disciplinary actions are posted on the BRN website and clearly identified as “discipline.” Posting of restrictions that are not “discipline/disciplinary” would enable the public to deduce that the RN is a participant in the Diversion Program; thus violating the participant’s confidentiality rights and the statute.</p> <p>It is unknown if the required information can be made available to the public using BreEZe. The Standard involves the Department, which has overall responsibility for BreEZe, as well boards with a diversion program; therefore, the Board will pursue the issue with the Department.</p>	
B&P Code Section 315(c)(15) If a board uses a private-sector vendor that provides diversion services, a schedule for external independent audits of the vendor’s performance in adhering to the standards adopted by the committee.				
UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY	DIVERSION PROGRAM	PROBATION PROGRAM	PROGRAMMATIC CONSIDERATION & ISSUES	FISCAL IMPLICATIONS
<p>#15: Requires an external independent audit at least once every 3 years by a qualified, independent reviewer or review team from outside the department with no real or apparent conflict of interest with the vendor providing the monitoring services. The audit must assess the vendor’s performance in adhering to the Uniform Standards established by the board. The reviewer must provide a report of their finding to the board by June</p>	<p>No action has been taken. The BRN, together with the other healthcare professional licensing boards with a Diversion Program, contract, through the Department, with the same vendor to provide monitoring services for its participants.</p>	<p>The Standard does not apply to the Probation Program.</p>	<p>Since the Diversion Program contract is managed by the Department and involves multiple boards, implementation of the Standard will necessitate participation of these entities.</p> <p>The auditing cycle is not congruent with the contracting periods. The contract is generally for a three-year period with two one-year extensions.</p>	<p>Cost of the audit.</p>

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<p>30 of each 3 year cycle. The report shall identify any material inadequacies, deficiencies, irregularities, or other non-compliance with the terms of the vendor’s monitoring services that would interfere with the board’s mandate of public protection. The board and the department shall respond to the findings of the audit report.</p>				
<p>B&P Code Section 315(c)(16) Measurable criteria and standards to determine whether each board’s method of dealing with substance-abusing licensee protects patients from harm and is effective in assisting in recovering from substance abuse in the long term.</p>				
UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY	DIVERSION PROGRAM	PROBATION PROGRAM	PROGRAMMATIC CONSIDERATION & ISSUES	FISCAL IMPLICATIONS
<p>#16: The Standard specifies the criteria related to licensees with substance abuse problems who are in the Diversion or Probation Program that the board must report annually to DCA and the Legislature. The report must also specify the drug(s) the licensee abused. The board must analyze the data to determine if there are indicators for lower or higher probability of success of the program. The Standard also sets forth criteria to determine if the program protects patients from harm and is effective in assisting licensees in recovering from substance</p>	<p>Conforms to the Standard. Data on all the criteria are maintained except major and minor violations, which have been added to the RFP. The contractor is required to monitor trends, conduct a trends analysis, and make recommendations annually or more frequently, as appropriate, to the Board.</p>	<p>Not in conformance. The majority of the information/data is contained in individual probationer files. The Board does not currently maintain the information in a centralized data system, and therefore, cannot retrieve aggregate data or conduct trend analysis as required by the Standard.</p>	<p>The required data is not obtainable from BreEZe and will necessitate creation of a separate data tracking system. This option is contrary to the Board and Department’s goal of having one data system. Furthermore, implementation will require additional staff/staff time: to create the system; input and retrieve the data from existing files; to maintain and continually update the system; and to analyze the data. Currently, the Probation Program Manager maintains and uses Excel to generate statistical data/reports for the Program. Aggregate data is reported at Diversion/Discipline and Board meetings and includes: gender; basis of probation (CD, practice, mental health, convictions, etc.); cases pending at AG/Board; licenses revoked, or surrendered; successful completions and terminations. The required</p>	<p>Potentially significant fiscal impact, even if the data can be obtained from BreEZe or previous Department computer data bases such as CAS. The cost is attributed to additional staff/staff time needed to retrieve, input, maintain, and analyze the data on an on-going basis.</p>

**Board of Registered Nursing – Diversion/Discipline Committee
Uniform Standards Comparison**

abuse.			<p>information is not maintained in Excel. Implementation of the Standard could be quite costly in view of depth and breadth of information that is required. As of February 20, 2014, there were 832 in-state probationers and 412 (50%) were on probation for substance-abuse related violations.</p> <p>Staff is working with the Department to determine what, if any, of the data can be obtained from BreEZe, as well as to obtain Department recommendation(s) for dealing with the Standard.</p> <p>Since the Standard pertains to evaluation of the effectiveness of the Diversion and Probation Programs, it is not necessary to include it in regulations.</p>	
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DRAFT

**COMPARISON OF MEDICAL BOARDS PROPOSED TEXT TO THE
UNIFORM STANDARDS,
DIVERSION PROGRAM & PROBATION PROGRAM**

DRAFT 4-15-2014

B&P Code Section 315(c)(1): Specific requirements for a clinical diagnostic evaluation of the licensee, including, but not limited to, required qualifications for the providers evaluating the licensee.

#1 UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY: Specifies the qualifications for the practitioner conducting the clinical diagnostic evaluation, method for conducting the evaluation, content of the evaluation report, timeframe for submission of the report, relationship prohibitions between licensee and evaluator, and action to be taken the evaluator determines that the licensee is a threat to himself, herself, or others. The evaluator must be Board approved.

DIVERSION PROGRAM: N/A

PROBATION PROGRAM: Conforms to the Standard.

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B&P Code Section 315(c)(2) Specific requirements for the temporary removal of a licensee from practice, in order to enable the licensee to undergo the clinical diagnostic evaluation described in subdivision (a) and approved by the board, and specific criteria that the licensee must meet before being permitted to return to practice on a full-time or part-time basis.

#2 UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY: Requires the board to order the licensee to cease practice until the clinical diagnostic evaluation report is reviewed by diversion/probation staff. The licensee must test randomly at least two times per week during this time and the cease practice continues until the licensee has at least 30 days of negative drug screens. The Diversion or Probation Manager determines if the licensee is safe to return to practice, using specified criteria.

DIVERSION PROGRAM:

PROBATION PROGRAM: Conforms to the Standard, with minor differences.

The standard says cease practice during the clinical diagnostic evaluation pending the results of the clinical evaluation and review by the board staff. Medical board says review by the Board.

The standard says the diversion or probation manager shall determine whether or not the licensee is safe to return to either part-time or fulltime practice.

Medical Board says the Board shall review and determine whether the licensee is safe to return to practice. Medical Board also puts a time frame of within 5 business days of receipt for the review of the clinical diagnostic evaluation report to determine whether the licensee is safe to return to practice.

Medical Board uses the term biological testing while the Standard uses drug testing.

Page 2 & 3

B&P Code Section 315(c)(3) Specific requirements that govern the ability of the licensing board to communicate with the licensee's employer about the licensee's status or condition.

#3 UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY: Requires the licensee to provide specified information related to employers and supervisors and to give written consent authorizing the board, employers, and supervisors to communicate.

DIVERSION PROGRAM:

PROBATION PROGRAM: Conforms to the Standard.

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B&P Code Section 315(c)(4) Standards governing all aspects of required testing, including but not limited to, frequency of testing, randomness, method of notice to the licensee, number of hours between the provision of notice and the test, standards for specimen collectors, procedures used by specimen collectors, the permissible locations of testing, whether the collection process must be observed by the collector, backup testing requirements when the licensee is on vacation or otherwise unavailable for local testing, requirements for the laboratory that analyzes the specimens, and the required maximum timeframe from the test to the receipt of the result of the test.

#4 UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY: Establishes two levels of testing: Level 1 (Year 1) 52 – 104 tests per year; Level 2 (Years 2 -5) 36 – 104 tests per year. After year 5, testing is 1 time per month if there have been no positive tests in the previous 5 consecutive years of probation or diversion. The board may increase frequency for any reason. Testing frequency exceptions are: 1) licensee has participated in treatment or monitoring program that required testing, 2) violation was outside of employment, 3) not employed in healthcare field, 4) licensee is on tolled status, and 5) substance abuse disorder is not diagnosed. The Standard also specifies drug testing standards and requires collection of specified data for 2 years prior to implementation, if available, and for 3 years post-implementation.

DIVERSION PROGRAM:

PROBATION PROGRAM: Conforms to the Standard, but splits them up into different code sections.

Page 6

B&P Code Section 315(c)(5) Standards governing all aspects of group meeting attendance requirements, including, but not limited to, required qualifications for group meeting facilitators, frequency of required meeting attendance, and methods of documenting and reporting attendance or nonattendance by licensees.

#5 UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY: Specifies the criteria that the board must consider when determining the frequency of group meetings and sets forth the qualifications and requirements for the meeting facilitator.

DIVERSION PROGRAM:

PROBATION PROGRAM: Conforms to the Standard.

Page 7 & 8

B&P Code Section 315(c)(6) Standards used in determining whether inpatient, outpatient, or other type of treatment is necessary.

#6 UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY: Specifies the criteria to be used in determining type of treatment, including evaluator's recommendation from the clinical diagnostic evaluation in Standard #1, scope of substance abuse, licensee's treatment history, and documented length of sobriety.

DIVERSION PROGRAM:

PROBATION PROGRAM: Conforms to the Standard.

Page 3

B&P Code Section 315(c)(7) Worksite monitoring requirements and standards, including, but not limited to, required qualifications of worksite monitors, required methods of monitoring by worksite monitors, and required reporting by worksite monitors.

#7 UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY: Sets forth worksite monitor (WSM) criteria, including prohibited financial, personal, or familial relationships between the WSM and the licensee; WSM's scope of practice; licensure status, i.e., active and unrestricted, and no discipline within the last 5 years.

DIVERSION PROGRAM:

PROBATION PROGRAM: Conforms to the Standard.

Page 9-11

B&P Code Section 315(c)(8) Procedures to be followed when a licensee tests positive for a banned substance.

#8 UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY: When a licensee tests positive for a banned substance, the board shall order the licensee to cease practice, and, if working, the licensee must leave work, and the board shall notify the employer and WSM. If the positive is confirmed, Standard 9 is implemented. If positive is not confirmed, the cease practice is lifted. When determining if a test is positive, the board should, as applicable: 1) consult the specimen collector and the laboratory; 2) communicate with licensee and/or any other physician who is treating the licensee; and 3) communicate with any treatment provider, including group facilitator/s.

DIVERSION PROGRAM:

PROBATION PROGRAM: Not in conformance with the Standard in that the cease practice is not immediate. Medical Board says it shall lift the cease-practice order within one business day.

Page 13

B&P Code Section 315(c)(9) Procedures to be followed when a licensee is confirmed to have ingested a banned substance.

#9 UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY: When a board confirms that a positive drug test is evidence of use of a prohibited substance, the licensee has committed a major violation, as defined in Uniform Standard #10 and the board shall impose the consequences set forth in Uniform Standard #10.

DIVERSION PROGRAM:

PROBATION PROGRAM: Conforms to the Standard.

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B&P Code Section 315(c)(10) Specific consequences for major and minor violations. In particular, the committee shall consider the use of a “deferred prosecution” stipulation described in Section 1000 of the Penal Code, in which the licensee admits to self-abuse of drugs or alcohol and surrenders his or her license. That agreement is deferred by the agency until or unless licensee commits a major violation, in which case it is revived and license is surrendered. (**Note:** The Uniform Standard does not address the “deferred prosecution” language. The language would have to be included in the Board’s decision placing the licensee on probation. The Standard is not applicable to the Diversion Program.)

#10 UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY: Lists actions that would constitute a major violation, e.g., failure to complete a board-ordered program, multiple minor violations, treating patients while under the influence of drugs/alcohol, testing positive and confirmation for substance abuse, failure to obtain biological testing for substance abuse, etc. The consequences for a major violation include 1) a cease practice order, with requirement to undergo a clinical diagnostic evaluation and licensee must test negative for at least a month of continuous drug testing before being allowed to return to work; 2) termination of contract/agreement; and 3) referral for disciplinary action. The Standard also identifies actions that would constitute a minor violation, e.g., untimely receipt of required documents, unexcused non-attendance at group meetings, failure to contact a monitor, etc., as well as the consequences for such violations.

DIVERSION PROGRAM:

PROBATION PROGRAM: Conforms to the Standard. Under the major violations include but are not limited to section, the Medical Board adds “Uses, consumes, ingests, or administers to himself or herself a prohibited substance. They also add, “Fails to comply with any term or condition of his or her probation that impairs public safety”. They did not include “Failure to complete a board-ordered program” though this may be a term of probation as it is with the RN probationary terms.

Under the minor violations section, the Medical Board adds increase the frequency of biological fluid testing. It does not include “Termination of a contract/agreement.” Consequences are not limited to just what is listed.

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B&P Code Section 315(c)(11) Criteria that a licensee must meet in order to petition to return to practice on a full-time basis.

#11 UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY: The licensee shall meet the following criteria before submitting a request (petition) to return to full-time practice: 1) demonstrate sustained compliance with current recovery program; 2) demonstrate the ability to practice safely as evidenced by current worksite reports, evaluations, and any other information relating to the licensee’s substance abuse; and 3) negative drug screening reports for at least 6 months, two positive worksite monitor reports, and complete compliance with other conditions of the program.

DIVERSION PROGRAM:

PROBATION PROGRAM: Conforms to the Standard.

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B&P Code Section 315(c)(12) Criteria that a licensee must meet in order to petition for reinstatement of a full and unrestricted license.

#12 UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY: Sets forth criteria licensee must meet to request (petition) for a full and unrestricted license, including: 1) sustained compliance with the terms of the disciplinary order, if applicable; 2) successful completion of recovery program, if required; and 3) continuous sobriety for three (3) to five (5) years.

DIVERSION PROGRAM:

PROBATION PROGRAM: Does not conform to the Standard. Medical Board did not include this Standard.

B&P Code Section 315(c)(13) If a board uses a private-sector vendor that provides diversion services, standards for immediate reporting by the vendor to the board of any and all noncompliance with process for providers or contractors that provide diversion services, including, but not limited to, specimen collectors, group meeting facilitators, and worksite monitors; standards requiring the vendor to disapprove and discontinue the use of providers or contractors that fail to provide effective or timely diversion services; and standards for a licensee's termination from the program and referral to enforcement.

#13 UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY: Sets forth vendor reporting time for major and minor violations; approval process, criteria, and requirements for specimen collectors, group meeting facilitators, and worksite monitors, treatment providers; and general vendor requirements.

DIVERSION PROGRAM: Medical Board does not have a Diversion Program.

PROBATION PROGRAM: The Standard does not apply to the Probation Program, but the Medical Board has language set up for this Standard. Though there is language for some the Standard, it does not have all. It does not have information on the subsections Treatment Providers and General Vendor Requirements.

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B&P Code Section 315(c)(14) If a board uses a private-sector vendor that provides diversion services, the extent to which licensee participation in that program shall be kept confidential from the public.

#14 UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY: Requires the board to disclose the name, any practice restrictions, and a detailed description of any restrictions to the public for licensees who are participating in a board monitoring/diversion program regardless of whether the licensee is a self-referral or a board referral. However, the disclosure shall not contain information that the restrictions are a result of the licensee's participation in a diversion program.

DIVERSION PROGRAM: Does not conform. Medical Board does not have a Diversion Program.

PROBATION PROGRAM: The Standard does not apply to the Probation Program.

B&P Code Section 315(c)(15) If a board uses a private-sector vendor that provides diversion services, a schedule for external independent audits of the vendor's performance in adhering to the standards adopted by the committee.

#15 UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY: Requires an external independent audit at least once every 3 years by a qualified, independent reviewer or review team from outside the department with no real or apparent conflict of interest with the vendor providing the monitoring services. The audit must assess the vendor's performance in adhering to the Uniform Standards established by the board. The reviewer must provide a report of their finding to the board by June 30 of each 3 year cycle. The report shall identify any material inadequacies, deficiencies, irregularities, or other non-compliance with the terms of the vendor's monitoring services that would interfere with the board's mandate of public protection. The board and the department shall respond to the findings of the audit report.

DIVERSION PROGRAM: Does not conform. Medical Board does not have a Diversion Program.

PROBATION PROGRAM: The Standard does not apply to the Probation Program.

B&P Code Section 315(c)(16) Measurable criteria and standards to determine whether each board's method of dealing with substance-abusing licensee protects patients from harm and is effective in assisting in recovering from substance abuse in the long term.

#16 UNIFORM STANDARD SUMMARY: The Standard specifies the criteria related to licensees with substance abuse problems who are in the Diversion or Probation Program that the board must report annually to DCA and the Legislature. The report must also specify the drug(s) the licensee abused. The board must analyze the data to determine if there are indicators for lower or higher probability of success of the program. The Standard also sets forth criteria to determine if the program protects patients from harm and is effective in assisting licensees in recovering from substance abuse.

DIVERSION PROGRAM: Does not conform. Medical Board does not have a Diversion Program. There will be no reported information

PROBATION PROGRAM: Conforms with the Standard. Does not include all of the bullet points because some of them pertain to the diversion program and the Medical Board does not have a diversion program.