

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING  
EDUCATION/LICENSING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** June 20, 2024

**1:30 p.m.**

**Start Time:** 1:30 p.m.

**Location:** **NOTE:** The Board of Registered Nursing’s Education/Licensing Committee (ELC) held a public meeting, accessible both in-person and via a teleconference platform, in accordance with Government Code section 11123.2. Members of the public were able to attend in person and/or hear, observe, and participate in the meeting at the following location:

Department of Consumer Affairs  
1625 North Market Blvd.  
Main Hearing Room (Suite S-102)  
Sacramento, CA 95834

**Thursday, June 20, 2024 - BRN Education/Licensing Committee Meeting**

**1:30 p.m.**

**8.0**

**Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum**

Jovita Dominguez, BSN, RN, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at: 1:30 p.m. All members present. Quorum was established at 1:30 p.m.

**Committee** Jovita Dominguez, BSN, RN-Chairperson  
**Members:** Dolores Trujillo, RN – President  
Patricia “Tricia” Wynne, Esq.

**BRN Staff:** Loretta (Lori) Melby, RN, MSN – Executive Officer  
Reza Pejuhesh – DCA Legal Attorney  
Mary Ann McCarthy, EdD, MSN, RN, PHN, Supervising Nursing Education Consultant - Staff Liaison

**1:31 p.m.**

**8.1**

**Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda; Items for Future Agendas**

*Note: The Committee may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during the Public Comment section that is not included on this*

*agenda, except to decide whether to place the matter on the agenda of a future meeting. (Gov. Code, §§ 11125 & 11125.7, subd. (a).)*

**Public Comment for Agenda Item:** No Public Request for Comment

**1:32 p.m.                      8.2                      Review and vote on whether to approve previous meeting minutes:**

*The April 18, 2024 ELC Meeting Minutes were not ready by publication time and will be reviewed and voted on during the October ELC Meetings.*

**1:33 p.m.                      8.3                      Discussion and possible action regarding whether to recommend ratification of minor curriculum revisions and acknowledge receipt of program progress reports (16 CCR § 1426), and whether to recommend ratification of clinical facility approval or other action (16 CCR § 1427) (consent) (schools under consideration are identified in the meeting materials)**

**Committee Discussion:** Patricia Wynne said she had never heard of a concurrent enrollment program and would like to know how common and where they are.

Mary Ann McCarthy said they are becoming more and more common. It's an agreement between an ADN and BSN program to make a seamless transition. This is similar to a high school student also attending college courses as they progress. This will allow them to complete the program quicker.

Loretta Melby agreed but said there is no map showing this but a map will be developed for the website in the future. The information could be pulled together annually but the data is not readily accessible.

**Motion:** **Jovita Dominguez**                      Motion to Recommend ratification of minor curriculum revisions, clinical agency, or facility approvals, and acknowledge receipt of program progress reports.

**Second:** **Patricia (Tricia) Wynne**

**Public Comment for Agenda Item:** No Public Request for Comment

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>PW</b>
Vote:	Y	Y	Y
<u>Key:</u> Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB			

Motion Passed

1:39 p.m.

**8.4**

**Discussion and possible action regarding whether to recommend approval, acceptance, or other action for approved nursing programs (consent)**

**Continuing approval of prelicensure nursing programs (BPC § 2788; 16 CCR §§ 1423)**

- 8.4.1** California State University San Marcos Baccalaureate Degree Program
- 8.4.2** Chamberlain University-Irwindale Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program
- 8.4.3** Chamberlain University-Rancho Cordova Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program
- 8.4.4** Napa Valley College Associate Degree Nursing Program
- 8.4.5** Palomar College Associate Degree Nursing Program
- 8.4.6** Porterville College Associate Degree Nursing Program
- 8.4.7** Southwestern College Associate Degree Nursing Program

**Prelicensure nursing program curriculum unit adjustment or other changes (16 CCR §§ 1426)**

California State University Channel Islands Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program  
Fresno City College Associate Degree Nursing Program  
Southwestern College Associate Degree Nursing Program

**Discussion and possible action regarding whether to recommend approval of clinical practice experience required for nurse practitioner students enrolled in non-California based nurse practitioner education programs (16 CCR § 1486)**

- 8.4.11** United States University Round Rock, TX

**Committee**

**Discussion:** Patricia Wynne asked if the entire list is being done in one motion but has a few questions.

Mary Ann McCarthy said any items could be pulled out.

Patricia Wynne asked about Chamberlain University on page 22 and how high the attrition rate is.

Loretta Melby said the board has no authority over attrition rates and the information is being shared with the members.

Reza said that information could be pertinent when considering certain types of decisions.

Patricia Wynne thanked him. She then asked about the low NCLEX for Fresno City College.

Mary Ann McCarthy said they have a continuing approval visit in the fall of 2024 and they are preparing all the documentation prior to the visit where the NECs look for compliance with all the regulations related to the nursing program.

Loretta Melby said Fresno City College has identified areas for change and improvement related to their NCLEX scores and are letting the board know.

**Motion: Jovita Dominguez**

Motion to Recommend continuing approval of prelicensure nursing programs, prelicensure nursing program curriculum unit adjustment or other changes, and prelicensure nursing program unit adjustment or other changes (no enrollment increase), discussion and possible action regarding whether to recommend approval of clinical practice experience required for nurse practitioner students enrolled in non-California based nurse practitioner education programs.

**Second: Dolores Trujillo**

Reza asked to clarify the motion for 8.4.1 – 8.4.7 to recommend continuing approval; for 8.4.8 – 8.4.10 to recommend approval of the curriculum unit adjustments or other changes and for 8.4.11 to recommend approval of the university listed to utilize the nurse practitioner students participating in clinicals in California.

**Public Comment for Agenda Item:**

No Public Request for Comment

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>PW</b>
<b>Vote:</b>	Y	Y	Y
<u>Key:</u> Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB			

Motion Passed

1:46 p.m.

8.5

**Discussion and possible action regarding whether to recommend continuing approval or other action for approved nursing program currently on deferred status (BPC § 2788; 16 CCR §§ 1423 & 1423.2) (present)**

Merritt College Associate Degree Nursing Program

**Committee**

**Discussion:**

Dolores Trujillo would like to commend Samuel Merritt for coming into compliance with two of the listed non-compliance issues.

Mary Ann McCarthy let Dolores Trujillo know this is Merritt College not Samuel Merritt.

Jovita Dominguez asked if the program has any hope to hire full time staff anytime soon.

David M. Johnson, school representative, said he is the president of Merritt College and they have hired a new nursing faculty member, pending board approval, as the newest full time faculty member in the nursing department.

Patricia Wynne spoke about the loss of five full time faculty and is happy to hear they hired one as that's a step in the right direction but would like to know what the plan is going forward because it seems like a number of non-compliance issues are related to not having enough instructors.

David Johnson said nursing remains their signature program and a deep commitment to make sure they have everything they need to meet the mark given they have processes they have to follow with a faculty hiring prioritization process at the college. He's fully committed to meeting the needs of the program given the number of students they have. He's very excited about the prospects given they did not enroll students for one year to get their house in order but is very excited they will have a new cohort in the fall of a couple dozen students. He met with them last week and they're eager to get started and the school will provide whatever support they need to take their classes and have the curriculum development in place and the professors in all areas course work is offered to be prepared and safe practitioners once they leave the program.

Loretta Melby said each school has their own curriculum and hours based on the design and they are not compared to one another.

There is no assigned number of faculty. The documentation shows the program is unable to keep up in all areas based on faculty. Based on outcomes the program is not being managed with the resources they have. She listed the continuing noncompliance issues.

**Motion: Jovita Dominguez**

Motion to Recommend Defer taking action on the continuing approval status for Merritt College Associate Degree Nursing Program while they work to clear the area(s) of non-compliance. Recommend quarterly reports to the NEC and return to the ELC/Board in one year (June/August 2025)

Loretta Melby asked about the second motion to specify when the program would return to discuss progress as they cannot be on infinite deferred status.

Mary Ann McCarthy said she could add updates to all meetings without the program appearing before the ELC.

Jovita Dominguez asked if they could return in six months or is quarterly reports more adequate.

Loretta Melby and Mary Ann McCarthy said they could do both.

Loretta Melby said they need to come back to the board in one year and could provide quarterly progress reports. She asked Mary Ann McCarthy if there are other options or examples from the past.

Mary Ann McCarthy said this is not a quick fix to hire faculty because they've heard many times about the difficulty hiring faculty and getting them trained and onboarded. They're also having trouble with their curriculum and total program evaluation which is done every semester with data to make decisions about the program which will take time. She thinks any timeline the members choose is fine but would recommend progress reports in between. If the members choose every six months, then progress reports can be done at the meetings in between.

After Addition of Return Language in Motion:

Loretta Melby said this program is still approved because the board did not put them on warning status with the intent to remove approval. This program has been deferred for one year with various areas they are not in compliance with the law and the members are giving them an additional year to come back into compliance with the law. Because right now they are not following the laws of having an

approved nursing program in California and wants to ensure the board knows this will be two years they have been out of compliance.

Jovita Dominguez said they are aware.

**Second: Patricia (Tricia) Wynne**

**Public Comment for Agenda Item:**

No Public Request for comment.

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>PW</b>
Vote:	Y	Y	Y
<u>Key:</u> Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB			

Motion Passed

2:03 p.m.

8.6

**Discussion and possible action regarding acceptance of substantive changes to an approved program (16 CCR § 1432) (present)**

**8.6.1** Unitek College Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program (enrollment increase)

**Committee**

**Discussion:** Dolores Trujillo asked if they've secured clinical sites for this enrollment increase.

Abdel Yosef, school representative, they have secured 75 new facilities over the last year preparing for this increase in enrollment. They have not increased enrollment at this campus since 2016. When the BRN approved the 500 direct patient care hours it allowed them to add these 40 students within the clinical rotations they currently have because the clinical hours went down in their new curriculum that was recently approved.

Dolores Trujillo asked if they contacted other schools in the area about clinical space and possible impaction.

Abdel said absolutely and they've been working on this since November 2023 and presented this enrollment increase in the HealthImpact Nursing Partnership Consortium meeting in March and May. They communicated with several schools including, Samuel Merritt, College of Marin, San Francisco State University, College of San Mateo, Pacific Union College, San Jose State University, American University, Ohlone College, and Evergreen College. They

also worked with some schools that just added new students to add seats. They've been working with a couple of schools that added seats last year in region 3. They've been very active reaching out and talking to schools about their plan.

Dolores Trujillo asked to clarify that Unitek talked to the schools about their plan to request an enrollment increase.

Abdel confirmed absolutely and they sent an email to all schools within 50 miles and then reached out individually to talk with them. He spoke with the dean at San Jose State University and met with her at the CACN conference to talk about it. Their VP of Academic Clinical Management met with Ohlone College and Evergreen College. As part of their participation with the HealthImpact Academic Practice Partnership meeting they presented it at their meeting and all the schools were there. They have not received any concern or negative feedback. Their strategy is always to collaborate and work with other schools to see what they can do to help them continue teaching because their goal is to increase the number of licensed nurses. If they impact other schools, they will not achieve that goal.

Mary Ann McCarthy referred the committee to page 43 of the packet to see the written documentation provided in the materials.

Patricia Wynne wonders if no one raising a concern is the same as being okay with it. She asked about the NCLEX pass rates being fairly low while asking for an increase in students.

Abdel said the last two years their scores were 84 and 81 but the last quarter was 93%. They have a lot of resources for NCLEX success. They developed the conceptual framework called triangle success where they are dedicated to have NCLEX success coaches in a ratio of students. They always try to stay in 90s and last quarter was 93.

Loretta Melby said the board does not consider quarterly pass rates but is happy to hear it is increasing. She's glad they're looking at the quarterly pass rates and can speak to them. The board looks at annual and the last one is 2022, and 2023. The program is a minimum of two years, and these students were educated during Covid. NCSBN says the pass rate dropped an average of 10% during Covid.

Abdel said the pass rate prior to Covid was 92%.

Loretta Melby said that was the ADN program which is essentially the same nursing content as the BSN.



Abdel agreed. He said they went to 84 and 81 and were monitoring it carefully and added resources and it's working.

Dolores Trujillo said she's inclined to go to public comment before a motion is done on this increase if the members agree.

After Public Comment but before Motion:

Abdel Yosef said the information in the meeting materials was written several months ago and many things happened after the information was written and submitted to the board. He would like Joellen Sutterfield to speak because she is in the consortium meetings and in communication with the schools they worked with. Joellen Sutterfield, school representative, said she appreciates Dr. Rush's information. She spoke with Karen Fongseguard, Director of Clinical Placement, as part of the Greater HealthImpact in recently assisting Samuel Merritt in the Fresno area with the consortium there. They've worked with Samuel Merritt over the years to ensure they all can meet the clinical needs which may have been prior to Dr. Rush's tenure. They helped get Samuel Merritt and other community colleges to join the collaborative and invited eight institutes to the HealthImpact so they would have other schools in the area collaborating to ensure growth for all the programs in the area. If they missed something they will go back but they did speak with Karen, their director of clinical placement who was part of the collaborate and she did mention to Dr. Rush about this when they supported him in the Fresno area.

Patricia Wynne appreciates their intent to speak with as many entities within the system because they're asking to add 40 extra students into an area that staff has suggested is very impacted. In the last two years they've already approved over 300 new students, so the members are very sensitive to clinical placements not disrupting other universities and colleges. When they approve these 40 it feels like a lot especially since the members are not clear on what conversations took place.

Abdel Yosef said region 3 had 249 new students in the past five years and since 2020 there were only 17 seats added at Los Medanos and College of Marin which is about 15 miles away from their Fremont campus. With the drop of clinical hours their curriculum went down about 60 hours per student. There are 300 students enrolled at this campus. When they do the math the number of clinical hours would allow them to accommodate the 40 students without impacting other schools. This is critical and they appreciate the board advocating for the direct patient care hours to help them accommodate more students. Unitek is the largest LVN program in northern California. Most of their students who graduate at LVNs come back and they are

provided scholarship to join the RN program with a pathway for them to become nurses. They have not added any seats at this campus since 2016. In 2019 they shifted the curriculum and did not increase enrollment. Unitek spoke with Samuel Merritt's clinical coordinator and has not heard from any of the programs. Joellen Sutterfield said they utilize their current existing clinical that Fremont has been using without displacement of any program. While they are always looking for new partners, they ensure quality clinical and equity for all. They have not other schools that they have ever displaced, and it is their mission to continue this.

**Motion: Jovita Dominguez**      *Recommend* acceptance of the substantive change(s) requested by an approved program and *approve* the enrollment increase for Unitek College Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program with an enrollment pattern change of 40 students four times per year to 40 students five times per year (resulting in a total annual enrollment of 200 students annually)

Abdel Yosef said this request would cut his enrollment since they already have 40 times 4 for a total of 160 students. There was a discussion about how many students with members and Mary Ann McCarthy. The request is for one additional cohort of 40 students.

Dolores Trujillo asked if there is a consortium in that area. Joellen Sutterfield said it is the HealthImpact Greater Bay Area Academic and Practice Partnership consortium.

**Second: Patricia (Tricia) Wynne**

2:15 p.m.

**Public Comment for Agenda Item:**

Steven Rush, Samuel Merritt – They have programs in Oakland, Sacramento, and San Francisco Peninsula, and will launch their first cohort of students in Fresno. He's concerned that no discussion regarding Unitek's request for enrollment increase and the impact it would have on clinical placements for existing schools has occurred even though it was referenced on page 43 of the agenda that the discussions have occurred. It also says Unitek shared the information about the proposed enrollment increase at the HealthImpact Greater Bay Area Academic Practice Partnership in March 2024 mentioning several schools but their name was mentioned as being in attendance and they were not. But even if they were he's concerned that announcing it at a meeting does not equate to acceptance or discussion with an actual school. He has no evidence this was

presented as stated and wonders if a presentation at a regional meeting constitutes valid discussions and endorsement from the schools that were cited. He cited language on page 43 about the types of contact with the other nursing schools and plans for meetings. He asks the board if planned discussions and meetings suffice for the board's requirements. Samuel Merritt does not support the request because they have not been provided an opportunity to discuss the expansion request with their colleagues at Unitek.

Loretta Melby said the law is vague on schools working in collaboration with other schools and consortiums and would require a regulatory package that would state specifically what is acceptable. The state audit says the board must immediately stop requiring letters of support or non-support from other schools. The board must be careful what they take into consideration without regulation.

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>PW</b>
Vote:	Y	Y	Y
<u>Key:</u> Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB			

Motion Passed

2:39 p.m.

**8.6.2 CNI College Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program (enrollment increase)**

**Committee Discussion:**

Dolores Trujillo's concern is the area CNI is in because of the severe impact of clinical areas available for other schools in that area. Are you asking to increase over 100 per year?

Annabelle Velasco, school representative said they are looking for 24 students five times a year for 120. This would be for evening and weekend classes only.

Dolores Trujillo asked if clinical spaces are still needed.

Annabelle Velasco said they did need spaces.

Dolores Trujillo asked if they worked with the consortium.

Annabelle Velasco said yes and that they would also go to Riverside and San Bernardino County.

Patricia Wynne said Riverside is another impacted clinical area and asked for more details about conversations with some of the other programs.

Annabelle Velasco said an email was sent in July 2022 at the Orange County and Long Beach Consortium among 26 academic members with two of them questioned the impact of clinical placement. She said they will be using the same clinical facilities so it will not greatly impact all other schools. Most of the schools they spoke with requested more students on the weekends. That's why they are opting to do weekends because the students want to work during the day and come to school in the evenings and on weekends. Then they can have a normal family. That's the reason they're asking for 24 students on the evening schedules.

Dolores Trujillo asked if these are students in their cohorts now.

Annabelle Velasco said new students are asking if there is a part time schedule and evenings. They have instructors who have agreed to work on the evenings and weekends so there is no gap with their resources. They want to help the students and the demand and growth.

Dolores Trujillo asked about dedicating one of the cohorts they have now to this schedule.

Annabelle Velasco said they have 100 applicants apply and they must turn away students. They are dedicated and fully committed to help the students. Anabelle, school representative, personally contacts each graduating student to see they succeed and help them get jobs. She's positive their NCLEX pass rate will continue to improve.

Jovita Dominguez and Dolores Trujillo asked to go to public comment prior to making a motion.

After Public Comment:

Patricia Wynne said this is a large request of 120 students in one year in an area that is highly impacted. The members are told that the school has spoken to other programs but there was only one public comment made. She said it's hard for them to assess what's going on and asked if Mary Ann McCarthy could help them out with this.

Mary Ann McCarthy said based on what she sees in the data that is all she can see that's concrete. She said there are reasons why programs speak or don't speak up. She said everyone is trying their best to do their due diligence however, this is a very impacted area, and the board has denied several schools in Orange County, LA, and San Diego areas because of data. She asked if Loretta Melby had more information to add besides data.

Loretta Melby said the members are limited by the law. She's sure Patricia is aware that the board can consider resources, complaints, etc. This school is in good standing with the board. It is only limited by location and the resources in the area. An increase of this many students in this area would be an impact. She spoke about the student to faculty ratios in clinical settings pre-Covid and post-Covid which has lowered and is based on what clinical facilities allow. This requires a great deal of planning to determine impact. Data, public comment, and stakeholders is what can be considered. If you want to defer and wait until the board meeting that is an option. You can consider decreasing the number approved as well.

Mary Ann McCarthy asked if there is data showing who have been denied.

Loretta Melby said there were two feasibilities for Homestead and West Cliff that were in this area and they were asked to look elsewhere. West Coast University was not granted their full request. The next agenda item is for a request in the same area, but they are only asking for 10 additional students.

Mary Ann McCarthy said it's in the same LA area.

Loretta Melby said the next one is for 10 students twice a year. LA is a large area, and these decisions are not easy.

Mary Ann McCarthy agrees with Loretta Melby that you can't just look at one say of public comment but at comments for areas over time because not everybody can come and speak every time they are encouraged to do so. Everyone is always welcome, but she doesn't think it always happens. She doesn't think LA and Orange County have magically opened up.

Dolores Trujillo said the program has existing clinical slots but they will increase those slots for those facilities. She asked how many students are in each cohort, is it 40?

Annabelle Velasco said yes, and they are not using Fountain Valley Hospital as was mentioned in public comment.

Dolores Trujillo said that was an example, but her question is do they have the faculty to take on this number of students.

Annabelle Velasco said yes, and they have 43 faculty members on their staff and 61 facilities that are part of their team that they have contracts with. They have the resources and the reason nobody came to comment is because CNI is a well-known college in the community, and they have a reputation of working with everybody around their schools and hospitals anywhere. They're located in Santa Ana California, and they cater to all types of students with different types of needs. She isn't saying they are different from anyone else, but they're well known in Orange County and Santa Ana. She's passionate about this because they are dedicated and have the resources, facility, and instructors. They aren't taking somebody's space or displacing anybody.

Annabelle Velasco said they would like to provide a flexible option for those students who are working and would like to fulfill their dreams.

Patricia Wynne admires their passion, but they need to be aware of growing a program that another program might be using.

Dolores Trujillo might be more inclined to give them a cohort of 40 for evenings and weekends versus the five at 24. She knows they're passionate and they need to take all the different schools into consideration. She's more than willing to look at an extra cohort but has a hard time accepting another 120 students because it's a large request.

Loretta Melby said adding one cohort is a huge impact because it is another enrollment cycle. This would require more teachers, resources, and classroom space. She would ask the members if they were considering reducing the number they're asking for to consider instead of an additional 24 students five times a year maybe 10 students or 14 students with the same enrollment pattern so it uses the same classroom space and same faculty.

**Motion: Jovita Dominguez**

Recommend acceptance of the substantive change(s) requested by an approved program

and approve the enrollment increase for CNI College Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program with an enrollment pattern of 10 students five times per year (50 students annually).

**Second: Dolores Trujillo**

2:48 p.m.

**Public Comment for Agenda Item:**

Priscilla Greco – She said she has some concerns regarding impacting the schools in the Orange County area. They're very impacted and their program for the fall has been impacted for placements normally at Fountain Valley where they are no longer at Fountain Valley. She doesn't know where their placements have been approved but she wanted to share that they're very impacted and it would be a consideration for the board to look at the schools in the area that will definitely be impacted.

Dolores Trujillo asked what school she's from. Priscilla Greco said she's from Pacific College.

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>PW</b>
Vote:	Y	Y	Y
<u>Key:</u> Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB			

Motion Passed

3:05 p.m.

**8.6.3 Pasadena City College Associate Degree Nursing Program (enrollment increase)**

**Committee Discussion:**

Dolores Trujillo said this is a small increase but assumes there is faculty in place for this increase.

Micah Young, MD, school representative, said they have the staff to support this increase and other approved positions. They are looking to increase staffing full time faculty members in coordination with this increase. Between their full time and part staff, sufficient staff, to accommodate but they will be increasing full time positions available.

**Motion: Jovita Dominguez**

*Recommend* acceptance of the substantive change(s) requested by an approved program and *approve* the enrollment increase for Pasadena City College Associate Degree Nursing Program with an enrollment pattern of an *additional 10 students twice a year (20 students annually)*.

**Second: Patricia (Tricia) Wynne**

**Public Comment for Agenda Item:**

No Public Request for comment.

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>PW</b>
Vote:	Y	Y	Y
<u>Key:</u> Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB			

Motion Passed

3:10 p.m.

8.7

**Discussion and possible action regarding acceptance of substantive changes to an approved nurse practitioner program (present)**

United States University Nurse Practitioner Program (teach out and closure) (16 CCR § 1483.2)

**Committee Discussion:**

**Motion: Jovita Dominguez**

Motion to *Recommend* acceptance of the substantive change(s) requested by an approved program and *approve* the teach-out and closure for United States University Nurse Practitioner Program. *This teach-out closes admissions to the NP program with a projected end date of June 30, 2026.*

**Second: Patricia (Tricia) Wynne**

**Public Comment for Agenda Item:**

No Public Request for comment.



**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>PW</b>
<b>Vote:</b>	Y	Y	Y
<u>Key:</u> Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB			

Motion Passed

3:21 p.m.

8.8

**Discussion and possible action regarding a feasibility study for new prelicensure nursing programs (16 CCR § 1421) (present)**  
Medical Career College Associate Degree Nursing Program

**Committee**

**Discussion:**

Patricia Wynne asked if the school representative can address the impacted region three and help the members proceed through this.

Marilyn Castillo, school representative, said they already have a substantial number of clinical facilities who are willing to help accept their students and other pending clinical sites that will accept their future students. It will not displace any other students from other colleges. The facilities who have agreed said there are no other schools training in their facilities. They attended a consortium last February and she met with the five colleges included Unitek, Mission College, Cal State East Bay, Carrington, and San Joaquin Valley and all are willing to collaborate with them for this program to come to fruition.

Patricia Wynne asked Loretta Melby how the members are supposed to consider these requests when all the programs come forward saying there's no displacement in highly impacted areas.

Loretta Melby said this is difficult for staff and legislators' perspectives as well. There is no statewide consortium but there is a bill going through the current legislative session to get data to publish approved clinical placement information on the website possibly as soon as the end of the year. This additional data could help alleviate some of these issues, but you don't have it available for consideration now. The schools speak with different people at the facilities like Kaiser at a single location but do not know what's happening at other Kaiser locations. There's a difference between a contract and actual placement. Many healthcare facilities will sign a contract, but they don't schedule the students for placement, or a facility may only schedule a school for one year and then the slots are lost the next year. A lot of schools were approved in Ontario and Riverside and now that area is becoming impacted. We haven't heard a lot from Fremont or Fresno, but these enrollment increases will start affecting

those areas. Then they will have to move to other areas which may not be a bad thing. The board addresses regional impact and not state impact. Until you hear feedback from partner schools in those specific areas saying that are being negatively affected then you won't know it. There is no jurisdiction over any healthcare facilities and cannot get actual data. The facilities will have to report to HCAI if the legislative bill is approved and becomes law. Medical Career College says they have support and they have MA and CNA programs, so they have active clinical partnerships. There hasn't been a lot of growth in region three over the last five years. This region may be able to accommodate additional growth.

Jovita Dominguez chose to go to Public Comment prior to making a motion.

After Public Comment:

Dolores Trujillo asked Loretta Melby what the options are for a feasibility study.

Loretta Melby said the same, accept, defer, deny. She said if this is accepted then all they must do is come into compliance with the rules and regulations and then can start. There's no way to slow the process after that has occurred. Deferring would allow additional information to be gathered. She spoke about the summits held in 2015 or 2016 and a report was written by HealthImpact. Suggestions from the summit are starting to happen. The programs have grown exponentially over the past three years which is something that has never been done before.

**Motion: Jovita Dominguez**

Motion to defer action on the feasibility study of the new prelicensure program requested by Medical Career College Associate Degree Nursing Program with a recommendation to look at an alternative location in a less impacted area and return to the board no later than one year in August 2025.

Loretta Melby asked for guidance for the school, so they are not permanently deferred.

Jovita Dominguez asked if they could ask the school to provide letters from the different nursing programs. Loretta Melby said the state auditor said that cannot be done.

Reza said the school could provide general evidence in whatever form the school can, whether it's their own further discussion that can address the concern over clinical space while not specifically asking

for letters from other schools but generally noting the concern is the availability of clinical space in this area.

Jovita Dominguez asked if this could be brought to the board meeting.

Loretta Melby said you need to ask them for specific information and provide a return date.

Mary Ann McCarthy asked the members to look at the information provided starting on page 76 at the last paragraph. She said the NEC needs to know what information you want gathered beyond what they've already provided.

Marilyn Castillo said the documents submitted from the clinical facilities were signed by the Director of Nursing which is evidence they are willing to accept them.

Mary Ann McCarthy said she thinks the members are talking about the schools not the facilities. She also said that not all documentation submitted by the program is included in the meeting materials but was summarized for the members.

Loretta Melby said the recommendation 8 from the California State Auditor says, "to ensure the BRN is using up to date accurate and objective information to inform the governing boards enrollment decisions and to assess clinical capacity for student placements by April 1, 2021, BRN should do the following: immediately discontinue its practice of having nursing programs seek statements of support or opposition from neighboring nursing programs when considering requests for new programs or increased enrollment at existing programs." This was from the State Auditor's recommendations and is taken seriously. The board fully implemented the recommendation. It doesn't mean the board can't change that, but they must notice the California State Auditor that this is something you're seeing and there's a need for and be able to continue to do it. It is not law, and the board is not violating anything by doing this.

Patricia Wynne asked how much work it would be for the NEC to informally contact the schools to do this.

Mary Ann McCarthy said they aren't allowed to do this.

Loretta Melby said it isn't in the job requirements for the NECs. The board asked the NECs previously and it became a workload issue, so it was put on the schools and then the State Auditor came back with the recommendation.

Dolores Trujillo said she's hesitant for this feasibility study.

Loretta Melby said the program needs clear direction on what they need to provide.

Patricia Wynne asked if they could ask them to look at another area.

Dolores Trujillo said the school could talk with the other schools to see if the clinical space is available.

Loretta Melby said this program did that and then some. She read from the AIS saying this program created a consortium to meet with the surrounding nursing programs. This can be deferred to the board without any action. They can be deferred to next year and there might be some data. She also said the program could relocate.

Marilyn Castillo asked about the public commenter. A discussion was had about where San Joaquin is with Mary Ann McCarthy, Loretta Melby and Marilyn Castillo.

Loretta Melby said the committee is asking the program to look in another area with less or no impactation.

Reza said this is does not deny the request in this area but asking them to look at another area. If the school decides they don't want to relocate then there is lingering concern if the new students would cause displacement of other students. The program should be prepared to address the concerns brought up today with displacement and impactation. He said the documentation a school provides is helpful but if another program has an issue, then they have a responsibility to come speak up with evidence to support their concerns.

Marilyn Castillo asked if she would have to physically move from their current physical location to move forward with this feasibility study.

Loretta Melby and Reza said that is not necessary or required.

Loretta Melby said the assigned NEC can work with Marilyn to go over this request.

Reza said the current motion is to defer action, so it is not approved or denied. The request is to consider a location in a less impacted area. But if the school does not want to do this then the school can

come back and present information showing how this request in its current form would not cause displacement.

**Second: Patricia (Tricia) Wynne**

**3:31 p.m.**

**Public Comment for Agenda Item:**

Lisa Lucchesi – She appreciates the time taken to mention all the issues today. She’s next to region three and can speak to the fact Fremont frequently comes into the San Joaquin valley. She’s from San Joaquin Delta College. She asks the board to consider the surrounding areas that are impacted by programs in the bay area.

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>PW</b>
Vote:	Y	Y	Y
<u>Key:</u> Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB			

Motion Passed

**3:59 p.m.**

**8.9**

**Adjourn**

➤ Jovita Dominguez, Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.

**Submitted by:**



**Loretta Melby, MSN, RN**  
Executive Officer  
California Board of Registered Nursing

**Accepted by:**



**Jovita Dominguez, BSN, RN**  
President  
California Board of Registered Nursing