

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

Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Start Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: The Education/Licensing Committee meeting was held via remote access in accordance with Government Code section 11123.5. All Committee members present participated remotely.

9:31 a.m.

1.0

Call to order, roll call, and establishment of a quorum

Chairperson Jovita Dominguez, BSN, RN, called the Education/Licensing Committee meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. Roll call was conducted. The following Committee members were present:

Committee Jovita Dominguez, BSN, RN-Chair

Members: Patricia "Tricia" Wynne, Esq.
Dolores Trujillo, RN

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

A quorum was established at 9:32 a.m. Dr. Mary Ann McCarthy was designated to lead the meeting proceedings.

9:32 a.m.

2.0

General instructions for the format of a teleconference meeting

The BRN Moderator provided instructions regarding the conduct of the teleconference meeting. The Moderator explained the use of **WebEx/Slido** for facilitating public comment, including:

- Activation of the question-and-answer feature at designated points in the agenda.
- Instructions for members of the public to indicate their desire to comment by typing "I would like to make a comment" into the question box.
- The process for unmuting participants to provide verbal comment.
- Clarification that the Q&A feature is used solely to signal interest in making verbal comment.

- A reminder that Committee members cannot discuss items not on the agenda.
- A request that Committee members and BRN staff mute their microphones when not speaking; the Moderator may mute microphones if background noise is detected.

The Moderator also noted that on-site public comment would be queried at BRN Headquarters.

9:34 a.m.

3.0

Public comment for items not on the agenda; items for future agendas

Public Comment for Agenda Item

3.0:

Juan Fernandez, a board-certified RN and APRN and co-founder of Vitalink Telehealth, addressed the Committee to express concerns about his Nurse Practitioner Furnishing Number application, which he stated has remained deficient since September 2025. He described extensive efforts to contact the BRN—including phone calls, emails, and traveling from Florida to California—without receiving assistance. Mr. Fernandez explained that his fingerprints were completed in February and his transcripts were sent twice, yet the deficiency persists, causing significant financial and personal hardship. He characterized the lack of communication as unprofessional and stated that he may escalate the matter to legal or governmental authorities if it remains unresolved. He noted that he was only able to join the meeting because of an automatic email response he received and emphasized that many applicants without technical expertise would struggle to navigate the process.

Executive Officer **Loretta Melby** responded that she received two emails from Mr. Fernandez that morning and immediately forwarded them to the Licensing Unit for review. She stated she had not received prior emails and explained that BRN firewalls block messages containing protected personal information, which may have prevented earlier communication from reaching her. Ms. Melby clarified that BRN cannot issue any license until fingerprints are cleared by both DOJ and FBI, and that out-of-state applicants must complete fingerprinting through hard cards or in California due to DOJ requirements. She confirmed that Licensing staff would respond to Mr. Fernandez the same day and advised him that he may continue contacting her directly and attend any public BRN meeting. She reiterated that the deficiency must be resolved before BRN can proceed with his application.

9:46 a.m.

4.0

Review and vote on whether to approve previous meeting minutes

4.1 February 11, 2026

Committee Discussion: Committee Chair **Jovita Dominguez**, opened the item and asked Committee Members whether they had any changes or concerns regarding the draft minutes.

Committee Member **Patricia Wynne** raised a question regarding page 7 of the minutes, noting that a vote appeared to be recorded under the public comment section where she believed no motion had been made. After reviewing the document, Ms. Wynne acknowledged that she had misread the section and confirmed that the minutes were accurate as written.

Committee Member **Dolores Trujillo** concurred with Ms. Wynne's clarification.

Motion: **Patricia Wynne:** *Motion to Accept* ELC Meeting Minutes from February 11, 2026, and allow BRN Staff to make non-substantive changes to correct name misspellings and/or typos that may be discovered in the document.

Second: **Dolores Trujillo**

Public Comment for Agenda Item 4.1: **Jesse Turtis** requested to speak but indicated that his comment pertained to Agenda Item 6.0.

Executive Officer **Loretta Melby** informed him that public comment for Item 6.0 would occur when that agenda item was reached.

Mr. Turtis yielded his time.

No additional public comments were received online or in person.

Vote:

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

Motion Passed

9:51 a.m.

5.0

9:51 a.m.

5.1 Discussion and possible action regarding whether to recommend approval of the proposed curriculum revisions and clinical facilities and to acknowledge the receipt of program progress reports

Staff Liaison **Mary Ann McCarthy** presented the item and summarized Board policy regarding curriculum changes, clinical facility approvals, and progress report submissions. She noted that nursing education consultants may review curriculum changes that do not significantly alter program philosophy, objectives, or content, and that programs may implement such changes prior to Board approval. She further stated that programs must obtain Board approval before utilizing any clinical agency or facility and must demonstrate that each facility provides appropriate clinical learning experiences aligned with program outcomes. All requests listed under Agenda Item 5.1 were reviewed by BRN staff, and supporting documentation was included in the Committee's materials packet. These items were presented as consent agenda items.

Prelicensure Curriculum Changes requested by:

Colleges: Cabrillo College, Glendale Community College, Los Angeles City College, Los Medanos College, Mendocino College, Monterey Peninsula College, Sacramento City College, Santa Rosa Junior College

Universities: University of San Francisco (BSN, ELM),

Clinical Facility Approvals requested by:

Colleges: College of the Canyons, College of the Redwoods, College of San Mateo, College of the Siskiyous-Yreka, Cypress College, DeAnza College, Los Angeles City College, Madera Community College, Merced Community College, MiraCosta College, Moorpark College, Palo Verde College, Saddleback College, Santa Rosa Junior College, Solano College

Universities: Saint Mary's College of California, American University of Health Sciences, California State University East Bay, California State University Bakersfield, California State University Fullerton, Gurnick Academy of Medical Arts San Jose, Pepperdine University (ELM, BSN), Samuel Merritt University, Sonoma State University, University of California Irvine, University of San Francisco, Westcliff University, West Coast University

Progress Reports regarding:

Colleges: Cabrillo College, Copper Mountain Community College, Golden West College, Imperial Valley College, Pacific College, Pasadena City College, Santa Rosa Junior College

Universities: California State University Channel Islands, California State University Chico, California State University East Bay, California State University San Bernardino, San Francisco State University

Advanced Practice (Nurse Practitioner): California State University, Dominguez Hills, University of San Diego, University of San Francisco, Western University of Health Sciences

Committee Discussion: Committee Chair **Dominguez** asked whether Committee Members had questions regarding Item 5.1.

Committee Member **Patricia Wynne** stated she had no questions and recommended approval of all curriculum revisions, clinical facility requests, and progress reports listed under Item 5.1.

Committee Member **Dolores Trujillo** indicated she was willing to second the motion.

Motion: **Patricia Wynne** moved to recommend approval of all proposed curriculum revisions, clinical facility approvals, and acknowledgment of receipt of program progress reports for the programs listed under Agenda Item 5.1.

Second: **Dolores Trujillo**

**Public Comment
for Agenda Item
5.1:**

No members of the public requested to comment online or in person.

Vote:

	JD	DT	PW
	Y	Y	Y
Key: Yes: Y No: N Abstain: A Absent for Vote: AB			

Motion Passed

9:54 a.m.

5.2 Discussion and possible action regarding whether to recommend continuing approval of approved nursing programs

Staff Liaison **Mary Ann McCarthy** presented the item and stated that the continuing approval requests under Agenda Items 5.2.1 through 5.2.5 were for prelicensure nursing programs. She reported that BRN staff had received and reviewed all required documentation from the programs listed, and that each program met all Board rules and regulations related to continuing approval. Supporting materials were included in the Committee's packet. These items were presented as consent agenda items.

Prelicensure nursing programs

5.2.1 California State University East Bay Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program

5.2.2 Mount St Mary's University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program

- 5.2.3** Los Angeles Harbor College Associate Degree Nursing Program
- 5.2.4** Los Angeles Pierce College Associate Degree Nursing Program
- 5.2.5** Merritt College Associate Degree Nursing Program

Committee Discussion: Committee Chair **Dominguez** asked whether Committee Members had any questions regarding Item 5.2.

Committee Members **Patricia Wynne** and **Dolores Trujillo** indicated they had no questions.

Motion: **Jovita Dominguez** moved to recommend continuing approval of the prelicensure nursing programs listed under Items 5.2.1 through 5.2.5.

Second: **Patricia Wynne**

Public Comment for Agenda Item(s) 5.21-5.2.5: No members of the public requested to comment online or in person.

Vote:

	JD	DT	PW
Vote:	Y	Y	Y
Key: Yes: Y No: N Abstain: A Absent for Vote: AB			

Motion Passed

9:56 a.m. **6.0** *(Items for consideration within this agenda number were be presented to the committee members for discussion and voted upon individually.)*

6.1 Discussion and possible action to make a recommendation to the Board regarding outstanding compliance issues

6.1.1 Pasadena City College Associate Degree Nursing Program

Staff Liaison **Mary Ann McCarthy**, presented the item and reported that Pasadena City College (PCC) is experiencing significant compliance issues related to the Board’s ongoing oversight and approval process. She summarized that beginning in January 2025, the Nursing Education Consultant (NEC) met regularly with program administration to prepare for a routine continuing approval visit scheduled for March 26, 2026. By November 2025, the Program Director informed the NEC that she was unable to administer the program in accordance with BRN regulations due to restrictions imposed by the Dean, and that she could not provide required documentation for either the BRN visit or the ACEN accreditation self-study.

BRN leadership subsequently met with college administration and the approved Program Director. During that meeting, the Dean stated that the Program Director could not function according to BRN regulations because she was classified as faculty rather than administration. This resulted in a breakdown of required reporting structures, exclusion of the Program Director from key decision-making, and an inability of BRN staff to obtain necessary documentation. The NEC later identified 21 areas of non-compliance, largely stemming from improper program administration and the absence of a functioning BRN-approved Program Director.

Executive Officer **Loretta Melby** provided extensive context regarding the regulatory role of the Program Director, the impact of administrative interference, and the seriousness of the compliance failures. She noted that PCC had previously been in full compliance during its last continuing approval visit, and that the current issues appear to have arisen following changes in campus administration. She reported that as of the prior Friday, PCC had hired and onboarded a BRN-approved Program Director, and campus leadership had presented an action plan to address deficiencies. BRN staff anticipate the need for a second continuing approval visit, which is atypical and represents a significant expenditure on staff time and resources.

Committee Discussion: Committee Member **Dolores Trujillo** asked whether students were currently enrolled in the program.

Executive Officer **Melby** confirmed that students are enrolled and described the negative impact on students and faculty, including clinical scheduling delays, communication issues, and administrative barriers.

Trujillo asked whether there was a timeline to correct the 21 areas of non-compliance.

Melby clarified that the Board is not yet discussing the 21 areas because BRN staff were unable to access required documentation. She emphasized that the larger concern is the breakdown in BRN oversight and regulatory compliance around appropriate program administration.

Committee Member **Patricia Wynne** expressed strong concern regarding the seriousness of the issues described in the staff report and the prolonged lack of cooperation from PCC. She stated she was unhappy with the situation and deeply concerned about the number of students affected.

Laura Ramirez (Program Representative), Vice President of Instruction, stated that the college is also concerned and has taken steps to improve communication and compliance, including hiring a new Program Director. She committed to providing updates at every Committee and Board meeting.

Joyce Mingo (Program Representative), Assistant Program Director, reported that approximately 270–300 students are currently enrolled. She described the program’s historically high NCLEX pass rates and expressed dedication to restoring the program’s prior standing.

Carol Freedman (Program Representative), newly hired Program Director, described her background and outlined immediate steps being taken, including restructuring clinical placements, addressing faculty issues, improving lab and simulation resources, and reviewing curriculum for consistency and cohesion. She acknowledged the program’s non-compliance and stated her commitment to correcting deficiencies.

Trujillo asked for clarification regarding clinical issues.

Melby explained that delays in scheduling clinical placements resulted in onboarding delays and late starts at clinical facilities. She emphasized that the root cause was administrative misalignment and the absence of a BRN-approved Program Director.

Wynne asked McCarthy whether any action was required from the Committee at this meeting.

McCarthy stated that no immediate action was required, but full cooperation from PCC is essential for BRN staff to verify compliance.

Melby recommended that the Committee require PCC to return to every ELC and Board meeting for the foreseeable future to provide progress updates.

Motion: **Patricia Wynne moved** to recommend that Pasadena City College return to each ELC and Board meeting with progress reports until otherwise directed.

Second: **Dolores Trujillo**

**Public Comment
for Agenda Item
6.1.1**

Jesse Turits, RN, alumnus of PCC and student advocate, provided extensive public comment expressing serious concerns about the program. He described longstanding issues including lack of essential educational equipment, mold-contaminated simulation materials, unclear financial accountability, intimidation and retaliation toward students, and unsafe clinical situations. He stated that concerns have been repeatedly raised without resolution and urged the Board to take action.

Following public comment, Executive Officer Melby, with Committee approval, announced that public comment would be limited to two minutes for the remainder of the meeting.

Vote:

	JD	DT	PW
Vote:	Y	Y	Y
Key: Yes: Y No: N Abstain: A Absent for Vote: AB			

Motion Passed

10:47 a.m.

6.2 Discussion and possible action to make a recommendation to the Board regarding prelicensure nursing programs in non-compliance

6.2.1 Los Angeles City College Associate Degree Nursing Program (non-compliance one year following a BRN continuing approval visit)

Staff Liaison **Mary Ann McCarthy** presented the item and reported that Los Angeles City College (LACC) underwent a continuing approval visit in November 2024 and was found in non-compliance. In May 2025, the Board deferred action for one year to allow the program time to work with the NEC, submit quarterly reports, and return to the ELC and Board if non-compliance remained unresolved. LACC returned one year later with unresolved areas of non-compliance related to resources under 16 CCR 1424(d) and 1424(h), including faculty sufficiency, library and support services, physical space, equipment, technology, and adequate faculty to implement the program.

Committee Discussion: Committee Member **Patricia Wynne** stated she was impressed by the steps taken and was inclined to allow additional time if needed.

Mary Ann McCarthy noted that BRN staff appreciate the program's adjustments, including reducing enrollment to match available faculty resources.

Committee Member **Dolores Trujillo** requested to hear directly from the school regarding their timeline for achieving compliance.

Dr. Sophia Khan (Program Representative), President of Academic Affairs, stated that the college is committed to investing in faculty and resources, with plans to hire two full-time faculty by Fall 2026, enabling the program to comfortably support 30 students. She emphasized the college's long-term goal of returning to its approved enrollment of 50 students once resources are restored.

Shari Ayoub (Program Representative), Director of Nursing, described the program’s full commitment to compliance, noting strong administrative support and collaborative efforts among faculty and staff. She stated that while a timeline exists, several variables affect progress. She reported that full-time clerical support has been restored and projected cautiously that the program may reach an enrollment of 40 students by Fall 2027.

Motion: **Jovita Dominguez** moved to recommend deferring action on the continuing approval status for Los Angeles City College Associate Degree Nursing Program; allow the program additional time to clear areas of non-compliance; require the program to return to the ELC and Board in one year, with quarterly reports submitted to the assigned NEC.

Second: **Patricia Wynne**

Public Comment for Agenda Item 6.2.1: No public comments were received online or in person.

Vote:

	JD	DT	PW
	Y	Y	Y
Key: Yes: Y No: N Abstain: A Absent for Vote: AB			

Motion Passed

11:01 a.m.

6.2.2 Charles Drew University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program (2-year average NCLEX pass rate less than 75%)

Staff Liaison **Mary Ann McCarthy** reported that Charles Drew University (CDU) underwent a joint continuing approval visit with BRN and its accrediting body in September 2024. The program was found in non-compliance due to a two-year average NCLEX pass rate below 75% for first-time test takers. In February 2025, the Board deferred action to allow the program time to improve pass rates. CDU returned with a second consecutive year below 75%.

Committee Discussion: Committee Member **Patricia Wynne** expressed concern about students paying for an education they may not be able to complete or successfully pass the NCLEX. She requested that program representatives address both attrition and NCLEX outcomes.

Michael Thompson (Program Representative), stated that he and the Dean are relatively new and are reviewing attrition data. He noted that recent attrition was primarily due to leaves of absence for financial or personal hardship. He committed to providing more detailed data to the NEC.

Mary Ann McCarthy clarified that attrition data for BSN and ELM students is combined in the report and that BRN will request separated data moving forward. She noted that only the 2024–2025 year showed elevated attrition.

Executive Officer **Loretta Melby** emphasized that while CDU serves underserved communities, BRN regulations require programs to provide adequate support for all admitted students. She stated that demographic factors cannot be used to justify high attrition; programs must provide resources to ensure student success.

Thompson stated that CDU has implemented a Director of Student Success and Affairs to help identify and address student needs.

Committee Member **Trujillo** asked how long it typically takes to see improvement in NCLEX pass rates.

Melby explained that NCLEX is a latent indicator, and substantive improvement may take two to three years, as changes implemented now will not affect NCLEX outcomes until future cohorts test.

Motion: **Patricia Wynne** moved to recommend deferring taking action on the continuing approval status for Charles Drew University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program; allow the program time to clear areas of non-compliance; require the program to return to the ELC and Board in one year, with quarterly reports submitted to the assigned NEC.

Second: **Jovita Dominguez**

Public Comment for Agenda Item 6.2.2: **Leah Korkis**, Director of Clinical Education and Nursing Excellence, USC Verdugo Hills Hospital, spoke in support of CDU, expressing confidence in the program’s leadership and readiness to partner with CDU.

Anitra Williams expressed appreciation for Executive Officer Melby’s comments regarding demographic considerations and the responsibility of academic institutions to support all admitted students.

Vote:

	JD	DT	PW
	Y	Y	Y
Key: Yes: Y No: N Abstain: A Absent for Vote: AB			

Motion Passed

11:17 a.m.

A brief break was taken. The meeting was reconvened at 11:25 a.m., and quorum was re-established with all Committee members present.

11:25 a.m.

6.3 Discussion and possible action to make a recommendation to the Board regarding a request for an enrollment increase for an approved prelicensure nursing program

Staff Liaison **Mary Ann McCarthy** presented the item and reported that San Joaquin Delta College requested an enrollment increase for its Associate Degree Nursing Program. The program currently enrolls 60 traditional students in the Fall and 90 students in the Spring, for an annual enrollment of 150 students. The proposed enrollment pattern would maintain 60 traditional students in the Fall and increase Spring enrollment to 100 students (40 traditional and 60 Fast Track/HOPE students), resulting in a total annual enrollment of 160 students.

11:26 a.m.

REGION 4 Northern San Joaquin Valley

6.3.1 San Joaquin Delta College Associate Degree Nursing Program (enrollment increase)

Committee Discussion: Committee Member **Dolores Trujillo** voiced her support for the proposed increase.

Committee Member **Patricia Wynne** also expressed support, noting the program's innovation and responsiveness to community needs.

Motion: **Jovita Dominguez** moved to recommend acceptance of the enrollment increase for an approved prelicensure Associate Degree Nursing Program San Joaquin Delta College as follows: 60 traditional students every Fall(unchanged) and 100 students in the Spring (40 traditional; 60 Fast Track/HOPE); for a total annual enrollment of 160 students.

Second: **Patricia Wynne**

Public Comment for Agenda Item 6.3.1: **Anitra Williams**, adjunct faculty at San Joaquin Delta College, spoke in support of the program and commended the leadership of the dean and faculty for providing strong support structures for students, including those with lower GPAs or full-time work obligations.

Vote:

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

Motion Passed

11:31 a.m.

6.3.2 West Coast University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program (enrollment increase on the Ontario and Orange County campuses)

Staff Liaison **Mary Ann McCarthy** presented the item and reported that West Coast University requested enrollment increases for its Ontario (Region 7) and Orange County (Region 9) campuses. West Coast University underwent a joint continuing approval visit in Spring 2024 and was deemed in full compliance in November 2024.

The current enrollment pattern is 192 students, five times per year per campus (960 annually). The proposed pattern is 202 students, five times per year per campus, an increase of 10 students per cohort and 50 students annually per campus. The Los Angeles campus remains unchanged at 192 students per cohort.

Committee Discussion: Committee Member **Trujillo** asked administrators what assistance is offered to students who do not pass first-year general education coursework, noting the high tuition cost and potential debt burden.

Committee Member **Wynne** echoed concerns regarding attrition rates and student financial impact.

Chiarina Piazza (Program Representative), described the program's retention resources, academic and non-academic support services, NCLEX preparation, and pathways for students who withdraw or fall out of sequence. She stated that students who do not progress may pursue other bachelor's programs at West Coast University and may receive tuition reductions. She noted she could not speak to refund policies for general education students, as she does not oversee the pre-nursing program.

Committee members asked additional questions regarding transfer credit acceptance, clinical placement capacity, and attrition reporting.

Executive Officer **Melby** clarified regulatory requirements for accepting nursing transfer credit and confirmed West Coast University is in compliance. She also explained how BRN evaluates enrollment patterns and completion data.

Motion: **Jovita Dominguez** moved to recommend acceptance of the enrollment increase for an approved prelicensure Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program West Coast University for both their Ontario and Orange County campuses as follows: Ontario Campus – 202 students, five times per year (increase of 10 students per cohort; 50 annually) to equal 1,010 students

annually; Orange County Campus – 202 students, five times per year (increase of 10 students per cohort; 50 annually) to equal 1,010 students annually; Los Angeles Campus remains unchanged at 192 students, five times per year (960 annually)

Second: Patricia Wynne

**Public
Comment for
Agenda Item
6.3.2:**

No public comments were received online or in person.

Vote:

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

Motion Passed

11:59 a.m.

6.4 Discussion and possible action to make a recommendation to the Board regarding a request to grant acceptance of a feasibility study for a new prelicensure nursing program

REGION 2 North Coast

11:59 a.m.

6.4.1 Pacific Union College Associate Degree Nursing Program (secondary site, Ukiah)

Staff Liaison **Mary Ann McCarthy** reported that Pacific Union College would not be presenting and that no materials were included in the packet.

Executive Officer **Loretta Melby** clarified that the item had been incorrectly agendized as a new campus location. Upon review, the request reflected a continuation of a previously approved arrangement tied to an earlier enrollment increase and clinical partnership. As there was no change to the previously approved structure, the item was removed from the agenda.

REGION 10 Southern Border

12:00 p.m.

6.4.2 Chamberlain University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program (secondary site, Carlsbad)

Staff Liaison **McCarthy** presented the item and reported that Chamberlain University submitted a feasibility study requesting approval of an alternate prelicensure BSN program site in Carlsbad, California. The proposed enrollment pattern is 40 students, three times per year, for an annual enrollment of 120 students.

Committee Discussion: Committee Member **Dolores Trujillo** expressed concern regarding the availability of OB and pediatric clinical sites in the Carlsbad/San Diego region and asked whether such sites had been secured.

Kacie Spencer (Program Representative) stated that OB and pediatric sites had been established.

Ami Patel (Program Representative) added that the university continues to develop additional partnerships and outlined existing sites, including Memorial Hospital and Community Hospital of San Bernardino, as well as pediatric placements through Maxim Healthcare.

Committee Members raised concerns about the distance and feasibility of these placements:

Trujillo questioned the appropriateness of sending Carlsbad-based students to distant sites such as Glendale or San Bernardino, citing fatigue and safety concerns.

Patricia Wynne emphasized that a 50-mile commute in Southern California traffic can equate to hours of travel, making the proposed clinical model unrealistic for approval at the feasibility stage.

Chamberlain representatives stated that the university serves a commuter student population and that clinical placements are often aligned with students' home locations rather than the campus. They noted that additional clinical development would continue as enrollment patterns emerge.

Executive Officer **Melby** provided extensive context regarding: the scarcity of OB and pediatric clinical sites in San Diego County, including closures of prior OB units and saturation of pediatric placements at Rady Children's Hospital; historical challenges faced by other programs attempting to operate in the region; the requirement under EDP-1 that feasibility studies demonstrate evidence of available clinical placements for all required specialties; the inconsistency between Chamberlain's feasibility study (which identifies a need in Carlsbad) and the program's stated reliance on distant clinical sites.

Melby outlined potential options for the Committee:

- Deferring the item to the full Board for further discussion.
- Considering a reduced enrollment if the program can demonstrate adequate specialty placements.

- Exploring an LVN-to-RN step-up model, which may not require OB or pediatric rotations—but noted that such a change would require a rewrite of multiple feasibility sections and could not be completed in time for the June Board meeting.

Committee Members acknowledged the complexity and expressed concern about approving a feasibility study without clear, local OB and pediatric clinical resources.

Trujillo asked whether pediatric home-health placements through Maxim Healthcare include clinical instructors.

Patel explained that faculty oversight varies and may include rotation or remote supervision, with RN oversight always required.

Melby clarified BRN requirements for faculty presence and non-faculty RN supervision.

Wynne asked Chamberlain to articulate their preferred path forward.

Chamberlain representatives reiterated their commitment to developing additional sites and stated they could adjust enrollment or explore LVN-to-RN options if directed.

Motion: **Jovita Dominguez** moved to defer action on Chamberlain University’s feasibility study request and forward the item to the full Board in June for further discussion.

Second: **Dolores Trujillo**

Public Comment for Agenda Item 6.4.2: **Rebekah Child**, Program Director, CSU Northridge, expressed concern about the impact on existing programs if Chamberlain relies on clinical sites in Glendale.

Leah Korkis, USC Verdugo Hills Hospital, noted that BRN monitors attrition closely and stated that Chamberlain has demonstrated flexibility in addressing concerns.

Indiana McClellan reiterated concerns about student commute distances and the risk of burnout.

Vote:

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

Motion Passed

12:55 p.m.

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

Staff Liaison **Mary Ann McCarthy** presented the item and summarized the program's history before the Committee. In October 2025, the ELC deferred action on American Sentinel College's (ASC) request for approval of clinical practice experiences in California for nurse practitioner (NP) students enrolled in its out-of-state programs. The deferral allowed BRN staff time to gather additional information requested by the Committee.

In March 2026, ASC returned with updated materials. All programs except ASC were approved at that time, and ASC was asked to provide further clarification regarding enrollment numbers. ASC subsequently updated its enrollment figures, which appear on page 119 of the packet.

Staff reported that ASC has provided evidence of compliance with 16 CCR § 1486, including:

- Verification that students have successfully completed prerequisite coursework;
- Confirmation that students are enrolled in a non-California-based NP program;
- Documentation demonstrating compliance with all Board rules and regulations related to out-of-state NP clinical placements.

6.5.1 American Sentinel College Waterbury, CT

Committee Discussion: Executive Officer **Loretta Melby** noted that ASC significantly reduced its requested enrollment numbers to reflect actual current student populations rather than projected growth:

- Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP): reduced from 275 to 172
- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care NP (AGACNP): reduced from 75 to 13
- Psychiatric-Mental Health NP (PMHNP): reduced from 250 to 0

Melby added that ASC partners with Kaiser Permanente and anticipates future demand for PMHNP placements. ASC expressed interest in adding PMHNP students immediately.

Kimberly (Program Representative) asked whether the program could begin admitting PMHNP students now.

Melby clarified that ASC must request a specific enrollment number for PMHNP in order for the Committee to consider approval.

ASC provided a revised request of 120 PMHNP students annually, based on admitting approximately 20 students every eight weeks.

Melby confirmed that the updated enrollment request would be incorporated into the materials forwarded to the Board. Melby also referenced Issue 20 of the BRN’s Sunset Review Report, noting national concerns regarding out-of-state NP programs placing students in California clinical sites. She emphasized that while some states (e.g., Tennessee) have imposed moratoria, California has not, and ASC’s request meets current regulatory criteria.

Motion: **Jovita Dominguez** moved to recommend approval of the non-California-based nurse practitioner education programs requesting clinical placements for students in California clinical practice settings for the tracks and enrollment numbers listed in the corresponding table for this agenda item, including an amendment to the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner track to change the enrollment number from 0 to 120.

Second: Patricia Wynne

Public Comment for Agenda Item 6.5.1:

None

Vote:

	JD	DT	PW
Vote:	Y	Y	Y
Key: Yes: Y No: N Abstain: A Absent for Vote: AB			

Motion Passed

1:07 p.m.

7.0

Adjournment

➤ Chairperson Jovita Dominguez adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by:

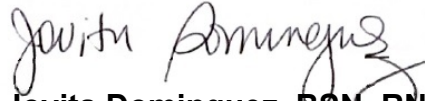
Accepted by:



Loretta Melby, MSN, RN

Executive Officer

California Board of Registered Nursing



Jovita Dominguez, BSN, RN

Chairperson, Education/Licensing Committee

California Board of Registered Nursing

Please Note: BRN staff prepared these meeting minutes with the assistance of artificial intelligence and conducted a full review to ensure completeness and accuracy.