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

Date: October 5, 2023

**9:00 a.m. Start Time:** 9:00 a.m.

Location: NOTE: Pursuant to the provisions of Government Code section 11133 a

physical meeting location was not being provided.

The Board of Registered Nursing held a public meeting via a

teleconference platform.

#### October 5, 2023 - 9:00 a.m. BRN Education/Licensing Committee Meeting

9:00 a.m. 8.0 Call to order/roll call/establishment of a quorum.

Jovita Dominguez, BSN, RN, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at: 9:00 a.m. All members present, except for Mary Fagan. Quorum was

established at 9:01 a.m.

Committee Jovita Dominguez, BSN, RN-Chair

Members Dolores Trujillo, RN

**Present:** Patricia "Tricia" Wynne, Esq.

Absent: Mary Fagan, PhD, RN, NEA-BC

BRN Staff: Loretta (Lori) Melby, RN, MSN – Executive Officer

Mary Ann McCarthy EdD MSN RN PHN – Supervising Nurse Education Consultant Reza Pejuhesh – DCA Legal Attorney

9:02 a.m.

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

**Public Comment for** 

Agenda Item 8.1: No public comments.

9:05 a.m.

8.2 Review and vote on whether to approve previous meeting minutes
> June 29, 2023

Committee

**Discussion:** No comments or questions.

Motion: Jovita Dominguez: Motion to Accept Education/Licensing Committee

Minutes from June 29, 2023, 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 8.2: No public comments.

Vote:

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

#### **Motion Passed**

9:08 am

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:** No comments or questions.

**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 Wynne

Public Comment for

Agenda Item 8.3: Holly Smith, Health Policy Chair of California Nurse Midwife Association – UCSF curriculum change to change the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) as the entry level degree for the nurse midwifery track. The association supports the creation of a DNP program as a matter of choice. However, the association has significant concerns and believes UCSF should still offer a master's level program due to the workforce crisis in maternity care in California and the nation. The move to the DNP will not improve safety or quality of care for those entry level students. This will be more expensive and take longer to complete. Studies show this will disproportionately affect students of lower socioeconomic status, students of color and those in low resource geographic areas which midwife schools are trying to recruit to, so those midwives go back and practice in those areas. Without an entry level master's degree this will have a negative effect on the maternity workforce. She asks the committee if it is in their

purview to require UCSF to retain the Master's degree along with DNP or if there could be some type of study to look at this. Loretta Melby said it is not in the purview of the board to determine what educational programs are offered by a program. The board does not have authority to review and approve these programs. It is done on a voluntary basis by any program. She speaks about BPC 2717 regarding workforce and if this could be brought to NMAC or NEWAC.

Vote:

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

**Motion Passed** 

9:16 am

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 §§ 1421 & 1423)

- **8.4.1** Shasta College Associate Degree Nursing Program
- **8.4.2** Yuba College Associate Degree Nursing Program

Prelicensure nursing program unit adjustment or other changes (16 CCR §§ 1426 & 1432) (substantive change) (no enrollment increase) (consent)

- **8.4.3** Cerritos College Associate Degree Nursing Program
- **8.4.4** Rio Hondo College Associate Degree Nursing Program
- **8.4.5** San Bernardino Valley College Associate Degree Nursing Program
- **8.4.6** Xavier 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)

- **8.4.7** Gonzaga University Spokane, WA
- **8.4.8** University of Charleston, Charleston, WV
- **8.4.9** Wilmington University New Castle, DE

#### Committee Discussion:

Patricia Wynne asked for an explanation of why California would be looking at non-CA programs. Mary Ann McCarthy, SNEC, explained the out of state Nurse Practitioner process for programs out of state utilizing the clinical practicum experiences in California. Loretta Melby added more context and provided California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 1486 as reference. She said this used to be reviewed in the Nurse Practice committee and then ratified by full board. The public protection issue is with established education criteria set forth in CCR section 1484. Dolores Trujillo asked if the schools have a partnership with hospitals that they're doing clinical practice experience with. Loretta Melby said they have contracts, etc. set up with them and provide oversight and everyone involved in the process must be licensed in California for this to be complete.

Motion: Jovita Dominguez: To recommend continuing approval of prelicensure nursing programs, prelicensure nursing program unit adjustment or other changes substantive change, no enrollment increase, and approval of clinical practice experience required for nurse practitioner students enrolled in non-California based nurse practitioner education programs.

Second: Patricia Wynne

**Public Comment for** 

Maria Gilbert – Having difficulty unmuting. She's typing in comment. Agenda Item 8.4:

Loretta Melby read: Within the central valley there are significant

challenges with securing NP clinical placements.

Marie Gilbert, Director of Central CA Center for Excellence in Nursing to address workforce issues in the region. There is a concern with California residents with California licenses meeting a need for their region for NPs when they already have students enrolled in local programs struggling to find clinical sites.

Vote:

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

Motion Passed

9:28 am

8.5 Discussion and possible action regarding whether to recommend continuing approval or other action for approved nursing program on deferred action status (BPC § 2788; 16 CCR §§ 1421 & 1423) (present)

9:28 am

**8.5.1** City College of San Francisco Associate Degree Nursing Program

## Committee Discussion:

Loretta Melby explained that the schools in these agenda items were not in compliance when they had their Continuing Approval Visit, and the items of non-compliance were resolved post visit and are now in compliance for review by the committee.

#### After Motion before Public Comment:

Patricia Wynne said it's great to see a program like this that is struggling to receive clear direction from the NEC and Board and is now on its way to provide great nursing education in their program.

#### **Public Comment for**

Agenda Item 8.5.1: No public comments.

**Motion:** Jovita Dominguez: Motion to recommend continuing approval of City

College of San Francisco Associate Degree Nursing Program.

Second: Patricia Wynne

Vote:

.,,	JD	DT	MF	PW	
Vote:	Y	Υ	AB	Υ	
	Key: Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB				

**Motion Passed** 

9:33 am

**8.5.2** Gurnick Academy of Medical Arts Fresno Associate Degree Nursing Program

Committee

**Discussion:** No comments or questions.

**Public Comment for** 

Agenda Item 8.5.2: No public comments.

Motion: Jovita Dominguez: To recommend continuing approval of Gurnick

Academy of Medical Arts Fresno Associate Degree Nursing Program.

Second: Dolores Trujillo

Vote:

N/ 1	JD	DT	MF	PW	
Vote:	Y	Υ	AB	Υ	
	Key: Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB				

**Motion Passed** 

9:36 am

**8.5.3** Rio Hondo College Associate Degree Nursing Program

#### Committee

**Discussion:** Patricia Wynne asked about the high attrition rate. Dolores Trujillo agrees with the comment. Mary Ann McCarthy does not see the school representative in the public members. She asked Donna Shipp, NEC if she was aware of any issues. Donna Shipp said she was not aware of anything specific. The school representative is not in the public. Mary Ann McCarthy asked Loretta Melby to speak to attrition generally. Loretta Melby provided context. She said the BRN does not look at actual completion of individual students. She discussed school use of Mountain Measures to help assess exam scores and attrition rates to make improvement recommendations.

Motion: Jovita Dominguez: To recommend continuing approval of Rio Hondo

College Associate Degree Nursing Program.

Second: Patricia Wynne

**Public Comment for** 

Agenda Item 8.5.3: No public comments.

Vote:

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

**Motion Passed** 

5-minute bio break at 9:45 am Quorum re-established at 9:50 am

9:50 am

8.6 Discussion and possible action regarding whether to recommend continuing approval or other action for an approved prelicensure nursing program with NCLEX pass rates of less than 75% for two consecutive years (BPC § 2788; 16 CCR §§ 1421, 1423, & 1431) (present)

#### **8.6.1** Cabrillo College Associate Degree Nursing Program

## Committee Discussion:

Loretta Melby provided explanation for board's review of schools with exam scores that do not meet the 75% pass rate.

Dolores Trujillo asked if the school has only been in compliance for the last two quarters. Mary Ann McCarthy said it has been a year. Loretta Melby said exam scores are not tracked quarterly. The board only looks at an annual pass rate.

Jovita Dominguez asked if Jennifer Holm was on the call. She asked what the difference was that created the dramatic increase. Jennifer Holm said they looked at their admissions process because some students did not gain admission for eight years which is a long length of time between completing pre-requisites and starting classes. She said the pandemic also contributed due to less clinicals. They looked at HESI testing and other ways to support students and created a more robust student success program.

Patricia Wynne congratulated the school on their success.

Dolores Trujillo asked if it would be appropriate to have the school provide quarterly reports to maintain compliance. Loretta Melby said they could require the program to submit quarterly reports to the NEC, but it might not be necessary. Mary Ann McCarthy said the NECs do this regularly. Loretta Melby said it is the NEC's role to do this. Dolores Trujillo said they've done a wonderful job and is in favor of continuing approval.

Motion: Dolores Trujillo: To recommend continuing approval of Cabrillo College

Second: Patricia Wynne

**Public Comment for** 

Agenda Item 8.6.1: No public comments.

Vote:

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

**Motion Passed** 

10:00 am

**8.6.2** Career Care Institute Associate Degree Nursing Program

## Committee Discussion:

**Discussion:** Patricia Wynne said she is concerned that this program costs 10 times as much as Cabrillo and they were able to improve their program and thinks this is doing a disservice to the students when they pay that amount of money and can't pass the test. She asked the program to address this.

Evelyn Orellana, school representative, said this issue began a year ago and they started to really put a lot of work into revising the program. They identified the curriculum was a bit deficient and took some time to identify the problem. She said it takes time to go through a quick revision and thankfully they were able to go through it this year. It took a lot of work from the faculty, previous program director, Dr. Gore, and they strongly believe the new curriculum and they listened to all of the recommendations from their NEC.

Program Director Imaobong Aliyu explained all the work put into changing the curriculum, looking at Mountain Measures, NCLEX review program, improved clinical training and didactic education, comprehensive assessments, and additional faculty training. She is positive the improvements made thus far are better prepared and hopeful the next results will be impressive.

Dolores Trujillo asked about the timeline since the exam pass rates dropped in 2020/2021 and continued to drop for the next two years. She is

also concerned with the attrition rates in the middle of 2021 and 2022. She wondered if there is a correlation with the exam scores. Ima became the Program Director this year and wasn't available then. She did explain all the work put in to turn the program around and asked for the opportunity to see what they can do. Dolores Trujillo said there are no other areas of noncompliance but based on the cost of the program she would be in favor of...

Loretta Melby spoke up to say the committee can consider opportunities for the program to come into compliance similar to other programs. She discussed ELAC (East Los Angeles College) as an example. She said this program enrolls 32 students once a year. She said they don't have large cohorts or enrollments. If the board stops enrollment, it would be very detrimental. If the board decreases enrollments, then resources would be a consideration for faculty and loads. She asked when the first graduating cohort will be that would experience the entire new curriculum.

Ima said the new curriculum would be with the October 2023 cohort that will graduate in October 2025. She does not think they have to wait until 2025 because there are other measures that have been put in place for the students graduating October 2023 and 2024. She is convinced there will be improvements in their exam scores.

Evelyn added that the average tuition for students is about \$35-40,000 because the majority come in with credits from outside.

Loretta Melby gave a variety of options for the committee to consider for the program. Dolores Trujillo thanked Loretta Melby.

Evelyn Orellana discussed warning status and how it affects their program.

Patricia Wynne is torn about this and understands the program's comments. She sees this program is in Lancaster and the students may

not have a lot of options. She wants to make sure there is a lot of interaction between the program and the board.

Evelyn Orellana explained that once a student graduates, the school continues to work with the students providing NCLEX review even though they are only measured on the first attempt. There is continuous support for their students. Patricia Wynne is happy to hear this and asked if other exam scores are reflected to the board. Loretta Melby explained the pass rates are based on the first attempt. She explained the interim permit process. If the applicant fails the exam they must wait 90 days to re-apply and pay the \$250 fee in addition to the \$200 Pearson Vue test fee.

Evelyn Orellana said the test and exam fees are included in their tuition. She would like to provide a report about students who have passed NCLEX along with their employment data. She said today is the last day of one of the cohorts and expects positive results based on the changes they have made in their program. She would like to be able to demonstrate the improvements. Ima said they did Mountain Measures report and spoke with other programs to discuss their successes. She would like the opportunity to show they can do better. The school has been very supportive in the improvements they have and continue to make.

Loretta Melby asked when the next graduation date is. Ima said October 20, 2023. Loretta Melby said there won't be good data before the next board meeting in November. She suggested bringing them back in January/February 2024 to show results from current cohort graduating at end of October. This could help the committee and board make a decision. She spoke about deferred and warning status recommendations made to the board. She also explained any additional reporting requirements for the program to come before ELC and board going forward.

**Motion:** Dolores Trujillo: To recommend deferring taking action on the continuing approval status for Career Care Institute Associate Degree Nursing program while they work to clear the areas(s) of non-compliance, give quarterly reports to the NEC to be presented quarterly to the ELC to make recommendation, and the program be available to the Board to apprise them of their progress.

Second: Patricia Wynne

**Public Comment for** 

Agenda Item 8.6.2: No public comments.

Vote:

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

**Motion Passed** 

10:47 am

- 8.7 Discussion and possible action regarding whether to recommend continuing approval or other action for approved nursing programs (BPC § 2788; 16 CCR §§ 1421 & 1423) (present)
  - **8.7.1** San Francisco State University Baccalaureate and Entry Level Master's Degree Nursing Programs

Committee

**Discussion:** Dolores Trujillo asked about the last area of non-compliance, faculty orientation.

> Elaine Musselman, school representative, said they did not have a formal documentation of orientation and were focused on clinical faculty orientation rather than all faculty. Many of their faculty were tenured and there's orientation by the university. Based on the NEC's visit they changed what is

done and instead of having clinical faculty orientation every semester they have all faculty orientation. They now document the orientation including policies and procedures. There is a tracking mechanism for new faculty and continuing forward for the faculty.

Patricia Wynne thanks the program and is impressed with their NCLEX pass rates and attrition.

Motion: Dolores Trujillo recommends deferring taking action on the continuing approval status for San Francisco State University Baccalaureate and Entry Level Master's Degree Nursing Program while they work to clear the area(s) of non-compliance quarterly reports to the NEC and return to ELC/Board in 1year (Oct/Nov 2024).

Second: Jovita Dominguez

**Public Comment for** 

Agenda Item 8.7.1: No public comments.

Vote:

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

**Motion Passed** 

10:56 am

**8.7.2** Mission College Associate Degree Nursing Program

Committee

Discussion:

Patricia Wynne commented on the NCLEX pass rates going up and down over the last five years. She would like to know how the program will make it consistent.

Carol Hartman, school representative, said if you look at each cohort's pass rate versus the way the board looks at the scores, they had a 78% pass rate for the graduating cohort. She said if a student does not take the exam immediately after graduation affects the pass rate. They did not feel they were being as robust as they could in providing NCLEX prep, and the pass rates came up substantially this year.

Dolores Trujillo asked if the program knew why students delayed taking the NCLEX. Carol said it was difficult. They do surveys and there were a few students who worked as LVNs and did not have the time to put into taking the test and moving forward with their RN license.

Loretta Melby discussed the enrollment numbers for the program and the BRN portal to upload information. She said the school can identify a student who may not have graduated recently and provide additional resources to the student prior to taking the exam.

Dolores Trujillo asked if the committee could defer taking action on continuing approval for this college. Loretta Melby said they could defer on anything on the agenda. She said the program is in compliance.

Patricia Wynne is in favor of continuing approval.

Motion: Patricia Wynne: Recommends continuing approval for Mission College

Associate Degree Nursing.

Second: Dolores Trujillo

**Public Comment for** 

**Agenda Item 8.7.2:** No public comments.

Vote: JD DT MF PW

Y	Υ	AB	Υ		
Key: Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB					

#### Motion Passed

Break taken at 11:08 am return at 11:25 am. Quorum re-established at 11:25 am

11:25 am

- 8.8 Discussion and possible action regarding acceptance of substantive changes to an approved program (present) (16 CCR §§ 1426 & 1432) (present)
  - **8.8.1** Cuesta College Associate Degree Nursing Program (enrollment increase)

### Committee

Discussion:

Loretta Melby reminded the members of the limitations in what can be considered for this type of request.

Patricia Wyne asked generally about the number of clinical placements in this central California area.

Beth Johnson, school representative, said they have great community partners. There are 4-5 acute care facilities that they can put their students in. Tenant Health, Dignity Health with several facilities available to them as well as the state hospital at Atascadero. There are long-term care facilities for the geriatric portions. There are two facilities for pediatric rotations and several facilities they're working with to increase enrollment. It is important to have a livable wage for those who live in their community.

Loretta Melby asked about the LVNs getting credit for fundamentals and geriatrics. Beth said that is correct.

**Motion:** Dolores Trujillo: To recommend acceptance of the substantive change(s) requested by an approved program and approve the enrollment increase for Cuesta College Associate Degree Nursing Program with an enrollment pattern of 46 generic students each Fall (unchanged) and 34 LVN to RN advanced placement students one a year (an increase of 30 LVN to RN advanced placement students) for an annual enrollment of 80 students.

Second: Patricia Wynne

**Public Comment for** 

Agenda Item 8.8.1: No public comment.

Vote:

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

Motion Passed

Dolores Trujillo having technical issues – 5-minute break at 11:35 am Quorum re-established at 11:46 am

11:46 am

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

Committee

**Discussion:** Patricia Wynne said this is a modest increase and is a very interesting

program.

**Motion:** Patricia Wynne: Recommend acceptance of the substantive change(s)

requested by an approved program and approve the enrollment increase for San Joaquin Delta College Associate Degree Nursing Program with an enrollment pattern of 40 generic students (unchanged) and 50 FAST/HOPE each Spring (an increase of 10 FAST/HOPE students) and 60 generic students (unchanged) in the Fall for an annual enrollment of 150 students.

Second: Dolores Trujillo

#### **Public Comment for**

**Agenda Item 8.8.2:** No public comments.

Vote:

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

**Motion Passed** 

11:52 am

**8.8.3** Pacific Union College Associate Degree Nursing Program (enrollment increase)

## Committee Discussion:

Mary Ann McCarthy said the materials for this program were updated prior to discussing this item. Loretta Melby pointed out a change on the data sheet to 12 students in each cohort for a total of 36 per year.

Dolores Trujillo asked if the school representative was present. Kimberly Dunker said she was present but having difficulty getting video to work.

Kimberly Dunker, school representative, discussed this new change with their partnership and Adventist Health. They acquired additional funding to support their simulation lab. Dolores Trujillo discussed the different facilities the students will access during clinical training. She said she met with Mendocino College to ensure they are not encroaching on their area. She said the students in this rural area is very excited for the opportunity.

Patricia Wynne said the enrollment increases can be challenging for the board members. It makes her happy to hear she has done some of the work for the board going out and talking with the partners to make sure there's a more cooperative spirit than a competitive spirit for the clinical positions. Kimberly explained the collaborative way they all work together.

Loretta Melby asked about travel for students. Kimberly said students from Ukiah drive about 90 minutes and stay in the dorms. There are some in Fort Bragg and they've been trying to figure out how they can be at home with their families and so this is incredible for them. They also have issues driving due to weather and students can be set up in conference rooms to beam in live to their classes if needed.

**Motion:** Dolores Trujillo: Recommend acceptance of the substantive change(s) requested by an approved program and approve the enrollment increase for Pacific Union College Associate Degree Nursing Program Angwin Campus with an enrollment pattern of 48 students in the Fall, Winter and Spring quarters (increasing by 12 students each quarter – totaling 36 new students) for an annual enrollment of 160 students at the Angwin Campus.

Second: Patricia Wynne

**Public Comment for** 

Agenda Item 8.8.3: No public comments.

Vote:

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

**Motion Passed** 

12:07 pm

8.8.4 Sri Sai Krish Institute Associate Degree Nursing Program (location change)

#### Committee Discussion:

Loretta Melby pointed out the regulation regarding program location that should have been done prior to the program relocating and not seeking approval after the fact. The program should have contacted the NEC to

discuss their issues. She said the NEC considers a 25-mile radius and this is 14 miles.

Dolores Trujillo asked why the school did this out of sequence and did not notify the NEC. Judy Corless, school representative, said the school notified Donna Schutte and she worked with them from the beginning. A marijuana company moved into their building and there was a lot of smoking in the hallways, a church moved in, and classrooms were remodeled and disturbed by this. Students had asthma and were sent to the emergency room. The program did not move until Donna got emergency approval from Loretta Melby. Donna did a full walkthrough to make sure the space had everything that it needed and there is three times the space now. All of this was done with Donna who did a beautiful job helping them before they moved into their space with her approval. Loretta Melby said 25 miles, but the limit is 10 miles for BPPE. She also said this was brought to the NEC and herself because the lease was terminated and no place for the students to go prior to the board meeting. It is the board's approval that is needed for this move. She was informed the lease was terminated before this could go before a board meeting.

Donna Schutte said the program bought the new location and she did visit the location. She said all of the steps taken were explained in the AIS.

Patricia Wynne made a comment that this is unfortunate that this happened the way it did. She appreciates that the program worked closely with Donna Schutte.

**Motion:** Patricia Wynne: To recommend acceptance of the substantive change(s) requested by an approved program and approve the location change for Sri Sai Krish Institute Associate Degree Nursing Program.

Second: Jovita Dominguez

## Public Comments for Agenda Item

**8.8.4:** No public comments.

Vote:

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

**Motion Passed** 

12:19 pm

**8.8.5** Western University of Health Sciences Entry Level Master's Degree Nursing Program (enrollment increase)

## Committee

**Discussion:** Loretta Melby said this program is in area 8. She shared her screen to show the map where Pomona is.

Patricia Wynne asked how this change would affect programs near their location.

Michael Marinello, school representative, said they are in a somewhat rural area of LA county on the eastern edge. They reduced their overall program requirements by 35% to allow them to expand their program by 30 students but notify their clinical partners they can give these extra spots to other schools. They are proactive if they don't need the clinical spots prior to the semester starting he will ensure the clinical partners know this. This happened with Riverside University Health Services.

Loretta Melby said the passage of the sunset bill allowed the reduction in patient care hours. Michael Marinello said they previously had 1,400 hours because they are an ELM. The students complete and implement quality improvement projects in the clinical space, and they found ways to reduce hours and impact on clinical partners to decrease burden on the student.

Jovita Dominguez commends the school but asked what the other members thought.

**Motion:** Patricia Wynne: Recommend acceptance of the substantive change(s) requested by an approved program and approve the enrollment increase for Western University of Health Sciences entry level master's degree nursing program with an enrollment pattern of 100 students every fall (an increase of 30 students) annually.

Second: Dolores Trujillo

Public Comment: No public comments.

Vote:

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

**Motion Passed** 

Lunch break from 12:30 to 1 pm Quorum re-established at 1:01 pm

1:01 pm

**8.8.6** West Coast University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program (enrollment increase)

#### Committee

**Discussion:** Loretta Melby explained this as an enrollment increase that the school has already instituted without prior board approval. Staff have been working with the program to come into compliance.

Patricia Wynne and Dolores Trujillo would like to know how this happened. Patricia Wynne said reviewing this information almost made her head explode.

Chiarina Piazza tried to explain at the same time Loretta Melby began to speak. Reza said the board staff should respond first.

Loretta Melby explained the enrollment number process for West Coast University. She also explained the various non-compliance issues for the program including the court case that has a decision and appellate decision affirming the board has the authority to regulate enrollment. Reza Pejuhesh provided additional context regarding the court cases and the opinions and offered to provide more information if the members need it.

Chiarina Piazza thanked Loretta Melby and Reza for the account. She also thanked Mary Jane Rosenblatt for her help during this process. Chiarina is the program director and dean for the school of nursing. West Coast is accredited by WASC and CCNE and been in business for over a century. They also have accreditation for their simulation centers. 70% of their student body reports to be a minority status.

Lengthy written response read into the record by Chiarina Piazza, program director.

Loretta Melby clarified the BRN does not put enrollment caps on anything. The board sets enrollment numbers for an annual process. The school can come back and request an enrollment increase. She said the board did not issue a letter saying they would not follow 1432. There was an update to the guidelines provided in the Director Handbook. She went on to discuss the timelines for WCU enrollment increases based on previous board meeting minutes. She said a letter from the Orange County consortium from Dr. Mary Wickman, chair, recommended a lower enrollment number. The board action letters were very generic back in 2007 so you must go to

the meeting minutes to see the enrollment numbers that were set every time they were brought before ELC and board. She understands how this can be confusing if one does not follow the board approval process.

Discussion between Reza and Chiarina over whether the board has authority to establish enrollment numbers.

Dolores Trujillo began asking about NCLEX pass rates at the various campuses being at 73 and 76%. Loretta Melby pointed out the current pass rate is 82%. Chiarina explained that they have a "no nurse left behind" policy to work with students who did not pass NCLEX the first time. She said the whole nation saw a decrease in NCLEX. She said once they brought back students into clinicals they jumped right back up. Prepandemic was their crown jewel because pass rates were over 90%. They work with students to pass the exam and obtain a license with a robust career services placement team to ensure they're ready to serve the communities.

Loretta Melby said the pass rates shown are quarterly and their pass rate was 92% before dropping in the five years to 80.5%. NCSBN shows a 6% drop nationally versus almost a double percent drop at WCU. One campus is at risk because it is underneath the 75% threshold for BRN standards.

Chiarina spoke about the different geographical locations with distinct demographics.

Patricia Wynne appreciates the pride WCU has and all of the programs that come before the committee are also proud of their programs that also serve underserved populations. She is pleased to hear how well WCU is doing. She would never approve an item that increases enrollment at such an alarming level except she understands why we've gotten here but the board must balance the interests of all programs and if one program comes in and has 1,800 positions then that disadvantages other programs

which is what she's struggling with. This enrollment increase completely dwarfs every single enrollment increase she's ever seen. She's very concerned about what this does to highly impacted areas like Orange County and LA county. Inland Empire is a little bit different because she doesn't think it is quite as impacted.

Chiarina appreciates the feedback but is also concerned for the 55,000 potential applicants that are turned away and unable to enter into a program to become a RN and serve the community. She feels WCU is part of the solution. This request is to keep them net neutral because they have already been at these enrollment numbers for the past two years. They are not taking away anymore spots. They are trying to do this by reaching out and bridging relationships with those who feel WCU is very big. They are big with good outcomes and producing great nurses which is why their clinical partners and employers are so thankful to them.

Loretta Melby said there are 55,000 applications, not applicants. There is no way for NCSBN or CA BRN to capture individual persons. She said there is a large discussion happening at the national level where they hope to capture the individual person versus the number of applications. No matter what the decision is today or in November it does not affect the current students attending WCU. This would affect enrollments going forward. There are 3,300 students at each academic locations which is less than what is truly at each of the campuses because we did not get the numbers of what WCU enrolls into general education courses, but in their nursing core courses, which start in year two. This is for future enrollments at WCU.

Dolores Trujillo said because a program did not reach out to WCU does not mean they weren't adversely affected. The board has denied enrollment increases because of impacted areas in southern California. Some schools have made decisions to move to less impacted areas, but WCU, overall, has gobbled up a lot of the clinical spaces in southern California. She asked how the clinical spaces are rotated and if they're in hospitals.

Chiarina said if there was clinical displacement then she would know about it. She said that if the board is hearing complaints she is not. She hopes there are no complaints but if there are she would like to know specificity of who, what, and when. She said they work really hard not to displace other programs they work with new and existing clinical partners. She said the clinical sites have been approved and the clinical agencies have signed indicating no school has been displaced. She said there is a rigorous process for the approval process. They submitted a crosswalk to the committee that demonstrates they have the clinical capacity to support their current enrollments but what they're doing in a broad and academically diverse clinical environment. They don't rely on the large magnet premier hospitals only because they recognize not all nursing students want to end up at one of those facilities. They might want primary care or somewhere else. They work with local clinics, small family practices to offer a vast history of clinical experience. If other programs are being displaced, she invites them to reach out to her because they're solutions oriented.

Loretta Melby explained the EDP-P-18 process to come into compliance with CCR 1427 to approve clinical placements and read the regulation. She discussed the various sections and what is done to meet the requirements. She spoke about the EDP-P-11 and what was done with the NEC and Licensing Chief and that WCU has done to meet the requirements. Are students getting similar clinical experiences to meet the educational requirements.

Chiarina appreciates the explanation that WCU has not shown an inadequacy of resources. She discussed board website information talking about different types of clinical sites to meet training requirements. She does not see where there needs to be a combination of acute care and

community care as long as it meets WCU's objectives. She hopes the BRN is not looking for things to be "wrong" with their program. She appreciates the regulation citations made by Loretta Melby.

Loretta Melby spoke about information in the Director's Handbook regarding clinical sites that were referenced by Chiarina. She said this is not a witch hunt to find something WCU does wrong. WCU has a solid program, longevity, okay attrition rates, and okay exam scores. She said the BRN cannot look at workforce needs but also what the BRN can look at including the adequacy of resources, availability of clinical placements in the region taking into account all other programs. She also addressed WCU's request to know about all complaints filed with the BRN against WCU. Loretta said this is not the process used by the BRN where they can always be shared with the program. She spoke about the exam pass rate and the Board's ability to use the information when making decisions.

Dolores Trujillo asked if there were any other questions or comments. Loretta Melby said the committee may want to consider public comment. Patricia Wynne is very interested in hearing public comment.

#### After Public Comment:

Patricia Wynne said she isn't prepared to approve this request. She feels it is unfair and is surprised that WCU is unaware of the clinical placement concerns. She feels this enormous enrollment increase disadvantages other programs and isn't ready to vote for this today. She doesn't necessarily oppose it but thinks it should go the full board rather than the committee.

**Motion:** Patricia Wynne: To defer action today on this item and put it on the agenda for the board meeting in November so the full board can look at it.

Second: Dolores Trujillo

## Public Comment for Agenda Item 8.8.6:

Nam Tien, WCU student: He is a current student and former president of the Student Nurse Association. He chose WCU because he didn't want to wait on a list. After he has completed the majority of the program, he wholeheartedly recommends it to future students seeking to pursue nursing.

Emily Kim – She's a student at WCU Anaheim and works at UCS as a nursing assistant in the orthopedics unit. She has wanted to become a nurse since she was in fourth grade and helped care for ailing grandparents. She speaks Korean and is culturally competent. She will be the first person in her family to go into healthcare and they are proud of her. She is happy with her decision to come here. She asks for the committee to approve the application.

Kathy Hughes, Director of Nurse Alliance of California – Said the 75,000 people on the picket line are not nurses, they are allied health workers. She received a copy of the letter WCU put out to state legislators asking them to support the current enrollment and believes the letter is disingenuous and a misrepresentation of events. She's been following this since 2010 and knows full well how the approval process works. SEIU recommends not to support the current enrollment as it stands.

Jessie Roque, CNO at West Hills Hospital – He left a mayoral lunch with Karen Bass to discuss growth and the San Fernando Valley to include more infrastructure business to grow a younger population in the area. They serve a large elderly population surrounded by over 800 SNF beds. The need for support from educational partners is imperative and a goal of the mayor. The amount of support from WCU graduates affects the care they are able to give patients. They support WCU.

Anonymous, WCU Ontario campus – President of their campus chapter of the CA Nursing Students Association. She was a CNA in a SNF. She's a

patient safety advocate now. She did not want to sit on a wait list. She urges support for this application and allow others the opportunities to become RNs.

(WCU LA) Elizabeth Akausian – Student at WCU North Hollywood campus. She is in her advanced metrics term and asks the support for this application. She chose WCU after finishing her pre-requisites and taking a year to apply to 13 community colleges and CSUs. She did not get in to any of the programs. She chose WCU because others recommended the program. She is director of the student mentor program. She would like to teach and become a DNP. She asks for support.

Amy Geszi, WCU LA – She's a student at WCU North Hollywood. She came with friends from Stockton to attend WCU. She had open heart surgery when she was a child. She did not want to sit on a wait list. She said WCU is rigorous. She will graduate soon to become a pediatric nurse. She asks for support.

Annette Greenwood – CNO at Riverside Community Hospital, 517 bed acute care facility that serves inner Riverside City and surrounding areas – really appreciate the opportunity with the wonderful aspects of WCU Ontario and the work they have done to provide us with graduates on a consistent basis. Graduates that primarily live and work locally when they go into the program and create an engaged and long-term retention group of graduates that are necessary to continue our mission here in Riverside. They serve 1,100 students completing clinical rotations from multiple local educational sites. She supports them in their continued journey to provide them with great RNs.

Paula Moorfield – unable to unmute.

Daniel Contreras, WCU Ontario – He was in the Navy for eight years and did two deployments in 2012 and 13 in support of enduring freedom and

new dawn. He would like non-traditional routes to be available for others. He has provided better care to senior and veteran patients. He wanted to be a community helper when he discharged from the military. He applied to be LAPD but felt his calling was nursing. He thought he would get on the job training in the military to avoid higher learning but found that he needed the education. WCU was a good option for him and he's scheduled to graduate next year. He wants to be a flight nurse. He can deliver excellent patient care. He requests support for this.

Sharon Brown, Associate CNO Arrowhead Regional Medical Center – 456 bed level one trauma and burn center. They have worked with WCU for several years and they depend on their students to fill their much-needed vacancies. They've been able to accommodate their request for additional clinical sites. Their students are very well prepared, professional, compassionate with their care. Their employees have chosen to go to WCU for their BSN program and supports their application.

Paula Moorfield, nursing director at LA Trade Tech College – They serve their community in the heart of LA and don't have all the resources because their tuition is \$46 per unit. They don't have the big funds that West Coast has to be able to have the 200 plus student increase, but they serve their community producing nurses that are going into the hospital settings that look like the community they come from. She is against WCU being able to have this increase in students taking clinical spaces for community colleges. Their hands are tied because they are a community college and unable to obtain funds from other places like tuition to be able to get all the different resources WCU has.

Molly Hahm, Faculty from Marsha Fuerst Nursing – She is against the two WCU increases because she has heard that WCU has taken all clinical spots, day, evening and weekends.

Vote:

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

**Motion Passed** 

2:56 pm

8.9 Discussion and possible action regarding initial self-study for new prelicensure program (BPC § 2788; 16 CCR §§ 1421 &1423) (present) 8.9.1 Lassen Community College Associate Degree Nursing Program

Committee

**Discussion:** Dolores Trujillo thinks this is an area that needs a program. She is prepared to

move forward with it. Jovita and Patricia are both in favor of this item.

**Motion: Jovita Dominguez**: Recommends granting approval on the application for a

new prelicensure registered nursing program with the acceptance of an initial self-study for Lassen Community College Associate Degree Nursing Program. The approved enrollment pattern is 40 students every two years (30 generic students starting Spring 2024 with 10 additional LVN to RN advanced

placement students in Spring 2025) for a biennial enrollment of 40 students

going forward.

Second: Dolores Trujillo

**Public Comment for** 

**Agenda Item 8.9.1:** No public comments.

Vote:

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

#### **Motion Passed**

3:03 pm

**8.9.2** High Desert Medical College Associate Degree Nursing Program (Lancaster)

Committee

**Discussion:** Dolores Trujillo said this is an area of growth and neither Jovita or Patricia had

any concerns.

**Motion: Jovita Dominguez**: Recommend granting approval on the application for a

new prelicensure registered nursing program with acceptance of an initial self-study for High Desert Medical College Associate Degree Nursing Program (Lancaster). The approved enrollment pattern is 30 generic students annually in January 2024, followed by an enrollment pattern of 30 generic students and 20 LVN to RN advanced placement students starting in January 2025 with a continuing annual enrollment of 50 students (30 generic and 20 LVN to RN

advanced placement students) going forward.

Second: Patricia Wynne

**Public Comment for** 

Agenda Item 8.9.2: No public comments.

Vote:

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

**Motion Passed** 

3:07 pm 8.9.3 United Nursing College Associate Degree Nursing Program

Committee Discussion:

Dolores Trujillo did not have any questions. Patricia Wynne did not have any questions.

#### After the Motion:

Loretta Melby spoke about the changed enrollment numbers from the August 2023 meeting to today's meeting.

Dolores Trujillo and Jovita Dominguez said they were inclined to go with the numbers requested in the feasibility approval at the August 2023 meeting.

Julia Robinson, school representative, explained that they did originally request 40 generic and 5 LVN to RN but that was over a year ago before they could get on the agenda to get these heard. They did make the change to their ask prior to the August 2023 board meeting but it wasn't reflected in the meeting materials, the AIS was incorrect but the supporting materials was correct. She respectfully requests they consider the request for 40 generic and 20 LVN to RN students.

Loretta Melby explained the error and that this was a path forward. She also said there were some delays because there were some name changes with BPPE because they did not meet all initial requirements. Once they got BPPE approval there were some other compliance issues, but no red flags raised.

Patricia Wynne said she would be willing to go along with the increase in the LVN to RN students because of their advanced placement, they're probably working, probably less impact to other programs but will go along with whatever Jovita Dominguez and Dolores Trujillo think is right.

Dolores Trujillo said she recalled the conversation for the initial request and change but thought they would come back to the board for the increase.

Loretta Melby asked about the curriculum plan and how credit is reviewed for the LVN to RN step up. Julia said they are reviewed individually but they will be given credit for their LVN work as long as it meets the BRN requirements. They have their generic education unless they have the 30 unit option. The LVN needs a little extra to move into the second year and they have a workshop developed to assist them. They will be competent to enter the third semester. They want to ensure they will be successful in the fourth semester.

**Motion:** Jovita Dominguez: To recommend granting approval on the application for a new prelicensure registered nursing program with acceptance of an initial self-study for United Nursing College Associate Degree Nursing Program. The approved enrollment pattern is 40 generic students and 20 LVN to RN students (an increase of 15 LVN to RN students) twice a year starting in January 2024 with a continuing annual enrollment of 120 students going forward (an increase of 30 students annually from the acceptance of the Feasibility study).

Second: Dolores Trujillo

**Public Comment for** 

Agenda Item 8.9: No public comments.

Vote:

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

**Motion Passed** 

3:23 pm

Discussion and possible action regarding a feasibility study for new prelicensure nursing programs (16 CCR § 1421) (present)

## **8.10.1** California Northstate University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program

## Committee Discussion:

Loretta Melby reminded the members that this is the first time these programs are coming before the committee for consideration.

Dolores Trujillo asked about the clinicals for this program being in northern California. Mary Ann McCarthy said they have to submit their clinical information. Loretta Melby pointed her to page 90 in the meeting materials.

Patricia Wynne asked how long the feasibility period lasts. Loretta Melby said it depends on the program. Board staff plan for 6 months for feasibility and 6 months for self-study.

Discussion of how long it takes a program to go through the feasibility process. Mary Ann McCarthy says they request a school to ask for an extension if they will take longer than one year.

Dolores Trujillo asked about building a teaching hospital. Mary Ann McCarthy said that is something they are working towards in the future.

All members are okay with this request.

#### Motion:

**Dolores Trujillo**: To Recommend acceptance of a feasibility study for anew prelicensure nursing program, California Northstate University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program, with a projected enrollment pattern of 30 students three times per year for an annual enrollment of 90 students and a projected start in Fall 2024 pending completion of the requirements set forth in 16 CCR 1421 Application for Approval including Board acceptance of a self-study demonstrating that it meets the requirements of section 1424 through 1432 and sections 2786.6(a) and (b) of the code.

Second: Jovita Dominguez

**Public Comment for** 

Agenda Item 8.10.1: No public comment.

Vote:

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

**Motion Passed** 

3:32 pm 8.10.2 Homestead Schools

**8.10.2** Homestead Schools Associate Degree Nursing Program

## Committee Discussion:

Jovita Dominguez is concerned this program would be in LA, region 8. Dolores Trujillo said Stanbridge was denied an increase of 20 students, American Career College denied 120 students. Patricia Wynne said this is for 90 students and they say they've secured 23. The members would like to hear from the school. Loretta Melby said a previous study was accepted in a different area.

Rafael, school representative, said the school has secured 23 clinical placements for all clinical training areas of 8-10 students in each location. This includes 5 acute hospitals. They have expressed their commitment to accept their proposed students. They will continue to secure additional clinical sites so there is no significant break in education. They have ensured they did not displace any other nursing programs. They sent letters to other program directors. They received some letters of concern with displacement. They will continue to look for additional clinical sites.

Loretta Melby discussed the number of nursing programs near the proposed program. She showed the map on the screen.

Patricia Wynne said this request seems more difficult than the last one. She said if they approve the feasibility study, they don't want to raise

anyone's expectations if they agreed to let this go forward as a feasibility study. Because the chances are pretty good, they would not approve it with 90 students with difficult placement options.

Loretta Melby explained a previous feasibility study that was approved with a recommendation to relocate to another area less impacted, which they did. It was deferred to board and the board requested the potential program applicant come forward with a different location.

Dolores Trujillo asked if the program was still online. She asked if they would be inclined to consider a different location. Rafael said they would but most of the clinical forms are within their program area. The majority of the sites they submitted said no other programs are using the clinical sites. Mary Ann McCarthy suggested going to public comment to see if anyone wanted to respond to this.

#### **After Public Comment:**

Loretta Melby discussed the clinical placement issues that face nursing programs that can be heard during public comment. She said the BRN is going to a different system, hopefully in this next year where we'll be able to pull reports to show who are at what clinical sites in the materials that were submitted to the NEC for review. She said the EDP-P-18 is not the final tool that is utilized when evaluating this. Hearing from people during public comment also informs decisions. They have also considered having NECs reach out to clinical sites to see if there would be displacement. This is a longstanding issue where the board has tried desperately to get accurate information on who is at each clinical site, who is being upset, pushed out or moved. She brought up the survey interactive dashboard on the BRN's website.

Rafael said when the healthcare facilities signed their forms, they made commitments to them to prioritize the students before other programs.

They continue to get other forms from facilities for their program and will seek others.

**Motion: Dolores Trujillo**: To defer the decision for this feasibility study to the

November board meeting.

Second: Jovita Dominguez

**Public Comment for** 

Agenda Item 8.10.2: Indiana McClellan, Southwest College – She said that she could see

facilities saying no others are at the facilities because they restructured the clinical makeup of the facilities after the pandemic, and they are having

difficulty getting their students back into the facilities for clinicals.

Vote:

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

**Motion Passed** 

4:01 pm 8.11 Adjournment

> Jovita Dominguez, Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 4:01pm.

Submitted by:

Accepted by:

Loretta Melby, MSN, RN

**Executive Officer** 

California Board of Registered Nursing

Jovita Dominguez, BSN, RN

President

California Board of Registered Nursing