

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

Date: October 21, 2025

Start Time: 9:05 a.m.

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

9:05 a.m.

1.0

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

Chair Jovita Dominguez called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. All members were present, and a quorum was established at 9:05 a.m.

Committee Members: Jovita Dominguez, BSN, RN-Chair
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

9:08 a.m.

2.0

Public comment for items not on the agenda

**Public Comment
for Agenda Item**

2.0: No public comments requested.

9:10 a.m.

3.0

Review, discuss, and vote on whether to approve previous meeting minutes

➤ June 17, 2025

Committee Discussion: No comments or questions.

Motion: **Jovita Dominguez** Motion to Accept ELC Meeting Minutes from June 17, 2025, and allow BRN staff to make non-substantive changes to correct name misspellings and/or typos that may be discovered in the document.

Second: **Patricia Wynne**

**Public Comment
for Agenda Item**

3.0: No public comments requested.

Vote:

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

Motion Passed

9:12 a.m.

4.0

4.1 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

Committee

Discussion: **Patricia Wynne:** Asked whether this constituted the entire consent agenda.

Loretta Melby: Clarified that the consent agenda included only prelicensure curriculum revisions, clinical facilities, and acknowledgment of progress reports received between board and committee meetings.

Patricia Wynne: Stated she was satisfied with the explanation and noted she had a question regarding agenda item 4.3.

Motion: **Jovita Dominguez** *Recommend* approval of the proposed curriculum revisions and clinical facilities and to acknowledge the receipt of program progress reports.

Second: **Dolores Trujillo**

**Public Comment
for Agenda Item**

4.1: No public comments requested.

Vote:

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

Motion Passed

9:17 a.m.

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

Prelicensure nursing programs

- 4.2.1 University of San Diego Entry Level Master's Degree Nursing Program
- 4.2.2 California State University Fresno Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program
- 4.2.3 Career Care Institute Associate Degree Nursing Program
- 4.2.4 Chaffey College Associate Degree Nursing Program
- 4.2.5 East Los Angeles College Associate Degree Nursing Program
- 4.2.6 Unitek College Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program

Advanced practice nurse practitioner nursing program

- 4.2.7 University of California San Francisco, AGACNP, AGPCNP, AGPCNP, FNP, NNP, PMHNP, PNPAC, PNPPC Nurse Practitioner Programs

Committee

Discussion: **Dolores Trujillo:** Began to ask a question regarding clinical approval visits.

Loretta Melby: Clarified that the item concerned continuing approval visits and that the agenda item in question was listed under item 4.3.

Motion: **Jovita Dominguez** *Recommend* continuing approval of prelicensure nursing programs, continuing and initial approval of advanced practice (nurse practitioner) nursing programs.

Second: **Patricia Wynne**

Public Comment for Agenda

Items 4.2.1-4.2.7: No public comments requested.

Vote:

	JD	DT	PW
	Y	Y	Y

Motion Passed

9:20 a.m.

4.3

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)

- 4.3.1 ASC Post University, Waterbury, CT
- 4.3.2 University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
- 4.3.3 Chaminade University of Honolulu, Hawaii
- 4.3.4 Chamberlain University, Chicago, IL
- 4.3.5 University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- 4.3.6 Graceland University, Independence, MO
- 4.3.7 University of Missouri, Columbia, MO
- 4.3.8 Ursuline College, Pike, OH
- 4.3.9 Capella University, Minneapolis, MN
- 4.3.10 University of Saint Mary's, Leavenworth, KS
- 4.3.11 The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- 4.3.12 Yale University, West Haven, CT
- 4.3.13 Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH

Committee

Discussion:

Patricia Wynne: Stated she did not have a specific concern with non-California programs conducting clinicals in California but was seeking clarification on the process.

Mary Ann McCarthy: Explained that the programs in question are out-of-state prelicensure nurse practitioner programs seeking to place students in California for clinical experiences.

Patricia Wynne: Clarified that she wanted to better understand the process and noted the requests appeared modest.

Loretta Melby: Shared her screen to review the BRN webpage for out-of-state nurse practitioner programs to provide clarification. She explained that listed programs were previously approved by the Board and are required to maintain approval. She noted prior concerns raised by California programs regarding competition for clinical placements, as out-of-state programs often pay preceptors. She stated that the Board does not approve enrollment increases for these programs. She explained the approval process began in 2019 and may warrant continued monitoring. Students are placed one-on-one with physician or nurse practitioner preceptors, and no California-based faculty are used.

Dolores Trujillo: Noted the item was on the consent agenda and requested that certain programs be pulled due to the enrollment numbers requested. Asked whether to provide a list.

Loretta Melby: Requested that programs be addressed individually to allow proper documentation.

Mary Ann McCarthy: Explained that these programs have operated in California for some time and are now coming into compliance with the process. She stated the programs did not begin at current enrollment levels but grew over time. She noted the programs would not be required to stop operations and suggested bringing them to the Board meeting for discussion.

Dolores Trujillo: Acknowledged the explanation but stated this may be the first time such concerns are being raised.

Loretta Melby: Confirmed programs could attend the Board meeting to answer questions and stated they are currently in compliance.

Dolores Trujillo: Asked whether the Board has authority over enrollment numbers.

Loretta Melby: Referenced California Code of Regulations [title 16] section 1486, noting programs must notify the Board of changes within 30 days and authorization may be withdrawn at any time. She stated the regulation does not explicitly address enrollment limits and may require regulatory changes. She requested legal input.

Reza Pejuhesh: Stated it is appropriate to ask questions and that staff can review the Board's authority regarding enrollment. He indicated the Committee may make recommendations to the Board.

Loretta Melby: Clarified that California clinical enrollment does not affect a program's overall enrollment. Limiting California clinical placements would not limit a program's total enrollment. She noted the matter could be deferred to the full Board.

Mary Ann McCarthy: Emphasized that this is not a rubber-stamp process and involves a lengthy staff review.

Reza Pejuhesh: Clarified that Board approval is required and that specific criteria must be met.

Mary Ann McCarthy: Noted programs have long operated in California and students are currently in progress. Any reduction in enrollment could require a teach-out process.

Loretta Melby: Stated the item could be deferred to the Board meeting if requested.

Patricia Wynne: Indicated she misread the agenda item and requested deferral of the entire item to the Board meeting.

Mary Ann McCarthy: Stated she was unsure whether website enrollment numbers reflect total or California-only enrollment and noted she requests California-specific data during review.

Loretta Melby: Stated she could contact BPPE to obtain enrollment information.

Dolores Trujillo: Identified specific programs of concern, including Chamberlain.

Loretta Melby: Reviewed the listing and noted Chamberlain was previously approved for 600 FNP and 86 Adult Gerontology students and is requesting 128 for a PMHNP program, indicating program expansion.

Mary Ann McCarthy: Noted that Post University appeared to be the only other program requesting a higher number, with others being minimal.

Loretta Melby: Cited the significant need for mental health providers in California and noted statewide efforts to expand the workforce. She asked for clarification on the motion to defer.

Dolores Trujillo: [Experienced audio issues and was difficult to hear.]

Loretta Melby: Stated she interprets the request as deferring the entire list.

Patricia Wynne: Confirmed her request to defer the entire item, citing confusion about the process and concern over enrollment numbers, while acknowledging the need for workforce expansion.

Loretta Melby: Advised that sufficient information may not be available for the November Board meeting and recommended deferral to the next Education/Licensing Committee meeting in 2026, with a presentation to the Committee and Board.

Mary Ann McCarthy: Advised programs observing the meeting not to panic. She stated staff would request additional information and that programs should continue current operations. She indicated she would contact the schools.

Loretta Melby: Restated the motion as deferring action on approval of out-of-state nurse practitioner programs conducting

clinicals in California to the next Education/Licensing Committee meeting scheduled for February 2026. She stated a presentation would be provided at the November Board meeting on the approval process and impacts on in-state nurse practitioner programs.

Motion: **Patricia Wynne** *Defer taking action* on the approval of the out-of-state nurse practitioner programs that have California RNs enrolled in them doing clinicals in California, and defer to the next ELC meeting in February 2026.

Second: **Jovita Dominguez**

**Public Comment
for Agenda Item**

4.3.1- 4.3.13: **Mechelle from Stanislaus State:** Stated that she appreciates the conversation because they are having issues with getting more students in their programs because they don't pay for clinicals.

Jessica Padilla from Loma Linda University: Stated that she agreed with Mechelle's comments and appreciates the discussion about the out-of-state nurse practitioner programs.

Vote:

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

Motion Passed

9:57 a.m.

5.0

5.1 Discussion and possible action regarding prelicensure nursing programs in noncompliance

5.1.1 Merritt College, Associate Degree Nursing Program (two years with non-compliances following a BRN continuing approval visit)

Committee

Discussion: **Dolores Trujillo:** Stated the program had been discussed previously and asked how much time was provided for the program to come into compliance.

Loretta Melby: Responded that the program was given one year. She noted the program has hired a new program director, placed enrollment on hold, and is addressing remaining issues. She expressed confidence the program will come into compliance.

Dolores Trujillo: Indicated she was satisfied with the information provided.

Patricia Wynne: Commented that she was impressed with the program's efforts since its last appearance and acknowledged that these processes take time.

Mary Ann McCarthy: Stated that no motion was required if the Committee chose not to take action.

Action: *No motion was made.*

Loretta Melby: Requested a break following public comment to allow time to bring the Sacramento location online.

**Public Comment
for Agenda Item**

5.1.1: No public comments requested.

**Break from 10:04 – 10:20 a.m.
Quorum reestablished at 10:21 a.m.**

10:21 a.m.

5.2 Discussion and possible action regarding a request for an enrollment increase for an approved prelicensure nursing program

Region 7 Inland Empire

5.2.1 California Baptist University Baccalaureate Degree and Entry-Level Master's Degree Nursing Program (enrollment increase)

Committee

Discussion: **Dolores Trujillo:** Asked about the program's faculty resources.

Karen Bradley (School Representative): Stated the program has adequate faculty resources, including more than 50 full-time faculty members and numerous adjuncts. She noted that many alumni are returning to apply for teaching assistant and clinical roles.

Loretta Melby: Noted that the Annual Information System (AIS) indicates no additional faculty hires are needed.

Patricia Wynne: Stated she was inclined to support the request, describing it as a modest increase.

Loretta Melby: Clarified that the program is utilizing existing resources and is not increasing clinical placements.

Motion: **Jovita Dominguez** *Recommend* acceptance of the enrollment increase for approved prelicensure nursing programs California Baptist University Baccalaureate Degree and Entry-Level Master’s Degree Nursing Program

ELM = 48 students once (1) a year (Summer) for an annual enrollment of 48. (An increase of 8 students a year)
 BSN = 110 students twice (2) a year for an annual enrollment of 220. (An increase of 24 students per year)
 This request is to increase a total of 32 prelicensure students annually

Second: **Patricia Wynne**

**Public Comment
for Agenda Item**

5.2.1: No public comments requested.

Vote:

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

Motion Passed

REGION 8 Los Angeles

10:29 a.m.

5.2.2 Marsha Fuerst School of Nursing Associate Degree Nursing Program (enrollment increase)

Committee

Discussion: **Patricia Wynne:** Expressed ongoing concern about enrollment impacts in highly impacted regions, noting multiple recent enrollment increases. She stated the new form was helpful and asked whether it captured all clinical assignments.

Mary Ann McCarthy: Clarified that the form reflects initial enrollment only and not the entire program.

Patricia Wynne: Expressed concern about the cumulative need for clinical placements across the general student population.

Christiana Baskaran (School Representative): Stated the form reflects clinical placements for the entire duration of the student’s program.

Loretta Melby: Noted the form reflected ICU and medical-surgical placements but did not include OB, pediatrics, psychiatric/mental health, or geriatrics. She asked whether the students were LVNs receiving transfer credit.

Christiana Baskaran: Listed multiple Kaiser Permanente clinical sites covering pediatrics, medical-surgical, OB, mental health, and advanced medical-surgical. She stated all sites were contacted and agreed to support students throughout the full program from fundamentals to advanced coursework.

Loretta Melby: Stated she did not see documentation for the additional clinical sites mentioned and asked whether those placements already existed and therefore did not require expansion.

Mary Ann McCarthy: Apologized for a miscommunication and acknowledged the expectation that the form should cover the entire program.

Janelle Sokolowich (School Representative): Explained the program has a director who oversees all clinical placements across campuses. She suggested clinical placement details could be outlined during public comment and stated the director was available to answer questions.

Loretta Melby: Clarified that the clinical director could be elevated to speak directly rather than during public comment. She provided clarification on the request and supplemental materials, thanked Marsha Fuerst for working with staff, and stated the request represented a significant expansion in a highly impacted region. She took responsibility for any lack of clarity regarding submission requirements. She explained the need for a complete clinical collaboration form covering the request for 15 students, three times per year, above current enrollment. She stated all materials must be posted publicly for Board review and explained required documentation, including the EDP-P-11 mapping the entire program.

Patricia Wynne: Expressed alarm regarding the program's attrition rates, stating they were among the highest she had seen.

Janelle Sokolowich: Reported attrition of 16.8% with an 84% graduation rate in documentation, and current tracking at 12.8% attrition and 87% graduation. She stated the program's goal aligns with the California Community College benchmark of 16% and that they are trending below it.

Loretta Melby: Explained that the community college attrition benchmark is not a Board standard and discussed historical variability in the program's attrition data.

Dolores Trujillo: Asked whether the attrition and NCLEX data reflected the current or prior year.

Janelle Sokolowich: Clarified the data reflected the current year, with 12.5% attrition and over 91% NCLEX pass rate. She described student support services in place.

Dolores Trujillo: Referenced prior-year attrition of 16.4% and expressed concern that rates remained in the double digits, stating this was a red flag. She asked why students were leaving the program.

Janelle Sokolowich: Explained the program serves historically underserved students, including a majority of students of color and low-income students, and emphasized the program's commitment to equity, access, and student support.

Dolores Trujillo: Acknowledged the explanation but reiterated concern about persistent attrition in impacted regions. She asked whether there were any complaints against the program.

Loretta Melby: Explained that complaints must be verified and stated there are complaints under investigation involving the program, but no information could be shared unless an accusation is filed.

Dolores Trujillo: Thanked Loretta Melby.

Loretta Melby: Asked for clarification on whether attrition occurred before entry into the nursing program or during nursing coursework.

Janelle Sokolowich: Stated attrition data reflects students from term three through six of the nursing program.

Loretta Melby: Stated the information was conflicting and asked whether the institution offers programs other than nursing.

Janelle Sokolowich: Confirmed and listed additional programs.

Loretta Melby: Asked about general education coursework and stated enrollment data should reflect students from semester one through graduation. She requested corrected attrition and enrollment data prior to the Board meeting and explained differences in reporting practices, particularly regarding transferable general education coursework.

Janelle Sokolowich: Asked how to classify students who complete general education and then transfer to another institution.

Loretta Melby: Responded that reporting is based on program structure, not individual student choice.

Discussion: *Gloria Blatti, Loretta Melby, and Janelle Sokolowich discussed general education coursework, program entry points, and reporting requirements.*

Loretta Melby: Requested separate reporting for pre-nursing and nursing enrollment.

Janelle Sokolowich: Asked whether a list of institutions accepting transferred coursework would be helpful.

Loretta Melby: Stated this may be useful and noted the program is not WASC accredited, limiting transferability to CSU and UC systems.

Janelle Sokolowich: Agreed to provide information on transferable institutions, clarify pre- and post-nursing attrition rates, and provide surgical technology program details.

Loretta Melby: Requested examples of enrollment acceptance letters to clarify when students are formally admitted to the nursing program.

Mary Ann McCarthy: Emphasized the need to include complete facility collaboration documentation, as that initiated the discussion.

Patricia Wynne: Expressed concern about student debt when students do not complete the program.

Janelle Sokolowich: Explained the program allows students to return after life interruptions and emphasized flexibility and readmission opportunities.

Loretta Melby: Noted programs typically have a one-year readmission policy and explained procedures for longer absences.

Dolores Trujillo: Stated that updated enrollment data, clinical collaboration forms, and corrected attrition figures were needed and began to move for deferral.

Loretta Melby: Clarified that no motion was required, as the item would be removed from the consent agenda and brought to the November Board meeting with the requested additional information.

**Public Comment
for Agenda Item**

5.2.2: No public comments requested.

REGION 9 Orange

11:27 a.m.

5.2.3 University of California Irvine Baccalaureate Degree and Entry Level Master’s Degree (enrollment increase)

Committee

Discussion: **Dolores Trujillo:** Stated she believes this is an impacted region.

Loretta Melby: Agreed and noted that, similar to Marsha Fuerst and another program, the Board may consider reviewing clinical collaboration.

Patricia Wynne: Described the request as a modest increase and indicated she is inclined to support it.

Loretta Melby: Clarified that the program will maximize existing clinical groups, will not take additional shifts, and will use current faculty and infrastructure. She noted there will be no impact on the UC Irvine Health System clinical sites being utilized.

Motion: **Dolores Trujillo** *Recommends* acceptance of the enrollment increase for an approved prelicensure nursing program University of California, Irvine Baccalaureate Degree and Entry Level Master’s Nursing Program

BSN - 70 students annually (an increase of 20 students annually)

ELM - 60 students annually (an increase of 20 students annually)

For a total increase of 40 students annually

Second: **Patricia Wynne**

**Public
Comment for
Agenda Item**

5.2.3: **Susanne Phillips, Senior Associate Dean, UC Irvine:** Thanked the members for their time, she knows how long this process takes.

Vote:

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

Motion Passed

11:38 a.m.

5.3 *Discussion and possible action regarding a request to grant initial approval of a new prelicensure nursing program*

REGION 3 San Francisco Bay

5.3.1 Unitek College, Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program (secondary site San Jose)

Committee

Discussion: Members said they were inclined to approve this request.

Motion: Jovita Dominguez Recommend granting initial approval of a secondary campus in San Jose requested by Unitek College, Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program with an enrollment pattern of 40 students, three (3) times a year for an annual enrollment of 120 students

Second: Patricia Wynne

Public Comment for Agenda Item

5.3.1: No public comments requested.

Vote:

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

Motion Passed

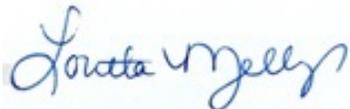
11:44 a.m.

6.0

Adjournment

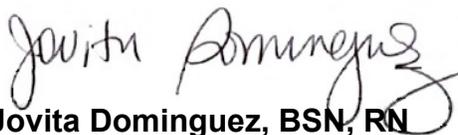
➤ Jovita Dominguez, Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m.

Submitted by:



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

Accepted by:



Jovita Dominguez, BSN, RN
Chairperson, ELC
California Board of Registered Nursing