

**CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED CHANGE IN APPROVAL STATUS
BASED ON 2007 NCLEX-PN® EXAMINATION PASS RATE, REVIEW OF
2007 VOCATIONAL NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION SURVEY (VN-NEPIS),
2007 COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR VOCATIONAL NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS (CANEP),
AND REPORT OF THE SUMMARY OF THE SURVEY VISIT
PLATT HEALTH CAREERS TRAINING IN DALLAS, TEXAS**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider staff recommendation concerning a proposed change in the approval status for Platt Health Careers Training, Dallas, Texas based on review of the 2007 VN-NEPIS and VN-CANEP, preliminary NCLEX-PN examination pass rate, and report of the summary of the survey visit.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

- Platt Health Careers Training received Initial Approval for a new VN Program at the July 2006 Board meeting.
- Thirty students were enrolled in Fall 2006 and twenty students completed the program in October 2007.
- Fifteen graduates from the program took the NCLEX-PN examination in 2007 with a preliminary examination pass rate of 80%.
- A second cohort of students was enrolled in October 2007.
- Board staff conducted survey visits in March 2006 and on March 31-April 1, 2008.

SUMMARY OF SURVEY VISIT:

- A survey visit was conducted by K. Neighbors and J. Hooper on March 31-April 1, 2008.
- The survey visit included meetings with:
 - B. Sewell, Director of the Dallas Program
 - Administration: Gay Pearce, Director of Vocational Programs, and Cindy Smith, Director of School
 - Students
 - Faculty
- Board staff toured the facilities and reviewed:
 - Total Program Evaluation Plan
 - Minutes of Faculty Meetings
 - Syllabi
 - Student Papers
 - Clinical Evaluation Tools and Clinical Pathways
 - Job Descriptions for Nursing Faculty and Director
- Platt Health Careers was found to be in compliance with Rule 214 with two areas of exception:
 - Rule 214.6(h) Administration and Organization requires that the director has the authority to direct the program in all its phases. The program is expected to follow all areas of the curriculum from the Oklahoma campuses. In some areas, adaptation of curriculum items to the Dallas site would be more effective.
 - Rule 214.11 Facilities, Resources, and Services(b) requires that an appropriately equipped skills laboratory shall be provided to accommodate the maximum number of students allowed for the program. The director, faculty and students indicated lab equipment and supplies are not adequate.
- Staff identified other areas of concern:
 - Using tests and examinations from Oklahoma campuses poses some problems.
 - Students expressed concerns about progression policies.
 - Staff stress the importance of planning for adequate resources (additional faculty, lab equipment and clinical affiliations) with planned growth in the future.

PROS:

- Platt's educational facilities are modern, spacious and located in an area with easy access and ample parking.
- The director has maintained communications with board staff for consultation since the program was begun in Fall 2006.
- The director has been very committed to the success of the students in the first class. She has coached them and assisted them with English since English was the second language for many of them. She diligently sought out quality clinical experiences for the students.
- The program uses a set of "clinical ladder" clinical evaluation tools that clearly evaluate students' progression in expected behaviors through the program.
- The faculty meet regularly and maintain minutes of the meetings. The Total Evaluation Plan is current and used on a regular basis.

CONS:

- The Dallas program is expected to follow the Oklahoma Platt curriculum in all aspects including required textbooks, syllabi, test questions and examinations, lecture outlines, schedule of courses, etc. Though students and faculty find some of the materials very helpful, they find other items less effective.
- Director, faculty and students all stated that there is a need for more lab equipment and supplies.
- Students expressed concerns about the strict progression policies.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Move to change the approval status of Platt Health Careers Training, Dallas, Texas vocational nursing educational program from Initial to Full based on review of the 2007 VN-NEPIS and VN-CANEP, preliminary NCLEX-PN examination pass rate, and the report of the summary of the survey visit and issue the commendation, recommendations, and requirements as stated in the attached letter (Attachment #1).

DRAFT LETTER

April 21, 2008

Brenda Sewell, MSN, RN
Director, Platt Health Careers-Dallas
2974 LBJ Freeway
Dallas, Texas 75234

Dear Ms. Sewell:

At the April 17-18, 2008 meeting, the Texas Board of Nursing discussed changing the approval status of the Vocational Nursing Educational Program at Platt Health Careers in Dallas, Texas from Initial to Full Approval based upon the 2007 Nursing Education Program Information Survey, the 2007 Compliance Audit, the 2007 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, and the summary of the Survey Visit Report. The Board wishes to thank you and Cindy Smith for being present to answer questions. Based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the decision of the Board to grant the program Full Approval Status and issue the following commendation, recommendations and requirements.

Commendation:

The program director is commended for her leadership role in the implementation of this new vocational nursing education program and her commitment to the success of the students.

Recommendations:

1. Where test questions and examinations from Platt in Oklahoma are used in Dallas, the Platt campus should provide a test blueprint for each test, and rationale and textbook citations for each answer.
2. Nursing faculty are encouraged to examine the progression policies and to develop a plan for student retention with remediation activities to assist students in progression through the program.
3. Nursing faculty are encouraged to examine test questions across the curriculum to insure adequate numbers of questions at the application level and fewer questions at the knowledge level.

Requirements:

1. Rule 214.6(d)3 relating to *Administration and Organization* requires that “The controlling agency shall provide the number of faculty necessary to meet minimum to meet minimum standards set by the Board and to insure a sound educational program...” Platt is planning to increase the VN enrollment in Dallas with a second admission time each year. **Therefore**, additional nursing faculty shall be hired to provide adequate instruction for future growth. This hiring shall occur prior to a second admission.
2. Rule 214.6(h) relating to *Administration and Organization* requires that “The director or coordinator shall have the authority to direct the program in all its phases ...” Director and faculty indicate that the Dallas program must use the curriculum plan in all its aspects including tests, examinations, lecture outlines, selected textbooks, syllabi, and course schedule, and the use of some materials is problematic. **Therefore**, Platt administration in Oklahoma and the program director in Dallas shall design a plan for the director to individualize the curriculum and schedule for the Dallas campus.
3. Rule 214.11(b) relating to *Facilities, Resources, and Services* requires that “An appropriately equipped skills laboratory shall be provided to accommodate maximum number of students allowed for the program.” Director, faculty and students all stated that skills lab equipment is not adequate. **Therefore**, the controlling agency shall provide adequate funding for additional lab equipment and supplies for the current class and for an additional class, as applicable.

Program director shall provide responses to all recommendations and requirements as they are addressed or by October 1, 2008, whichever occurs first.

A requirement is a mandatory criterion based on program assessment directly related to the rule that must be addressed in the manner prescribed. A recommendation is a suggestion based upon program assessment indirectly related to the rules to which the program must respond but in a method of their choosing.

If we may be of assistance in the future, please contact board staff at (512) 305-7659 or email to karen.neighbors@bon.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President

Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: Michael Pugliese, President, Platt Health Careers Training
Gay Pearce, Director of Vocational Nursing Programs for Platt
Texas Workforce Commission