

**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
DALLAS NURSING INSTITUTE IN DALLAS, TEXAS
ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider the Dallas Nursing Institute (DNI) proposal to establish a generic associate degree nursing (ADN) educational program with a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) to ADN transition track in Dallas, Texas. The final revised version of the proposal was sent to the individual members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON or Board) on two computer disks. A Notice of Public Hearing has been posted (See Attachment One).

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

- DNI in Dallas, Texas began operations in 1984 under the name of E & K Vocational Nursing Program, Incorporated, offering a nurse aide program and a home health aide program.
- In 1991, approval was granted to the institution by the Texas Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners to offer vocational nursing education.
- In April 1999, Greg Davault became the sole owner and president of the institution that was renamed, North Texas Professional Career Institute.
- The institution received proprietary school status as a career school and college from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) in 1999.
- Institutional accreditation was granted by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) in December 1999.
- In October 2006, the school moved to its present location and the name was changed to Dallas Nursing Institute (DNI).
- DNI submitted the first draft of a proposal to establish a new ADN educational program that was received in the Board office on July 8, 2008.
- Board staff completed the first review of the proposal and suggested revisions were sent to the program via email on 02/03/09.
- Board staff conducted a site visit of the DNI facilities on 03/03/09 (See Attachment Two) and during the visit the suggested revisions to the draft proposal were discussed in-depth with the authors of the proposal.
- The revised proposal was received in the Board office on 03/18/09, reviewed by Board staff, and the written review of the revised proposal was sent to DNI via email on March 24, 2009.
- A final version of the proposal was received in the Board office on April 1, 2009 and board staff noted that the revisions and comments provided to the program in the written review of March 24, 2009 had been addressed in the final version of the proposal with the exception of some minor suggestions.

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSAL:

Overview:

- DNI in Dallas, Texas, is requesting to establish a generic ADN educational program with a LVN to ADN transition track.
- DNI is legally authorized to grant degrees, grant credits toward degrees, and to use certain protected academic terms in the State of Texas and this authority was confirmed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) in an official letter dated October 28, 2008. The THECB granted DNI an exemption based on DNI's accreditation with the ABHES.
- DNI has a long term goal of obtaining accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) in the future.
- The proposed ADN program will offer a 69-credit-hour program in a blocked curriculum format that leads to an Associate of Applied Science Degree.
- DNI proposes an anticipated beginning student enrollment for the new program in August 2009 with a cohort of thirty (30) generic ADN students and twenty (20) LVN to ADN transition students in the first semester, adding a cohort of fifty (50) generic ADN students and LVN to ADN transition students the next semester.

Purpose and Need for Program:

- Proposal included current and future evidence of numerous job openings for Registered Nurses (RNs) in the Dallas area.
- Results from surveys of health care agencies in the area indicate a consistent need for RNs.

Impact on Existing Programs:

- Proposal states that there are three ADN educational programs located within twenty-five (25) miles of the DNI campus and available data presented in the proposal indicates that these three programs are unable to accommodate the number of prospective nursing students applying for admission each year.
- A survey of local community and surrounding-area health care facilities indicated that the facilities are willing to accommodate the proposed DNI ADN educational program with clinical experiences if the program will utilize Monday, evening and weekend clinical slots and the DNI ADN program has planned to utilize these available clinical slots.

Administration and Organization:

- Documentation of accreditation/approval from ABHES to grant degrees and verification of authorization/exemption from the THECB is present in the proposal.
- Documentation of support from the DNI Board of Directors, state and community leaders and local health care facilities is present in the proposal.
- A chart of the DNI organizational structure and the proposed ADN program was included.

Budget:

- Documentation of adequate support and financial stability for the program is present in the proposal.
- The proposed budget includes salaries, secretarial support, rent and utilities, advertising, consultant fees, library holdings, equipment, and cost of databases, and medical equipment and supplies.
- The budget projections address the required elements of Texas BON Rule 215.

Director/Faculty:

- The proposal identifies a prospective qualified program director, Nancy M. Park (Schenken), MSN, RN, who is co-author of the proposal.
- Seven (7) individuals have been identified as prospective nursing faculty members, but sufficient information was not provided in the proposal so that board staff could verify that all the individuals have the required qualifications to teach in the proposed ADN program.

Students:

- The proposal lists at least three (3) different sources of potential students.
- The results of a survey of DNI vocational nursing students indicates that a strong interest in the proposed program exists.
- Information in the Student Handbook includes all the required information and policies required by Texas BON Rule 215.
- A receipt specifically listing the Texas BON eligibility information as cited in Rule 215.8(f) for students to sign acknowledging receipt of said eligibility information is present in the Student and Faculty Handbooks.

Program of Study:

- The proposed curriculum is well-developed and includes all required content and elements.
- The proposed curriculum includes sufficient references to the Differentiated Entry Level Competencies of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs (DELG) and sufficient opportunities for students to demonstrate the DELG.

Clinical Learning Experiences:

- The proposed program will provide clinical learning experiences for the DNI ADN students in a wide variety of health care facilities and areas, including acute care, long term care, and day care, as indicated by the sample clinical rotation schedule present in the proposal.
- A copy of a signed clinical facility agreement representing ten (10) clinical facilities is present in the proposal.

Facilities, Resources and Services:

- There are sufficient classrooms, skills laboratories, three simulation labs, two computer classrooms available for use with the virtual clinical excursions, conference rooms, and student lounge and kitchen/lunchroom areas as evidenced by the narrative descriptions, the floor plans of the facility, and the photos included in the proposal.
- A draft schedule of classroom, skills labs, and simulation labs utilization was provided in the proposal.
- Private offices are provided for the program director and all full-time nursing faculty members. Shared offices are provided for part-time/adjunct nursing faculty members.
- DNI is compliant with The Americans With Disabilities Act.
- Library services are offered through a full service library on site with 1100 volumes, with 75 medicine and nursing titles, computers, instructional DVDs, videos, CDs, and electronic databases. The library is staffed with a full-time librarian and library assistants.

Records and Reports:

- A written plan for retention of program related records is described in the proposal.
- The DNI building has adequate space allocated for the storage of program related records.

Total Program Evaluation:

- All of the required nine (9) applicable board areas are present in the Total Program Evaluation Plan included in the proposal.
- Numerical benchmarks are present for most areas included in the Total Program Evaluation Plan.
- Numerical benchmarks may require revision in the future as data is collected.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros:

- DNI has operated a successful vocational nursing educational program since 1991.
- Documentation of the required accreditation/approval for the proposed program to grant degrees from ABHES and verification of authorization/exemption from the THECB are included in the proposal.
- DNI has a long term goal of obtaining SACS accreditation.
- A prospective qualified program director for the proposed program has been identified and secured.
- At least one (1) prospective qualified faculty member has been identified for the proposed program.
- The proposed program of study/curriculum is well-developed and addresses all required elements.
- Adequate clinical facilities for clinical learning experiences have been secured for the first cohort of students.
- Adequate budget projections to operate the program, provide medical equipment and supplies, and maintain the necessary facilities, resources and services were included in the proposal.
- Board staff conducted a survey visit of the DNI facilities on 03/03/09 and determined that sufficient facilities, resources and services, including the nursing skills labs, simulation labs, library services, and director and faculty offices are available and meet the Texas BON required standards.

Cons:

- Sufficient information was not provided that would allow Texas BON staff to verify that all prospective faculty members listed in the proposal meet the requirements of Rule 215 and are qualified to teach in an ADN program. This information can be provided to the Texas BON and the qualifications of all the prospective nursing faculty members verified by Texas BON staff prior to the start of the proposed ADN program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Move to approve a generic ADN educational program with a LVN to ADN transition track to be established by Dallas Nursing Institute in Dallas, Texas, grant the program Initial Approval status with approval to implement the program with an initial cohort of thirty (30) generic ADN students and twenty (20) LVN to ADN transition students in the first semester, adding a cohort of fifty (50) generic ADN students and LVN to ADN transition students the next semester, and issue the commendation, as indicated in the attached letter (See Attachment Three).

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701-3942

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for

Consideration of a Proposal from Dallas Nursing Institute

To Establish An

Associate Degree Nursing Educational Program

in

Dallas, Texas

Date and Time: April 23, 2009 at 10:45 a.m.

Place:

Hobby Building
333 Guadalupe Street
Tower 2, Room 225
Austin, Texas

The Board will hear testimony from individuals who wish to present information concerning the proposal. Written testimony will also be considered and should be received in the Board's office by April 10, 2009.

Address written testimony to:

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director
Texas Board of Nursing
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701-3942

**TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING
SURVEY VISIT REPORT**

NAME OF NURSING PROGRAM: Dallas Nursing Institute (DNI), Proposed Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Educational Program

PROPOSED DIRECTOR: Nancy Park, MSN, RN

REASON FOR SURVEY: Visit site to determine adequacy of facilities, resources, and services.

DATE: March 3, 2009

SURVEY VISITOR: Robbin Wilson, MSN, RN

The following survey tool includes only the standard/criteria related to 215.11, Facilities, Resources, and Services which was the focus of the survey visit. No other standard/criteria were evaluated during the site visit.

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
§215.11 Facilities, Resources, and Services		
(a) The governing institution shall be responsible for providing: (1) educational facilities, (2) resources, and (3) services which support the effective development and implementation of the nursing education program.	BON staff was able to verify that sufficient facilities, resources, and services are available.	Criteria met.
(b) The dean or director and faculty shall have adequate secretarial and clerical assistance to meet the needs of the program.	Sufficient adequate secretarial and clerical support is present.	Criteria met.
© The physical facilities shall be adequate to meet the needs of the program in relation to the size of the faculty and the student body. (1) The dean or director shall have a private office.(2) Faculty offices shall be conveniently located and adequate in number and size to provide faculty with privacy for conferences with students and uninterrupted work. (3) Space for clerical staff, records, files, and equipment shall be adequate. (4) There shall be mechanisms which provide for the security of sensitive materials, such as examinations and health records. (5) Classrooms, laboratories, and conference rooms shall be conducive to learning and adequate in number, size, and type for the number of students and the educational purposes for which the rooms are used.	BON staff verified that the physical facilities were more than adequate to meet the needs of the program director, faculty and the student body.	Criteria met.
(d) The learning resources, library, and departmental holdings shall be current, use contemporary technology appropriate for the level of the curriculum, and be sufficient for the size of the student body and the needs of the faculty. (1) Provisions shall be made for accessibility, availability, and timely delivery of information resources.(2) Facilities and policies shall promote effective use, i.e. environment, accessibility, and hours of operation.	All learning resources, library, etc. are current and appropriate contemporary technology is available.	Criteria met.

DRAFT LETTER

April 30, 2009

Greg Davault, President
Dallas Nursing Institute
12170 North Abrams Road, Suite 200
Dallas, Texas 75243

Dear Mr. Davault:

At the April 23-24, 2009 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) discussed the Dallas Nursing Institute (DNI) proposal to establish a new generic associate degree nursing (ADN) educational program with an Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) to ADN transition track in Dallas, Texas. The members of the Texas BON wish to thank you and [] for being available to answer questions.

As indicated by the enclosed order, the Texas BON is pleased to inform you that based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the decision of the Texas BON to grant Initial Approval status to the Dallas Nursing Institute ADN Educational Program in Dallas, Texas. The program has Texas BON approval to implement the program with an initial cohort of thirty (30) generic ADN students and twenty (20) LVN to ADN transition students in the first semester, adding a cohort of fifty (50) generic ADN students and LVN to ADN transition students the next semester. Additionally, the Texas BON issues the following commendation:

Commendation:

The authors of the proposal, Sue McCellend, MS, RRT, RN, proposal consultant, Nancy Park, MSN, RN, prospective program director and Greg Davault, owner and president of DNI, are commended for their efforts and determination in revising the original draft of the proposal to meet the requirements of the Texas BON.

We wish you success with the program. If you have any questions, or if we may be of any assistance, please contact board staff at (512) 305-6815 or by email at robbin.wilson@bon.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President

Robbin Wilson, MSN, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

xc: Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Nancy Park, MSN, RN, Director, Associate Degree Nursing Education Program, Dallas Nursing Institute

Enclosure

DRAFT BOARD ORDER

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the matter of the proposal of

Dallas Nursing Institute in Dallas, Texas

For approval to establish an Associate Degree Nursing Educational Program

ORDER OF THE BOARD

TO: Dallas Nursing Institute in Dallas, Texas

The Texas Board of Nursing in and for the State of Texas in a regularly scheduled meeting, held on the 23rd day of April 2009, considered the proposal for authority to establish an Associate Degree Nursing Educational Program by the Board, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code.

At the meeting, Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP, President of the Board, presided and the following members were present:

Deborah Hughes Bell, CLU, ChFC, Consumer Member
Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN, Representing VN Programs
George Buchenau, Jr., BSN, RN, Representing Practice
Patricia "Patti" Clapp, BA, Consumer Member
Sheri Denise Crosby, JD, Consumer Member
Marilyn J. Davis, BSN, RN, Representing Practice
Blanca Rosa Garcia, PhD, RN Representing ADN programs
Richard Robert Gibbs, LVN, Representing Practice
Rachel Gomez, LVN, Representing Practice
Brenda S. Jackson, PhD, RN, Representing BSN Programs
Beverly Jean Nutall, LVN, Representing Practice
Mary Jane Salgado, MEd, Consumer Member

The Board reviewed the proposal of the above school and after having discussed the proposal in an open public meeting, the Board makes the following findings:

FINDINGS

That a written proposal has been filed with said Board.

That a public meeting on said proposal was held to take testimony and evidence by the Board.

That the written proposal does meet the minimum requirements for proceeding with the establishment of an approved program offering an Associate Degree in Nursing.

ORDER

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT, the proposal of Dallas Nursing Institute is approved, having been found to comply with minimum requirements and standards for establishing an Associate Degree Nursing Educational Program to prepare registered nurses.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT THE aforementioned entity is authorized to proceed with the admission of the initial cohort of thirty (30) generic ADN students and twenty (20) LVN to ADN transition students in the first semester, adding a cohort of fifty (50) generic ADN students and LVN to ADN transition students the next semester. The program has the approval of the Texas Board of Nursing for implementation as all the legal requirements and standards for professional nursing education as described in Rules and Regulations Relating to Professional Nursing Education, §215.1-§215.13 (effective 02/13/05) are met

DATED THIS 23rd day of April 2009.

THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

Seal

By: _____

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP, President