

### **Status Report - Program with Conditional Approval**

#### **St. Michael's School of Nursing and Technology in Weslaco, Texas Vocational Nursing Educational Program**

##### **Summary:**

This is a status report to provide an update subsequent to the April 2010 Board meeting when St. Michael's School of Nursing and Technology was placed on Conditional approval. No Board action is requested; this is a status report only, updating Board Members on progress toward meeting recommendations and requirements.

##### **Historical Perspective:**

- Based on a Survey Visit March 16-17, 2010 related to the 2009 NCLEX-PN® Pass Rate and complaints received by Board staff, the program was placed on Conditional approval at the April 2010 Board Meeting.
- Two (2) recommendations and two (2) requirements were issued to the program, as outlined below with comments regarding action taken by the program to meet those recommendations and requirements.

##### **Review of Prior Recommendations:**

- 1) It is recommended that all students become involved in Study Groups.

##### **Action:**

According to the Program Director, all students, including individuals from both the day and the evening cohorts, are actively involved in Study Groups.

- 2) It is recommended that a seasoned nursing consultant with extensive experience in vocational nursing education be hired.

##### **Action:**

Betty Sims, MSN, RN was hired on May 6, 2010 to serve as consultant for the vocational nursing educational program. Ms. Sims made a one-day face-to-face visit to St. Michael's on June 4, 2010.

The Action Plan developed by Ms. Sims addressed the following areas:

- 1) student selection,
- 2) staff development,
- 3) leadership guidance,  
*Mr. Homer Tijerina, RN was appointed as the Assistant Program Director in June 2010.*
- 4) study groups, and
- 5) community involvement.

##### **Review of Prior Requirements:**

- 1) Rule 214.4(a)(1)(b)&(c) related to Approval: Approval status of programs may be changed if there is a failure to maintain an 80% passing rate on the licensing examination by first-time candidates. The first graduating class of St. Michael's School of Nursing and Technology demonstrated a 58.33% 2008 NCLEX-PN® pass rate. The next class achieved a 40% 2009 NCLEX-PN® pass rate. **Therefore**, the program director shall submit quarterly progress reports to the Texas BON, including students' grades, standardized test scores, and clinical performance evaluations. The first quarterly monitoring report shall be submitted to the Texas BON by June 1, 2010.

**Action:**

Ms. Hermelinda Bolling, RN submitted the required quarterly progress report to Board staff. The document included discussion of the following items in addition to the aforementioned required items:

- A) redistribution of curriculum,
- B) modification of grading criteria to include both didactic and clinical learning experiences,
- C) rearrangement of didactic and clinical learning experiences to more effectively integrate theory into clinical learning experiences, and
- D) intensive tutoring of May 2010 graduates utilizing the HESI examination.

- 2) Rule 214.7(a)(B) related to Faculty: Written policies for nursing faculty shall include: plans for faculty orientation to the institution and the nursing program, faculty development, and evaluation of faculty. A plan for nursing faculty development shall be offered to encourage and assist faculty members to meet the nursing program's needs, as well as individual faculty member's professional development needs. A review of faculty credentials and resumes revealed that faculty did not possess experience in vocational nursing education. **Therefore**, a written Faculty Development Plan shall be established in order to assist faculty to become effective nurse educators and shall be submitted to the Texas BON by June 1, 2010.

**Action:**

According to Ms. Martha Montelongo, Administrator, the Faculty Development Plan included:

- A) membership in the Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators (TAVNE),
- B) June 2010 Teaching Strategies Workshop conducted at St. Michael's SON by a representative from Region I Education Center, and
- C) June 2010 on-site consultation with faculty by nursing consultant Betty Sims, MSN, RN.

**NCLEX-PN® Pass Rate Update**

As of July 1, 2010, there have been no additional first-time NCLEX-PN® test takers since April 2, 2010. Therefore, the 2010 pass rate remains at 40% (2/5). Although a cohort of twelve (12) students graduated on May 6, 2010, the Affidavit of Graduation (AOG) was not signed until the students completed the NCLEX-PN® review program provided by St. Michael's and achieved a predetermined score on the HESI. The Board received signed AOGs for nine (9) of the twelve (12) graduates on June 14, 2010. Ms. Bolling, Program Director, stated that some of the students are scheduled for July 7, 9, and 12, 2010 testing dates; however, several students could not be scheduled until July 30, 2010.