

**Proposal to Establish A New Nursing Education Program
Academy of Health Care Professions in Houston, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the Academy of Health Care Professions (AHCP) proposal to establish a new vocational nursing (VN) education program in Houston, Texas, and the report of the survey visit (See Attachment #1). The final revised proposal was mailed to members of the Board under separate cover. A notice of public hearing has been posted (See Attachment #3).

Historical Perspective:

- AHCP is a private educational institution owned by Empowerment Schools Healthcare Limited.
- Board staff have been working with Mr. John Emerald, COO and Director of AHCP, since 2006.
- AHCP has been licensed by the Texas Workforce Commission since 1990.
- A first draft of the proposal for the VN program was received in the board office on June 23, 2006, and board staff met with AHCP representatives on September 28, 2006, to provide guidance to the program.
- Revised proposals were received on December 29, 2008, and May 29, 2009, with meetings and feedback provided to the program in an ongoing manner.
- Board staff met with the new proposed director, Jason Smith, and the AHCP consultant on July 12, 2010 in the board office to review their status.
- A new proposal was received in the board office on November 1, 2010, and staff provided feedback to the proposed program director.
- A site visit was conducted on December 17, 2010, by Janice Hooper and Virginia Ayars.

Summary of Proposal:

Overview of the Proposal:

- AHCP proposes to establish a new 12-month, 58 credit hour VN education program in Houston, Texas.
- The proposed starting date for the program is February 7, 2011, but this date will be dependent upon time needed to obtain approval from the accreditation organization, the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES). ABHES requires approval by the Board of Nursing prior to their consideration.
- A first cohort of 30 students is projected for enrollment when the program opens.
- The projected graduation date for the first cohort will be Spring 2012.

Rationale and Need for the Program:

- The data provided in the proposal indicate a need for the vocational nursing program in the Houston area.
- Letters of support from community leaders in the Houston area indicate support for the proposed nursing program.
- A survey of health care facilities was conducted to determine the availability of LVN jobs in the area.

Administration and Organization:

- The main campus of AHCP is located at 240 Northwest Mall in Houston and offers ten career programs to about 850 students each year. AHCP has branch campuses in Houston, San Antonio, and Austin, but nursing is planned only for the Houston campus.
- AHCP is accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) and AHCP qualifies for federal student loans.

- The proposed director, Jason Smith, MSN, RN, has completed a doctoral program and will receive the DNP in May, 2011. He has clinical practice and nursing research experience, but has not taught in a nursing program. For his own professional development, Mr. Smith has identified a qualified individual who has many years of experience as a nursing faculty member (Dr. Bettye Lewis, RN, MSN, PhD) to serve as his mentor.

Availability of Faculty and Clinical Sites:

- Proposal identifies several potential faculty who are qualified but have limited teaching experience. Mr. Smith has developed an orientation plan for faculty and also plans to involve the faculty in the Pearson Instructor Education program to provide an overview of nursing education teaching skills.
- The proposed director has been able to find a variety of clinical learning experiences in the outlying areas of Houston.

Financial Support and Resources:

- The AHCP is located adjacent to a shopping mall but the academy is secured from the entrance to the mall.
- One hall of the AHCP space has been dedicated to the nursing program and includes a private office for the director, a large office space divided into cubicles for faculty, 2 large furnished skills labs, and classrooms. All offices are equipped with a computer, printer, and telephone.
- There are faculty and student lounges.
- A reception area in the building provides a friendly area where students and potential students may access information.
- There is ample parking at this location.
- Administration at AHCP have provided financial resources to furnish the skills labs and are committed to the program.
- The proposed director does not have secretarial and clerical assistance to meet the needs of the program.

Program of Study:

- The curriculum is sound, logically organized and meets all requirements of the rule.
- Clinical evaluation tools demonstrate progression in expectations of students across the curriculum.

Total Evaluation Plan:

- The program's total evaluation plan includes the required components.

Comments from Survey Visit:

Staff met with the proposed director, John Emerald, and one faculty member. Mr. Smith reviewed the curriculum plan and answered questions from board staff. Board staff toured the space assigned to the vocational nursing education program (See Attachment #1).

Pros:

- The administration at AHCP is supportive of the vocational nursing education program.
- The educational space allocated to the nursing program provides ample space for the program and fully furnished nursing skills labs.
- The proposed director has invested many hours in preparation and is dedicated to providing a base education for the graduates to articulate toward further education in the career of nursing. He has also been very responsive to suggestions from board staff.

Cons:

- Identified faculty have little experience teaching prelicensure nursing students (however, the proposed director has planned faculty development activities to assist them in the teaching role).
- The program does not have dedicated secretarial and clerical assistance.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to grant initial approval to the Academy of Health Care Professions for a Vocational Nursing Education Program in Houston, Texas, with a single cohort of 30 students annually to begin in 2011, based upon the proposal and survey visit and issue the requirement as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment #2).

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

SURVEY VISIT PROGRAM REPORT
Vocational Nursing Education Program

NAME OF NURSING PROGRAM: Academy of Health Care Professions in Houston, Texas

PROPOSED DIRECTOR: Jason Smith, MSN, RN

REASON FOR SURVEY: New Proposal

DATES: December 17, 2010

SURVEY VISITOR(S): Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN, and Virginia Ayars, MS, RN

VOLUNTARY ACCREDITATION:

In this report the nursing program met standards and criteria unless otherwise indicated by narrative. Narrative in the Evidence column documents findings of pertinent data, outstanding performance, or deficiencies. Narrative in the Comments column includes recommendations or requirements to be met based on analysis of the survey visit

§214.11 Facilities, Resources, and Services	Evidence	Comments
(a) The controlling agency/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 educational program.	One hall of the AHCP setting has been dedicated to the new nursing program. Resources have been provided to equip the nursing labs and classrooms. Student services are in place at AHCP.	Criterion met.
(b) An appropriately equipped skills laboratory shall be provided to accommodate maximum number of students allowed for the program. (1) The laboratory shall be equipped with hot and cold running water. (2) The laboratory shall have adequate storage for equipment.	Two spacious skills labs are completely equipped and furnished, ready for student instruction and practice. The labs have hot and cold running water and ample storage.	Criterion met.
(c) The director/coordinator and faculty shall have adequate secretarial and clerical assistance to meet the needs of the program.	There is no dedicated secretarial and clerical assistance for the program.	Criterion not met. Requirement will be issued.

<p>(d) 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.</p> <p>(1) The director/coordinator shall have a private office.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(3) Space for clerical staff, records, files, and equipment shall be adequate.</p> <p>(4) There shall be mechanisms which provide for the security of sensitive materials, such as examinations and health records.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(6) Teaching aids shall be provided to meet the objectives/outcomes of the program.</p> <p>(7) Adequate restrooms and lounges shall be provided convenient to the classroom.</p>	<p>The physical facilities are adequate to begin the program. The director has a private office and faculty will have offices in cubicles in a larger room. (One faculty member stated that this is acceptable and that her office is fully equipped.)</p> <p>Mechanisms are in place to secure sensitive materials and documents. Classroom and labs are conducive for instruction. Teaching aids and adequate restrooms and lounges are available.</p>	<p>Criterion met.</p>
<p>(e) 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.</p> <p>(1) Provisions shall be made for accessibility, availability, and timely delivery of information resources.</p> <p>(2) Facilities and policies shall promote effective use, i.e. environment, accessibility, and hours of operation.</p>	<p>A physical library is available and the students will have access to online resources.</p>	<p>Criterion met.</p>
<p>§214.12 Records and Reports</p>		
<p>(a) Accurate and current records shall be maintained for a minimum of two (2) years in a confidential manner and be accessible to appropriate parties, including Board representatives. These records shall include, but are not limited to:</p> <p>(1) records of current students;</p> <p>(2) faculty records;</p> <p>(3) administrative records, which include minutes of faculty meetings for the past three years, and school catalogs;</p> <p>(4) the current program of study and curriculum including mission and goals (philosophy and outcomes), and course outlines;</p> <p>(5) agreements with affiliating agencies; and</p> <p>(6) the master plan of evaluation with most recent data collection.</p>	<p>A record retention plan is in place. Agreements with affiliating agencies were reviewed.</p>	<p>Criterion met.</p>
<p>(b) Record forms may be developed by an individual school.</p>		<p>Criterion met.</p>
<p>(c) Hospital employment forms are not to be used for student records.</p>		<p>Criterion met.</p>
<p>(d) Records shall be safely stored to prevent loss, destruction, or unauthorized use.</p>		<p>Criterion met.</p>

DRAFT LETTER

January 31, 2011

Jason Smith, MSN, RN
The Academy of Health Care Professions
240 Northwest Mall
Houston, Texas 77092

Dear Mr. Smith:

At the January 27, 2011 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON or Board) discussed the Academy of Health Professions Proposal to Establish a New Vocational Nursing Education Program in Houston, Texas, and the report of the December 17, 2010, survey visit. The members of the Board wish to thank you and Mr. John Emerald, COO, for being present to answer questions.

As indicated by the enclosed order, it was the Board's decision to grant Initial Approval status to the Academy of Health Care Professions in Houston, Texas, and to allow an annual admission of 30 students beginning in 2011, with the next admission in 2012.

The Board also issues the following requirement as stated in the Board Order:

Requirement #1:

There is presently no dedicated secretarial or clerical assistance to the program. Rule 214.11(c) related to *Facilities, Resources, and Services* requires that "The director/coordinator and faculty shall have adequate secretarial and clerical assistance to meet the needs of the program." **Therefore**, the administration shall provide adequate secretarial assistance to meet the needs of the program.

A requirement is a mandatory criterion based on program assessment directly related to the rule that must be addressed in the manner prescribed.

If you have questions, or if we may be of assistance, please contact board staff at (512) 305-6814.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President of the Board

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

copy: John Emerald, COO, AHCP
TWC
ABHES

**Texas Board of Nursing
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701-3942**

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING
IN AND FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

In the matter of the proposal of the Academy of Health Care Professions
in Houston, Texas

For approval to implement a Vocational Nursing Education Program

ORDER OF THE BOARD

TO:

The Board of Nursing in and for the State of Texas in a regularly scheduled meeting, held on the 27th day of January 2011, considered the proposal for authority to implement a Vocational Nursing Education Program and obtain Approval from 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
Patricia Clapp, BA, Consumer Member
Tamara Cowen, MN, RN, Representing Practice
Sheri Denise Crosby, JD, SPHR, Consumer Member
Marilyn J. Davis, RN, BSN, MPA, Representing Practice
Blanca Rosa Garcia, PhD, RN Representing ADN Programs
Richard Robert Gibbs, LVN, Representing Practice
Kathy Leader-Horn, LVN, Representing Practice
Josefina Lujan, 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

1. That a written proposal has been filed with said Board.
2. That a public meeting on said proposal was held to take testimony and evidence by the Board.
3. That the written proposal does meet the minimum requirements for proceeding with the development of an approved program offering a Vocational Nursing Certificate.

ORDER

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT, the proposal of the Academy of Health Care Professions is approved having been found to comply with minimum requirements for establishing a Vocational Nursing Education Program to prepare vocational nurses.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT THE aforementioned school is authorized to proceed to implement a vocational nursing education program and prior to admission of students, all requirements of Chapter 214 Vocational Nursing Education shall be met.

Specifically, the Board requires the following condition to be met prior to the beginning of nursing classes in the Academy of Health Care Professions Vocational Nursing Education Program. The governing institution and the nursing program director will provide board staff:

- Evidence that adequate secretarial assistance has been employed to assist the program director and faculty to meet program needs.

DATED THIS 27th day of January, 2011.

THE BOARD OF NURSING IN AND
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

Seal

By: _____
Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President

BOARD OF NURSING FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460

Austin, Texas 78701-3942

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for

Consideration of a Proposal from The Academy of Health Care Professions

To Establish A

Vocational Nursing Education Program

in Houston, Texas

Date and Time: January 27, 2011 at 2:00 PM

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 January 14, 2011.

Address written testimony to:

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director

Texas Board of Nursing

333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460

Austin, Texas 78701-3942