

**Report of Routine Survey Visit  
 Lone Star College – Tomball in Tomball, Texas  
 Vocational Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider the report of the routine survey visit to Lone Star College – Tomball in Tomball, Texas Vocational Nursing Education Program (VN). The visit was conducted on June 18, 2013 by LeAnn Wagner, MSN, RN, Contract Program Evaluator (See Attachment #1).

**Historical Perspective:**

- The VN program at Lone Star-Tomball began in 2003.
- The VN program is delivered in twelve (12) months and admits twenty (20) students annually.
- Catherine F. Gray, MN, RN is the program director.
- The NCLEX examination pass rate for the past five (5) years is presented in the table:

<b>Examination Year</b>	<b>NCLEX-PN® Examination Rate</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Number of First-Time Candidates (Passed/Total)</b>	<b>BON Status</b>	<b>Approval</b>
2012	82.35%		14/17	Full	
2011	88.89%		16/18	Full	
2010	94.44%		17/18	Full	
2009	100%		21/21	Full	
2008	100%		20/20	Full	

**Summary of the Survey Visit:**

- The College President and administration have been proactive in securing adequate funds to support program needs for equipment or for professional development activities.
- Two full-time nursing faculty and two adjunct faculty members provide the instruction for the program. Currently seventeen (17) students are enrolled.
- Committee work is done through system-wide committees across the Lone Star nursing programs. In addition, individual colleges have their own meetings. Student representatives have opportunities for input through the student affairs committee or through faculty communication.
- The program provides clinical learning experiences in acute care facilities, clinics, long term care facilities, long term acute care facilities, geriatric psychiatric agencies, adolescent psychiatric agencies, independent school districts, and geriatric long term care facilities.
- The Total Program Evaluation Plan contains all the required elements but the Program Evaluator suggested more specific benchmarks for finer detail in findings.

Pros:

- A knowledgeable and committed program director and faculty who are all prepared at the MSN level.
- Excellent working relationships with college administration who provide strong support for the program.
- A variety of clinical sites for student learning experiences.

- Graduates are well-prepared and able to secure employment in a very competitive job market for LVNs.
- Strong support from the college for professional development activities for the faculty.
- College Faculty Handbook, Nursing Faculty Handbook, Nursing Student Handbook are well-organized, readable, and contain all required information in clear language.
- Beautiful new building that provides a positive learning environment with state of the art classrooms, labs, and equipment.
- There is evidence of sharing of resources and personnel between the VN and ADN programs.

Cons:

- More specific benchmarks in The Total Program Evaluation Plan would make the document more valuable for revision of the program.

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

The Lone Star – Tomball Vocational Nursing Education Program is in compliance with all Board requirements in Rule 214 and has demonstrated success in the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for many years.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move to accept the report of findings from the survey visit to Lone Star – Tomball Vocational Nursing Education Program in Tomball, Texas (see draft of letter in Attachment #2).

**Summary of Survey Visit  
Lone Star College – Tomball in Tomball, Texas  
Vocational Nursing Program**

**Purpose of Visit:** routine survey visit

**Date of Visit:** June 18, 2013

**Board Surveyor:** LeAnn Wagner, MSN, RN

**Board Surveyor met with:**

- Susan E. Karr, EdD, President
- Cynthia Casparis, PhD, Dean, Health, Kinesiology, Natural Sciences, and Technology
- Catherine F. Gray, MN, RN, Director of Nursing Programs
- John R. Vancamp, MSN, RN, Vocational Nursing Program Coordinator
- Cynthia Reese, MSN, RN, Vocational Nursing Instructor
- Patricia C. Handley, MSN, RN, Nursing Lab Coordinator
- Perry A. Burns, Advisor, Enrollment Services
- Pamela N. Shafer, Library Director
- VN Students

**Board Surveyor:**

- Reviewed the curriculum materials including all syllabi
- Reviewed the Student and Faculty Handbooks
- Reviewed the clinical evaluation tools
- Reviewed the total program evaluation plan and committee minutes
- Reviewed student assignments and tests
- Toured the Lone Star College Tomball Campus including Student Services and the Library
- Toured the nursing offices, classrooms, and skills labs, and
- Conducted exit conference

**Summary of Findings**

Philosophy/Mission and Objectives/Outcomes

- The Philosophy/Mission and Program Objectives were recently reviewed as documented in the Curriculum Minutes.
- There is a crosswalk of where each DEC is taught in the curriculum; this is being reviewed right now since they are making a minor change in their curriculum beginning in the fall of 2013 by increasing the credit hours for Professional Development from 1 credit hour (VNSG 1119) to 2 credit hours (VNSG 1219.)
- The curriculum conceptual framework is discussed in the faculty handbook.

Administration and Organization

- The organizational chart demonstrates lines of communication, authority, and responsibility between the nursing program and the college administration as well as within the nursing program.

- This VN Program is part of a multi-campus system that is organized at the campus, system, and discipline level. The Nursing Faculty Handbook does a very good job explaining which committees function at the system level organized by discipline (nursing) and program (ADN or VN) and which committees are local campus committees that address unique needs of each campus. Faculty and administrators indicate this type of organization works well for their system. Board Staff contacted the Program Director to learn more about this organizational structure and to ensure that the local nursing programs maintain control over their curricula. The Program director clarified that the major curriculum, admissions, rules, and evaluations are handled as a system with their campus having equal representation. Individual campuses have faculty meetings for the same committee functions. Students have input through a student affairs committee and meet with the Program Director and faculty regularly. Students also attend the readmissions committee. The Program Director stated that the organizational structure works well for the program and that faculty do have ownership of the curriculum.
- There is very good communication between all levels of the VN Program and the college administration and there is very strong support for the policies and decisions of the VN Program Director and Faculty. The Campus President has been able to secure adequate funds to grant all reasonable requests from the faculty for equipment or professional development activities.
- The Program Director has the authority to direct the program in all phases. There is very strong support from the administration for the Program Director and the VN Coordinator.
- The Program Director and Program Coordinator receive release time for administrative responsibilities per the college faculty handbook. The Program Director does not teach in the VN Program but the VN Coordinator does teach both theory and clinical. Although the workload seems heavy it is in line with the college policies and the faculty indicate that it is not burdensome.

#### Faculty

- Faculty policies regarding qualifications, responsibilities, performance evaluation criteria, and terms of employment are generally stated in the College Faculty Handbook or the Nursing Faculty Handbook.
- There was evidence of a very positive learning environment throughout the program.
- There are two full-time faculty with each instructor teaching half the theory as well as having a clinical group. Adjunct faculty are used in campus lab and in clinical specialty areas. If there is a need to change the assignments this could be done cooperatively with the Program Director, the VN Coordinator and the faculty member.
- The college provides funds for the VN faculty to attend TAVNE each year. Recently the college sent the Simulation Coordinator to a professional development activity out of state. The Laerdal representative visits the campus frequently to keep the faculty updated on their high fidelity manikins. The college is also willing to fund other professional development activities upon request from the faculty member.
- Licenses are validated by the Program Director and her administrative assistant. This documentation is kept in the faculty member's file.
- No faculty members are waived. The VN Coordinator and full time faculty member both have an MSN.
- There is a Lab Coordinator for all the nursing labs; this individual is an RN with a MSN. Scheduling is done so that the VN students have very good access to use of the nursing labs. There is also a simulation coordinator who also assists both VN and ADN faculty and students.
- Faculty supervise all direct patient care having 10 students or less in a group. There are two full-time faculty and two clinical adjuncts.

### Students

- The admission process is clearly described in the catalog, in the student information packet, and in a power point that is presented at the mandatory information session. There is a designated Allied Health Advisor who assists and registers all VN students. Students indicated they could always go to this individual with any questions they might have.
- Readmission, dismissal, progression, and graduation policies are clearly stated in the Nursing Student Handbook.
- Currently there are 17 students enrolled; a maximum of 20 students can be admitted every January if there are sufficient faculty and clinical placements.
- The information regarding licensure eligibility issues is found in the student handbook; students sign a receipt that they have received this information and the receipt is placed in their file.

### Program of Study

- The curriculum is organized in a logical fashion based on the program's conceptual framework. Requiring that students complete Anatomy & Physiology successfully before they enter the program helps them to be successful in the nursing courses.
- VNSG 1116 – Nutrition and VNSG 1238 – Mental Illness are taught using the on-line format in a shortened time frame.
- The only curriculum change that is taking place is increasing the credit hours for the Professional Development course (VNSG 1119) from one credit hour to two credit hours (VNSG 1219.)

### Clinical Learning Experiences

- The program tends to use the same clinical sites every year. Currently the program uses acute care facilities, clinics, long term care facilities, long term acute care facilities, geriatric psych agencies, adolescent psych agencies, independent school districts, and pediatric long term acute care facilities for clinical learning experiences. These facilities provide sufficient numbers of patients with complex needs for student learning.
- Patient assignments are made the morning of the clinical experience with the student working with a staff nurse caring for the assigned patient. There is strong collaboration between the instructor and the staff nurse in making the student's patient assignment.
- Simulation is used for the skills course and to supplement experiences that are difficult to find in the clinical setting. The Basic Nursing Skills final exam requires students to perform designated skills on the high fidelity manikins. Each student participates in 3 – 5 simulation scenarios during the program.
- Each clinical faculty member has 10 students or less in the clinical setting.
- Preceptors are not used by the program.
- The program has developed a rubric for grading clinical performance which shows clear progression of nursing knowledge and skills. Students must pass a calculations test each semester with a 90% proficiency; three attempts are allowed to pass the test.

### Facilities, Resources, and Services

- The VN Program is housed in a beautiful new building with state of the art classrooms and equipment that create a very positive and inviting learning environment.
- Students on the Tomball campus have access to a well equipped skills lab with ten (10) beds, two (2) high fidelity adult manikins, two (2) infant high fidelity manikins, and one (1) high fidelity child manikin. Nursing labs are well stocked with adequate supplies.
- There is one (1) administrative assistant for both the ADN and VN Programs; this is adequate for the number of students and faculty served.

### Records and Reports

- All confidential files are kept in a locked filing cabinet. Records are kept four (4) to five (5) years.
- Student files generally contain all the required documents including the signed student receipt of TBON license eligibility information; one file that was reviewed did not have the signed receipt.
- Faculty letters of employment and evaluations are kept in the Lone Star system office and were not available for the surveyor to review. All other required documents were in the faculty folders.
- Minutes of the Deans and Directors Committee and all other nursing committees are found on the electronic college shared drive.
- Clinical affiliation agreements appear to be up-to-date.

### Total Program Evaluation

- The Total Program Evaluation contains all the required elements. More specific benchmarks would make the tool more valuable for decision-making and program revision.
- The use of system wide committees makes it more challenging to validate review, discussion, and recommendations from the faculty.

DRAFT LETTER

Catherine F. Gray, MN, RN  
Director of Nursing Programs  
Vocational Nursing Education Program  
Lone Star College Tomball  
LSC Tomball Health Science Building  
Suite 211L  
Tomball, Texas 77357

Dear Ms. Gray:

At the October 17-18, 2013 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the report of the June 18, 2013 survey visit to Lone Star College Tomball Vocational Nursing Education Program in Tomball, Texas. Based upon the discussion and review of the survey report, it was the decision of the Board to accept the findings from the survey visit and to extend greetings to the program.

If the Board Staff may assist in any way or if you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact [Janice.hooper@bon.texas.gov](mailto:Janice.hooper@bon.texas.gov).

Sincerely,

Kathy Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP  
President of the Board

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

Copy: Susan E. Karr, EdD, President