

**Consideration of Report of a Survey Visit to
Tyler County Hospital in Woodville, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the report of the July 10, 2014, routine six (6) - year survey visit to Tyler County Hospital (TCH) in Woodville, Texas Vocational Nursing Education Program (see Attachment # 1). This survey visit was conducted by Gayle Varnell, PhD, APRN, CPNP-PC, Nursing Consultant for Education.

Historical Perspective:

- The program originated in 1956 at Lamar College in Beaumont, Texas with the theory component being taught in Beaumont, Texas and the clinical site provided by Tyler County Hospital in Woodville, Texas.
- In 1960, the program began as Tyler County Hospital Vocational Nursing (VN) Program.
- The program was last visited on June 12, 2008.

NCLEX Exam Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-PN® Pass Rate	Number of First-Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2013	Full	94.92%	56/59
2012	Full	85.00%	51/60
2011	Full	85.25%	52/61
2010	Full	92.83%	53/57
2009	Full	90.00%	54/60

- The program is totally supported by Tyler County Hospital.
- The program is housed in two adjoining buildings near the hospital. One building is designated for the classroom and the other building houses a five (5) bed skills' lab with storage area, break room, library, and restrooms.
- The VN Faculty relocated their offices and administrative support to a house across the parking lot from the classroom five (5) years ago.
- The program is approved by Texas Workforce Commission and the hospital is approved by Department of State Health Services.
- Eva Stanley, MSM, RN has been the director of the program since 1987.

Pros and Cons:

Pros:

- The program receives strong support from hospital administration and the community.
- The program has consistently maintained a NCLEX-PN® of greater than 80% over the past five (5) years.
- There is low faculty turnover and the faculty is dedicated to the success of the students.
- The curriculum is developed according to BON rules and incorporates the *Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs) (2010)* objectives.
- The program meets a need in the community for a vocational nursing education program and receives strong support from clinical affiliates.
- The program has numerous clinical affiliating agencies offering a wide variety of clinical experiences for the students.

Cons:

- None noted.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to accept the report of findings of the routine six (6) - year survey to Tyler County Hospital in Woodville, Texas Vocational Nursing Education Program (See Attachment #2).

**Summary of a Survey Visit
Tyler County Hospital in Woodville, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Purpose of Visit: Routine six year visit

Date of Visit: July 10, 2014

Board Staff Conducting Survey Visit: Gayle P. Varnell, PhD, APRN, CPNP-PC, Nursing Consultant for Education

Board Representative met with:

- Eva Stanley, MSN, RN, Director
- Lynn Hays, BSN, RN, Faculty
- Kathy Broom, ADN, RN, Faculty
- Tracie Brown, BSN, RN, Faculty
- Diane Bellamy, Administrative Assistant
- Sandra Gayle Wright, Ed.D, RN, CEO Tyler Co. Hospital
- Sixty-seven (67) LVN Students

Board Representative conducted the following activities:

- held initial interview with director and administration;
- met with faculty members;
- observed class;
- interviewed students;
- toured facilities;
- reviewed records and documents including: student and faculty files, minutes of faculty meetings, student and faculty handbooks, syllabi, clinical evaluation tools, and the Total Program Evaluation (TPE) Plan; and
- conducted an exit interview with director.

Findings Related to Philosophy/Mission and Objectives/Outcomes:

- The program philosophy/mission is congruent with that of the governing entity, reflecting the community it serves.
- The *Differentiated Essential Competencies(DECs) 2010* are reflected in the program objectives/outcomes.
- Clinical objectives are stated in behavioral terms, reflect progression from one level to the next, and are utilized to evaluate student progression.

Findings Related to Administration and Organization:

- Administration expressed support for the VN program and stated that the nursing program adds value to the college and fulfills a need in local communities.
- Eva Stanley, MSN, RN is a graduate of Tyler County Hospital (TCH) VN program and began teaching in the VN program in 1984. She has been the director of the VN program since 1987.
- The director reports that she carries a half-time teaching assignment in addition to her administrative duties and responsibilities in the VN program and she states this is a manageable workload.
- The director and faculty unanimously agreed that resources are adequate to meet all teaching needs.
- Clear communication between the director and administration was evident.
- According to the director, TCH VN graduates are well respected in the community and are able to obtain employment in the local area.

Findings Related to Program of Study:

- The program is a twelve (12) month program that begins in January and ends in December every year. Enrollment is limited to seventy-two (72) students.
- There are a total of 1540 contact hours in the program of study: 615 didactic hours, 93 skills lab hours, and 632 patient care clinical hours
- The program is divided into three (3) levels lasting sixteen (16) weeks each.
- Level I students begin with six (6) weeks in the classroom five (5) days per week and then the remaining ten(10) weeks includes two (2) days per week in clinical and three (3) days per week in the classroom.
- Level II students have twelve (12) -hour clinical days twice a week (Monday and Tuesday) and two (2) classroom days (Thursday and Friday) per week.

- Level III students have two (2) twelve (12) -hour clinical days and one (1) classroom day per week.
- The curriculum is sound, logically organized, and includes all Board required content. The faculty consistently evaluate and revise the curriculum based upon evidence and according to need.
- The *Differentiated Essential Competencies* (DECS) (2010) have been fully incorporated into the curriculum.
- Admission policies have been strengthened to ensure that qualified applicants are admitted into the Program.
- Standardized testing is used throughout the program for progression, remediation, and graduation purposes.
- Planned remediation and tutoring are in place. Additionally, the program offers a face-to-face NCLEX-RN® review course.

Findings Related to Faculty:

- The faculty organization is comprised of the dean/director, three (3) full-time faculty members, and two (2) part-time faculty members. The part-time faculty do not teach the didactic portion of the course, only the clinical components.
- The director reported that faculty turnover rates are low.
- Faculty meet Board qualifications and offer a rich diversity in their educational and experiential backgrounds.
- Faculty reported that morale is high and stated they receive strong support from one another and the program director.
- Faculty agreed that work loads are reasonable and allow sufficient time for grading assignments, preparing lesson plans, and maintaining office hours.
- Faculty are actively engaged in curriculum planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- Faculty articulated appreciation for funding for professional development activities provided by the college stating that they would like to attend the Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators (TAVNE) in the fall.
- Faculty have regular monthly meetings. Their planning and decision-making is collaborative.
- Faculty meeting minutes are maintained.
- Board required policies are in place.

Findings Related to Students:

- The program admits one (1) cohort of seventy-two students in January of each year.
- At the time of the survey visit, there were sixty-seven (67) students enrolled in the program. Three (3) of these students were readmissions.
- Sixty-seven (67) students were available for interview.
- Students reported they enrolled in the VN program because of location, NCLEX pass rates, and the reputation of the program.
- Students have input into the program.
- Student policies are in place.
- Students receive required information in their handbook and verbally. Students indicated they have received declaratory order and eligibility information.

Findings Related to Clinical Learning Experience:

- The program has active clinical contracts with a number of affiliating agencies which provide exemplary clinical opportunities for the curriculum. Skills lab and simulation activities are also utilized.
- Students are prepared for hands-on, direct patient care clinical practice through supervised skills labs experiences prior to the provision of direct patient care.
- Faculty provide responsible supervision in all clinical experiences. Students are rotated between faculty to maintain inter-rater reliability in evaluating clinical performance.
- Board required faculty to student ratios are maintained. The director reported that preceptors are used primarily for observational experiences such as home health and physician offices.
- Clinical learning experiences are scheduled to match related didactic content.
- Clinical evaluation tools indicate progression of expectations across the program and are used for formative and summative evaluations.

Findings Related to Facilities, Resources, and Services:

- The TCH campus is well-kept, attractively landscaped, and offers ample parking.
- Facilities housing the nursing program are spacious, modern, well-equipped, and include one classroom. The classroom has five (5) monitor screens for transmission of powerpoint lectures and audiovisual materials.
- There is a (5) bed skills/simulation lab.

- The director and faculty have large, private offices. Their offices are conveniently located to the administrative assistant and the classroom and skills lab is directly across the parking lot.
- There are separate faculty and student break rooms with restroom facilities.
- There is a secure storage area for records.
- The program has full-time administrative support.
- The director and faculty agreed that resources are adequate to meet all teaching needs.

Findings Related to Records and Reports:

- The program has an adequate Total Program Evaluation (TPE) Plan, actively used for decision-making.
- Minutes indicate when decisions are made.
- Student and faculty files contained all documents required by Rule 214.

DRAFT LETTER

October 24, 2014

Eva Stanley, MSN, RN, Director
1100 W. Bluff
Woodville, Texas 75711-9020

Dear Ms. Stanley:

At the October 23-24, 2014 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing considered the report of the July 10, 2014, routine six (6) year survey visit to the Tyler County Hospital Vocational Nursing Education Program in Woodville, Texas. It was the decision of the Board to accept the report of the survey visit.

If you have any questions or if we may provide assistance, please contact Board staff at gayle.varnell@bon.texas.gov or (512) 621-5179.

Sincerely,

Katherine Thomas, MSN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director

copy:

Sandra Gayle Wright, Ed,D RN, CEO
Texas Workforce Commission