

**Consideration of Notification of Voluntary Closure of a Nursing Education Program
Cephas Center for Health Sciences in Dallas, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the notification received from Cephas Center for Health Sciences (CCHS) in Dallas, Texas, to close its Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program, effective April 18, 2018.

Historical Perspective:

- The VN Program at CCHS was approved by the Board in April 2012 and began enrolling students in May 2012.
- CCHS is a private institution owned by Peninnah (Penny) Ihemelu, RN, BSC, who also serves as Director of the program.
- The program is designed to be delivered in a 12-month format (four quarters).
- The program was placed on Conditional Approval status at the April 2017 quarterly Board meeting.
- The most recent survey visit was conducted on April 27, 2017 by Gayle P. Varnell, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC.
- The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) notified the Board of Nursing on 10/4/2017 that the program was revoked for an employment rate below 60% for 3 years in a row.
- The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates since the program opened are provided in the table below:

Examination Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-PN® Examination Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2017	Conditional	44.44%	8/18
2016	Initial with Warning	40.00%	8/20
2015	Initial	43.75%	7/16
2014	Initial	28.57%	6/21
2013	New Program		

- The program submitted a Self-Study Report (SSR) in 2015 for the 2014 NCLEX-PN® pass rate.
- Although corrective measures to improve candidate success were initiated, the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates continued to be below the 80% benchmark. The program was placed on Initial Approval with Warning status at the April 2016 Board meeting.

- Due to the 2016 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate of 40.00%, the program was placed on Conditional Approval status at the April 2017 Board meeting and several conditions and requirements were issued. The program has not been allowed to enroll new students since April 2017.
- Notification to the Board for closing the program was received in the Board office February, 28, 2018 (See Attachment #1).
- Currently, 21 students are enrolled in the program and are in the last quarter of the program with an anticipated graduation date of June 10, 2018.
- Cephas Health Science Center will retain all permanent educational files indefinitely at its Dallas, Texas campus.
- The program elected to close the VN education program. If this decision had not been made, Board Staff would have recommended withdrawal of approval to the Board at the April 2018 meeting based upon four consecutive years of the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates falling below 80% and noncompliance with Board rules.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to accept the voluntary closure of the Cephas Health Sciences Center Vocational Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, effective April 18, 2018, and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached Board Order (Attachment #2).



Cephas Center for Health Sciences

"Mentoring and Nurturing One Nurse at a Time"

March 1, 2018

Texas Board of Nursing
c/o Dr. Gayle Varnell,
333 Guadalupe Suite -3-460
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Gayle Varnell

Please find enclosed the notification form for Cephas Center For Health Sciences.

If you have questions please give us a call

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peninnah Ihemelu".

Peninnah Ihemelu, RN
Director
cephascenterhs@gmail.com

**TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING NOTIFICATION FORM
CLOSING A NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM OR AN EXTENSION SITE/CAMPUS**

NAME OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM	Program Code: 27- <u>107800</u>
TYPE OF PROGRAM	Vocational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Professional <input type="checkbox"/>
NAME OF DEAN/DIRECTOR	Peninnah RN, BSC (Zoology) Phone No: 214-207-6303 Email: penniyhemelu@yahoo.com
LOCATION OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM OR EXTENSION SITE/CAMPUS	Cephas Center For Health Sciences 4563 S. Westmoreland Rd. Dallas, Texas 75237
REASON FOR CLOSURE	BRIEFLY DESCRIBE: Program failed to meet the acceptable NCLEX-PN pass rate as determined by the Texas Board of Nursing.
DATE OF CLOSURE	APRIL 18, 2018
ACADEMIC PROVISIONS FOR CURRENT STUDENTS OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM OR EXTENSION PROGRAM	BRIEFLY DESCRIBE: -Will we teach out the program at Cephas Center for Health Sciences, the program should be completed by the end of June 2018 -School following curriculum as presented to board -Students having both didactics and clinical learning experiences as scheduled -Program continues to maintain contract agreement with Clinical practice sites; with large census to meet student learning needs. -Emphasize on patient safety in every patient-student encounter.
PROVISIONS FOR ACCESS TO AND SAFE STORAGE OF VITAL SCHOOL RECORDS	BRIEFLY DESCRIBE: All school records will be maintain and stored in a safe location. All records will be accessible to student when school closes. Program will store records at 4575 S. Westmoreland Rd., Dallas, Texas 75237. Program will retain the school phone to enable easy assess to staff.
METHODS TO BE USED TO MAINTAIN REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS UNTIL THE PROGRAM CLOSES	BRIEFLY DESCRIBE: SEE ATTACHED
COMMENTS: Graduation date is scheduled for June 10, 2018, the students are now entering Quarter 4 (level 4) which is the last level before graduation. There are a total of 21 students enrolled in the program.	

SIGNATURE: *Peninnah Hemelu* **DATE:** 2/28/2018

*Please attach additional pages if needed.

Date Presented at Board Meeting: _____

METHODS TO BE USED TO MAINTAIN REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS UNTIL THE PROGRAM CLOSES.

No new student admissions

-Student-Staff ratio at clinical site is maintained 10:1

-All students in this cohort will be allowed to complete their studies at Cephas Center For Health Sciences.

-Academic standards for students are maintained

-No change in curriculum

-No changes in the faculty

-Student will meet program study objectives through clinical learning experiences

-they will be faculty planned, done through faculty guided experiences using actual patient care clinical learning situations.

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Cephas Center For Health Sciences
4563 S. Westmoreland Rd.
Dallas, Texas 75237

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

ATTENTION: GAYLE P. VARNELL, PHD, RN

78701-394460



DRAFT LETTER

April 19, 2018

Penninah Ihemelu, RN, BSC
Vocational Nursing Education Program
Cephas Center for Health Sciences
4563 South Westmoreland Road
Dallas, TX 75237

Dear Ms. Ihemelu:

At the April, 2018 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the voluntary closure of the Cephas Health Sciences Center Vocational Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to accept the voluntary closure of the Cephas Health Sciences Center Vocational Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas on April 18, 2018 and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached Board Order.

If you have any questions, please contact Board Staff at (512) 621-5179 or Gayle.varnell@bon.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director

Copy: Texas Workforce Commission

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of:

Cephas Center for Health Sciences
Vocational Nursing Education Program
In Dallas, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on April 19, 2018, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the voluntary closure of the Cephas Health Sciences Center Vocational Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, based upon the February 28, 2018 notification from Cephas Health Sciences Center of its intent to voluntarily close its program on April 18, 2018; the current approval status of the program; NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates since the program opened in 2012; and the program's history of noncompliance with 22 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 214.

After review and due consideration of the filed materials and history of the program, including currently being on conditional status, as well as the presentation by representatives from Cephas Health Sciences Center in Dallas, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby ACCEPTS the voluntary CLOSURE of the Cephas Health Sciences Center Vocational Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, and imposes the following conditions/requirements:

1. The program shall submit to the Board no later than July 1, 2018, a plan for teach-out arrangements for all enrolled students, or evidence that all students either have completed the program or other academic provisions have been made; and
2. The program may not reapply for approval of a new proposal for a nursing education program until at least twelve (12) calendar months from the date of this order have elapsed.

Entered this 19th day of April, 2018

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director
On behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing