



Agenda Item 6.0

BRN future priorities and proposals for review and possible action

BRN Board Meeting | May 17-18, 2023



Agenda Item 6.1

Information only: Operation Nightingale

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BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
Agenda Item Summary

AGENDA ITEM: 6.1
DATE: May 17-18, 2023

ACTION REQUESTED: Information only: Operation Nightingale

REQUESTED BY: Board

BACKGROUND:

[On January 25, 2023, the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Federal Bureau of Investigation \(FBI\), and Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General publicly announced its enforcement actions against a large-scale fraudulent nursing diploma scheme operated by Florida-based nursing education programs.](#)

Following the investigations carried out by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) regarding fraudulent activity with Florida nursing schools also known as Operation Nightingale, the California Board of Registered Nursing is working to identify and investigate any California applicants or licensees who attended a fraudulent nursing education program and are currently re-evaluating all associate degree nursing programs based out of Florida.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Statement on Operation Nightingale:

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) applauds the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services—Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Justice Department for their important work on Operation Nightingale. The investigation focused on nursing education programs that were allegedly involved in the sale of false and fraudulent nursing education credentials.

With public safety and welfare as a top concern, NCSBN and our member nursing regulatory bodies partnered with federal and state authorities, helping to identify and monitor individuals who allegedly provided these illegitimate transcripts and credentials that could potentially undermine safe patient care.

Nursing regulatory bodies in affected states have been investigating individual cases and are taking appropriate action, in accordance with their state laws and due process, that includes loss of license.

As the world leader in nursing regulatory knowledge, NCSBN is dedicated to protecting the public and will continue to support our member nursing regulatory bodies as they thoroughly investigate each case, taking the necessary actions to ensure public safety and root out the fraud involved in this case. NCSBN is committed to helping our members identify any additional safeguards and solutions that are needed.

This situation speaks to the importance of nursing regulation and the collective duty to protect the public. NCSBN will continue working with all appropriate nursing regulatory bodies, nursing education program providers, accreditation bodies and authorities to detect, investigate and resolve these matters today and into the future.

Operation Nightingale Fraudulent Nursing Schools

- Med-Life Institute West Palm Beach
- Sunshine Academy
- Palm Beach School of Nursing
- Quisqueya
- Siena College of Health and Siena College of Health II
- Sacred Heart International Institute
- Florida College of Health Tampa FL
- Sigma College FL
- Corleen Home Health II West Palm Beach FL

Schools Denied or Closed by the Florida Commission of Independent Education

- Med-life Lauderdale Lakes
- Corleen Health Institute South FL and West Palm Beach
- Myrielle School of Nursing Palm Springs FL
- Nursing Bridges Institute Pensacola FL
- Palm Beach International College Lake Worth
- Suncoast College of Health Bradenton FL
- Techni Pro Institute Boca Raton FL

NEXT STEP:

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