

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

August 20-21, 2025 - 9:00 a.m. Board Meeting

Date: August 20, 2025

Start Time: 9:03 a.m.

Location: Pursuant to the provisions of Government Code section 11123.2, the meeting was conducted via teleconference and at the physical meeting location below:

Department of Consumer Affairs
1747 North Market Blvd.
Hearing Room (Suite 186)
Sacramento, CA 95834

9:03 a.m.

1.0

Call to order, roll call, and establishment of a quorum

Dolores Trujillo, RN, President, called the meeting to order at: 9:03 a.m. All members present. Quorum established at 9:04 a.m.

Board Members Dolores Trujillo, RN – President
(In-Person): Nilu Patel, DNAP, CRNA, FAANA – Vice President
Jovita Dominguez, BSN, RN
Patricia “Tricia” Wynne, Esq.
Roi David Lollar
Vicki Granowitz
Alison Cormack

Board Members
(Remote): Katie Nair, MSN, MBA/HCM, RN

BRN Staff: Loretta (Lori) Melby, RN, MSN – Executive Officer
Reza Pejuhesh – DCA Legal Affairs Division, Attorney

9:05 a.m.

2.0

General instructions for the format of a teleconference call

The meeting moderator provided general instructions for members of the public to participate in the meeting.

9:07 a.m.

3.0

Public comment for items not on the agenda; items for future agendas

**Public Comment(s)
for Agenda Item**

3.0:

Paloma Serna: Paloma Serna, mother of Elisa Serna, spoke about the death of her daughter at age 24 while in custody at the Las Colinas Detention Facility in San Diego County on November 11, 2019. She stated that Elisa was medically neglected for five days despite showing clear signs of medical distress. Serna identified Nurse Dana Lee Pasqua as one of the licensed nurses responsible, alleging repeated failures in duty of care. She concluded by calling for accountability and urging the board to act to protect future patients and uphold public trust.

Public RN: The speaker raised concerns about the use of Slido during large meetings such as the strategic plan sessions. She stated that its use limited her ability to make public comments, suggesting a possible violation of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. She reported receiving calls from the board encouraging her to email her comments, which she did, though some were deferred to the next meeting. She felt this was intentional since Slido has been available for years but was not used at the June 17th meeting. She requested this issue be added to a future agenda for discussion.

Reza Pejuhesh: Reza clarified that the information about Slido being used to suppress public comment was incorrect. He explained that Slido appeared as part of a WebEx software update that occurred just before the last board meeting. The update changed the comment button's appearance and labeling, creating confusion. Staff responded promptly by updating slides, providing instructions, taking breaks to troubleshoot, and sharing an email address as a backup method for comments. He confirmed that some members of the public, including the commenter, were able to participate.

Public RN: She reiterated that the timing was unusual, occurring on the third day of the strategic plan meeting.

Reza Pejuhesh: He thanked her for the comment, apologized for the difficulties, and reaffirmed that the board had no control over the WebEx update and no intent to limit participation. He stated that other boards' use of Slido was outside his knowledge but confirmed that Slido appeared on day two of the strategic plan meeting, while day one used the original platform.

9:16 a.m.

4.0

Review and possible action: Approval of prior meeting minutes

4.1 May 28-30, 2025

Board Discussion: No Board Discussion.

Motion: **Patricia Wynne:** Motion to Approve the minutes from May 28-30, 2025, and to allow BRN staff to make non-substantive changes to

correct name misspellings and/or typos that may be discovered in the document.

Second: David Lollar

**Public Comments
for Agenda Item(s)**

4.1: No public comments.

Vote:

Vote	DT	AC	PW	JD	NP	DL	VG	KN
:	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
<u>Key:</u> Yes: Y No: N Abstain: A Absent for Vote: AB								

Motion Passed

9:20 a.m.

5.0

Report of the Administrative Committee

9:20 a.m.

5.1 Executive Officer Report

Loretta Melby provided a report covering:

- Education and outreach events
- Social media updates
- Position vacancy and hiring

Board Discussion: Alison Cormack: Expressed appreciation for the vacancy list and inquired about the four NEC vacancies, asking how many total NEC positions there are. She also noted four Program Technician vacancies and requested clarification on the acronyms used. Later, she asked about the board's vacancy rate and inquired whether the board uses TikTok for outreach, suggesting it might be beneficial for engaging different age demographics, though she emphasized not wanting to increase staff workload.

Loretta Melby: Stated that she initially estimated there were about 10 NEC positions but later confirmed there are 14. She explained that "PIU" stands for the Public Information Unit and serves as the call center. Regarding vacancies, she stated the board's vacancy rate is 8.1%, which she described as excellent. The low rate resulted partly from the loss of some positions, which affected the calculation. She noted that the strong rate supports budget change proposals and that the board is working to fill positions and manage workload effectively. Melby also clarified that the board does not use TikTok. The board's official social media platforms are X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, LinkedIn, and Facebook. Any other accounts are not affiliated with

the BRN. She then invited Vincent Miranda to speak on the board's social media practices.

Patricia Wynne: Asked if the staffing numbers were appropriate. She also expressed concern about privacy and security issues related to social media use, noting she is skeptical about such platforms being hijacked or misused.

Loretta Melby (statement from CSBOD): Read a statement from the BRN's Consumer Services and Board Operations Division (CSBOD) indicating that, as of August 8, 2025, the BRN's vacancy rate was 8.1%, with 17 of 209.1 authorized positions unfilled. A vacancy rate between 5–10% is considered healthy for most state agencies. The statement noted that the low rate is partly due to the elimination of 19 positions at the start of the 2025–26 fiscal year—mainly support roles in the Public Information Unit, which has historically faced recruitment and retention challenges. While the reduction improves the rate statistically, it masks ongoing workforce gaps in key areas. The BRN continues to recruit qualified candidates using blanket positions, streamline hiring, expand outreach beyond CalCareers, and prioritize workforce planning to sustain operations.

Vincent Miranda: Reported that after consulting with the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), the recommendation was not to use TikTok. The reasoning was based on concerns regarding professionalism, legitimacy, and public perception. TikTok is viewed as a more informal, youth-oriented platform, and DCA advised the board to maintain a professional image consistent with a regulatory agency.

**Public Comment(s)
for Agenda Item**

5.1: No public comments.

9:35 a.m.

5.2 Information only: 2022-2025 Strategic Plan and goal progression

Loretta Melby provided an overview of the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan and goal progression.

Board Discussion: Dolores Trujillo: Inquired about the ongoing issues with investigation processing times and whether the loss of positions has impacted this area.

Loretta Melby: Confirmed that while staffing challenges exist, no positions were lost from the Investigations Unit. She explained that the board created blanket positions and was able to promote or move

staff into higher roles where position authority allowed, helping to maintain operations.

Patricia Wynne: Expressed appreciation for the update and commended staff for meeting their goals despite challenges.

Alison Cormack: Noted her satisfaction with the information on page 35, section 6.1A, regarding customer service satisfaction. She praised the board's focus on serving customers and consumers and stated that the board is moving in the right direction.

**Public Comment(s)
for Agenda Item**

5.2: No public comments.

9:51 a.m.

5.3 Discussion and possible action: Election of Board President and Vice President

Board Discussion: Patricia Wynne: Nominated Dolores Trujillo for the position of President.

Vicki Granowitz: Seconded the nomination for Dolores Trujillo as President.

Loretta Melby: Asked Dolores Trujillo if she accepted the nomination.

Dolores Trujillo: Confirmed that she accepted the nomination for President.

Patricia Wynne: Nominated Nilu Patel for the position of Vice President.

Jovita Dominguez: Seconded the nomination for Nilu Patel as Vice President.

Loretta Melby: Asked Nilu Patel if she accepted the nomination.

Nilu Patel: Confirmed that she accepted the nomination for Vice President.

Loretta Melby: Asked if there were any additional nominations.

Reza Pejuhesh: Clarified that any member may also nominate themselves for a position.

Motion for

President: **Patricia Wynne** nominates Dolores Trujillo as President

**Second for
President: Vicki Granowitz**

**Motion for Vice
President: Patricia Wynne** nominates Nilu Patel as Vice President

**Second for Vice
President: Jovita Dominguez**

**Public Comment(s)
for Agenda Item**

5.3: No public comments.

Vote:

Vote	DT	AC	PW	JD	NP	DL	VG	KN
:	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
Key: Yes: Y No: N Abstain: A Absent for Vote: AB								

Motion Passed

9:55 a.m.

5.4 Information only: Presentation by DCA Budget Office on the Registered Nursing Fund Condition

Luke Fitzgerald, DCA Fiscal Office, presented on the condition of the Registered Nursing Fund.

Board Discussion: Alison Cormack: Asked about page 46, Department Pro Rata. Appreciated the outyear information for endorsements, noting it appears more realistic moving forward. Asked about flat revenues in the outyears and increased expenses showing the fund balance rising.

Suzanne Balkis: Explained that projections are based on a full staff at the start of the fiscal year, and any remaining funds are returned at year-end. Clarified that the board may not spend all allocated funds each year, resulting in an increasing fund balance.

Patricia Wynne: Asked about page 45 and whether the \$2.19 million is a reversion to the general fund. Inquired if such a reversion is healthy for a board.

Suzanne Balkis: Confirmed the amount was remaining from the appropriation, reflecting savings from the allocation. Stated that different boards vary in size and that this situation is reasonable.

Loretta Melby: Clarified that the reversion does not go to the general fund because the board is a special fund board; the funds return to

the board. Discussed the normalization of endorsements, removal of fee floors, and different fees charged to advanced practice applicants.

Suzanne Balkis: Added that revenue projections are based on last year's workload and will be reevaluated this year, which may affect future revenue.

**Public Comment(s)
for Agenda Item**

5.4: Gloria Aguan: Typed comment into Slido, praising the Board's work.

Break and Quorum Note:

Break taken from 10:13 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:31 a.m. with quorum re-established.

Member Katie Nair noted as not present.

10:32 a.m.

5.5 Information only: Inherent risk to public servants in carrying out regulatory duties, security at future Board meetings; death threats, threatening emails, etc.

Loretta Melby introduced item and provided overview.

Board Discussion: Dolores Trujillo: Reported a complaint filed against her currently under investigation for unfounded allegations. Discussed receiving threatening emails and noted her public address has contributed to safety concerns. She referred these incidents to the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), which is handling them. Expressed fear for her and her family's safety, describing the experience as sobering and surprising—particularly that many threats have come from nurses.

David Lollar: Shared his perspective as a public-school teacher, emphasizing that safety is a priority and that he regularly trains for security situations. Stated that any threatening emails can be made public but reminded members that the board cannot respond due to the Brown Act. He will not respond to emails from private accounts and will retain them for documentation. Requested that members not be contacted through personal or public email accounts.

Nilu Patel: Expressed that board service is a passion project that requires significant personal time and sacrifice. Said it is disheartening to hear about threats within the nursing community. Spoke about the importance of discipline improvements and urged

for stronger protections for board members, the president, and the executive officer.

Alison Cormack: Expressed sadness and shock at the threats, noting this reflects broader societal violence. Suggested developing proactive measures for board and staff safety. Proposed reviewing what constitutes unprofessional conduct by licensees, as threats from licensees should have consequences. Emphasized recognizing mental health factors while still maintaining accountability. Commended the executive officer and president for their openness and service.

Patricia Wynne: Thanked EO Melby, the board president, and David Lollar for sharing personal experiences. Expressed sorrow about the situation and agreed with Ms. Cormack's comments. Asked whether the board currently has sufficient tools to address such behavior or if additional measures should be developed.

Loretta Melby (Executive Officer): Noted that both board and staff face similar issues, including online harassment. She works with enforcement staff and Reza Pejuhesh to contact the Department of Investigations (DOI) when needed. CHP provides additional patrols and restraining orders have been filed. Shared examples of incidents reported through the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), including violent threats at other boards. Mentioned the possibility of CHP contracts for future meetings and the presence of DOI at current meetings. Shared her personal experiences with social media harassment and security precautions at home. Encouraged members to report suspicious behavior ("If you see something, say something").

Patricia Wynne: Asked if the board has authority to immediately place a nurse who assaulted staff (e.g., spitting) on probation.

Loretta Melby: Responded no, and requested Shannon Johnson explain the disciplinary process.

Shannon Johnson: Explained that due process must be followed, and immediate action cannot be taken. Outlined procedures under PC 23 (Penal Code Section 23) and ISO (Interim Suspension Order).

Loretta Melby: Clarified that staff cannot unilaterally claim assault and suspend a license.

Reza Pejuhesh: Added that individuals are innocent until proven guilty, but there are expedited processes for suspension. Video or

witness statements can serve as evidence. Explained that “unprofessional conduct” is grounds for discipline, though action is limited if the person’s license has already been revoked.

Vicki Granowitz: Asked about mental health interventions, such as 5150 holds.

Loretta Melby: Confirmed the board does not have that authority.

Shannon Johnson: Stated the board has authority under Business and Professions Code Section 820 to require evaluation for mental or physical wellbeing.

Vicki Granowitz: Shared her own experiences with threats and noted that threat assessment units exist through law enforcement. Asked whether local police perform such assessments for the board.

Shannon Johnson: Recommended reporting any physical or verbal assaults to local police, as the board only has administrative authority.

Vicki Granowitz: Mentioned being informed of a threat assessment by police, though not through formal channels.

Loretta Melby: Added that the California Highway Patrol (CHP) has a dignitary protection section to handle such cases, though its role with board staff is unclear. Shared receiving a text threat from a burner phone linked to a former licensee and noted that personal and professional loss can sometimes drive such behaviors.

**11:18 a.m. Public Comment(s)
for Agenda Item
5.5:**

Gloria Aguon: Stated that she appreciates the discussion and takeaways.

Lisa Scott: Suggested the board consider pursuing legislation to address threatening or unsafe behaviors directed toward board members and staff.

Mary Steckler: Expressed appreciation for the discussion and emphasized its importance. Shared that she recently experienced a couple of incidents that deeply affected her, including an embezzlement investigation that was later found to be unfounded. Noted that these issues impact not only the board but also program directors.

Loretta Melby: Recalled her experience as a former program director and referenced a university shooting in another state as an example

of escalating risks in educational settings. Noted that students, particularly those who fail late in their programs and face high debt, may present safety concerns. Stated that the board does not currently have authority over students, and legislative changes may be required to address such risks.

Reza Pejuhesh: Confirmed that the board lacks authority over students but explained that if a conviction or complaint arises and is reported, it could be considered during licensure review.

Public RN (Comment): Thanked the board for the conversation and expressed appreciation for their dedication and hard work on these issues.

11:29 a.m.

6.0

BRN future priorities and proposals for review and possible action

11:30 a.m.

6.1 Discussion and possible action: Review and acceptance of the draft 2026-2030 Strategic Plan

Loretta Melby provided a quick review of the draft 2026-2030 Strategic Plan and requested approval

Board Discussion: David Lollar: Appreciated that the plan is not overly detailed and features an open framework.

Patricia Wynne: Commended the plan as a great start. Noted that Goal 3 – Alternative to Discipline is often misunderstood, even by members, and hopes the plan can better clarify this process. She expressed that she understands it better now.

Loretta Melby: Explained that the language in the plan comes from statute and was minimally modified to remain succinct. Spoke about outreach efforts related to the plan.

Vicki Granowitz: Asked whether the language might be revised at sunset based on Patricia Wynne's feedback.

Loretta Melby: Responded that changes are possible, but if the issue is educational, it could be addressed outside of legislation.

Alison Cormack: Expressed satisfaction with the mission, emphasizing fair and consistent application as a guiding principle ("north star"). Appreciated the customer-focused approach and transparency in the plan's values. Noted that communication has

improved in recent years and highlighted goals she is pleased to see included.

Loretta Melby: Noted that the nursing program review standards will be published soon.

Alison Cormack: Highlighted additional goals she is pleased to see included in the plan.

Loretta Melby: Called for a motion on the plan.

Reza Pejuhesh (after motion, prior to public comment): Noted that on page 7, the agency name may need updating due to a reorganization approved by the Legislature and Governor.

Motion: **Dolores Trujillo:** Motion to Accept and implement the strategic plan for 2026 through 2030 and allow BRN Staff to make non-substantive changes to correct misspellings and/or typos that may be discovered in the document.

Second: **Nilu Patel**

**Public Comment(s)
for Agenda Item**

6.1:

Paloma Serna: Highlighted that the board's strategic plan does not address correctional healthcare or in-custody deaths. She emphasized that licensed nurses in prisons and jails are sometimes involved in neglect, falsifying charts, and failing to provide basic care, citing her daughter Elisa's death as an example. Urged the board to include in the plan:

Oversight of correctional healthcare, recognizing the life-or-death conditions nurses face in custody.

Clear standards for documentation, emergency response, and escalation of care for correctional nurses.

Automatic investigations for every in-custody death involving licensed staff.

She criticized the board's current priorities, stating that ignoring correctional healthcare prioritizes protecting licenses over human lives, and demanded the strategic plan be revised to include these elements.

Reza Pejuhesh: Responded that there is a pending accusation against the nurse involved, with a hearing scheduled. Emphasized

that the board cannot immediately revoke a license and is following due process through the disciplinary system.

BRN Moderator: Asked if board members had received the written comment.

Reza Pejuhesh: Confirmed that the commenter asked about attending the discipline hearing virtually, and indicated it may be possible.

Loretta Melby: Noted a message from Shannon Johnson stating that the commenter could check OAH.com to view the hearing.

Discussion (Melby, Pejuhesh, Johnson): Clarified that the hearing is not on August 21, 2025, as previously stated; it is scheduled for September 19, 2025. The earlier OAH.com link was incorrect; the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) is under the Department of General Services (DGS), and the correct link can be found via a web search.

Loretta Melby: Explained that the enforcement section of the strategic plan addresses process improvements and not specific cases. The BRN's authority is limited to licensees, and it is not the sole governmental agency involved in oversight of correctional healthcare incidents.

Vote:	DT	AC	PW	JD	NP	DL	VG	KN
	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	AB
Key: Yes: Y No: N Abstain: A Absent for Vote: AB								

Motion Passed

Lunch Break: 11:58 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Quorum Re-established: 1:01 p.m. (Katie Nair not present)

1:02 p.m.

7.0

Report of the Nursing Practice Committee

1:02 p.m.

7.1 Information only: Advisory committee updates

7.1.1 Nurse Practitioner Advisory Committee (NPAC)

7.1.2 Nurse-Midwifery Advisory Committee (NMAC)

7.1.3 Clinical Nurse Specialist Advisory Committee (CNSAC)

7.1.4 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Advisory Committee (CRNAAC)

7.1.5 Nursing Education and Workforce Advisory Committee (NEWAC)

Loretta Melby provided updates on the activities of the advisory committees.

Board Discussion: Patricia Wynne: Asked if McCaulie Feusahrens sets the agenda for NEWAC.

McCaulie Feusahrens: Explained that she works with Loretta Melby, Reza Pejuhesh, and the Chair and Vice Chair to set the agendas.

Meeting Note: Board Member Katie Nair rejoined the meeting

Public Comment(s) for Agenda Item 7.1.1 - 7.1.5: Paloma Serna: Shared her personal perspective as the mother of Elisa Serna, who died in San Diego County jail due to medical neglect by nurses and custodial staff. Representing Saving Lives in Custody, California, she expressed concern that advisory committee updates often feel abstract and disconnected from real-world consequences. She emphasized that her daughter's death was directly caused by systemic failures, where licensed nurses and jail staff operate without the standards expected in hospitals. Serna argued that advisory committees are meant to guide professional standards, and if those standards are not applied equally in correctional settings, it creates a two-tier system of care—one for the public and one for incarcerated individuals, including vulnerable populations such as pregnant women. She stressed that failing to address the role of nurses in in-custody deaths prioritizes protecting the system over protecting patients.

1:13 p.m.

7.2 Information only: APRN request for bill consideration/legislative review equality
Loretta Melby asked the Board to encourage lawmakers to ensure that all APRN roles are acknowledged in a bill instead of referencing just one type of APRN.

Board Discussion: No Board Discussion.

Public Comment(s) for Agenda Item 7.2: Paloma Serna: Shared her perspective as the mother of Elisa Serna, who died in San Diego County Jail due to medical neglect by nurses. Representing Saving Lives in Custody, California, she expressed concern about treating all advanced practice nurses (APNs) the

same under legislation, noting that in correctional settings these nurses hold significant power over patient care. She emphasized that in her daughter's case, APNs documented her condition but failed to act, and argued that expanding their authority without accountability increases risk with no consequences.

Melanie Rowe, CRNA (on behalf of CANA): Spoke in support of the APRN Consensus Model from NCSBN, advocating for California to adopt it to align with national standards.

Loretta Melby: Noted that the BRN adopted the APRN Consensus Model in 2014–2015, but full adoption has limitations. She discussed the population foci for various APRNs and explained that while they are working to propagate regulations, there is no current regulatory language fully matching the consensus model.

Melanie Rowe: Expressed anticipation for statutory language that would enable BRN to implement the full APRN Consensus Model, improving access to care for all patients in California.

1:26 p.m.

7.3 Discussion and Possible Action: Appointment NMAC public member

Loretta Melby briefly shared the review and appointment process for the NMAC public member.

Board Discussion: No Board Discussion.

Motion: **David Lollar:** Accept appointment of Nurse-Midwifery Advisory Committee (NMAC) public member

Second: **Dolores Trujillo**

Public Comment(s) for Agenda Item 7.3: Paloma Serna: Detailed the circumstances of her daughter Elisa Serna's death in San Diego County Jail. Serna stressed that the board, through committees like the Nurse-Midwife Advisory Committee, has a responsibility to prevent such tragedies. She advocated for the appointment of a public member without bias to ensure families affected by such incidents have a voice, highlighting that professional circles often protect each other, while the public demands accountability. She urged the board to appoint someone who will challenge the silence, assert that pregnancy in custody requires heightened care, and prevent future deaths of mothers and infants in California jails.

Vote:	DT	AC	PW	JD	NP	DL	VG	KN
	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
	<u>Key:</u> Yes: Y No: N Abstain: A Absent for Vote: AB							

Motion Passed

1:32 p.m.

8.0

Report of the Education/Licensing Committee (ELC)

1:34 p.m.

8.1 Discussion and possible action regarding ELC recommendations to the Board on agenda items presented at the June 17, 2025, committee meeting, including:

Approval of the proposed curriculum revisions and clinical facilities and acknowledgement of receipt of program progress reports for schools identified within the meeting materials in tables titled: “Prelicensure Curriculum Changes, Progress Reports, and Clinical Agency or Facility Approvals”

Continuing approval of approved nursing programs:

Prelicensure nursing programs:

College of San Mateo, Associate Degree Nursing Program
 College of the Sequoias, Associate Degree Nursing Program
 Contra Costa College, Associate Degree Nursing Program
 Cuesta College, Associate Degree Nursing Program

Advanced practice nurse practitioner nursing programs:

West Coast University, Family, Adult Gerontology Primary, and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Programs (continuing approval)
 University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, Family, Adult Gerontology Acute, Adult Gerontology Primary, and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Programs (initial approval)

Defer taking action on the continuing approval status of prelicensure nursing programs in non-compliance, with additional actions specific to each school below:

Return to ELC quarterly until areas of non-compliances are cleared:

Merritt College, Associate Degree Nursing Program

Return to ELC in one year with quarterly reports to the assigned NEC:

Cabrillo College, Associate Degree Nursing Program

Imperial Valley College, Associate Degree Nursing Program

Approve the request to move campus location in San Diego, California:

National University, Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program

Approve the enrollment increase for approved prelicensure nursing program:

Samuel Merritt University, Baccalaureate Degree and Entry Level Master's Degree Nursing Programs

Citrus College, Associate Degree Nursing Program

Simpson University, Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program

Grant initial approval of a new prelicensure nursing program:

Gurnick Academy of Medical Arts, Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program

Acceptance of a feasibility study for a new prelicensure nursing program:

California Nurses Educational Institute, Associate Degree Nursing Program

Unitek College, Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program

Mary Ann McCarthy provided updates prior to the agenda item presentation. Merritt College was able to meet the Program Director hiring by the July 1, 2025, deadline. Samuel Merritt University submitted additional supporting documentation for their enrollment increase request.

Board Discussion: Patricia Wynne: Appreciated the new form for clinical placements and asked who completes it.

Loretta Melby: Explained that the academic institution requesting the enrollment increase completes the form, collects the data, and

submits it to meet legal requirements for approval or denial. She reviewed concerns about unanswered boxes in the form and addressed how false information can result in denial or revocation per California Code of Regulations §1423. She noted the form is being used for the first time and feedback from the board is requested before wider distribution.

David Lollar: Asked whether leaving certain questions blank is standard practice.

Melby: Responded that responses vary, giving examples of consortium representatives and other program feedback.

Dolores Trujillo: Asked if the form needed board approval and about adding contact names/dates.

Melby: Explained the board has authority over the institution, not individuals, to avoid targeting anyone if a request is not approved.

Alison Cormack: Asked about notifications for ELC consideration of enrollment requests; Melby said agendas and materials are posted 10–14 days prior and emailed to programs, with the Program Director as the default contact.

Commenter (San Joaquin Delta College faculty): Expressed concern about private nursing schools, including out-of-county and out-of-state programs, displacing community colleges and CSU clinical sites. Noted that AB 1577 was intended to safeguard clinical placements for public colleges, ensuring equitable, affordable education, and local nurse retention. Requested careful consideration before approving growth for for-profit schools.

Melby: Clarified that out-of-state schools cannot use California clinical sites; AB 1577 supports public colleges in securing sites and prevents displacing existing programs. Addressed specific concerns about weekend clinicals at Samuel Merritt, noting Monday–Friday placements remain unaffected.

Patricia Wynne: Acknowledged the difficulty of verifying public comment information, especially for programs on the consent calendar.

Melby: Read additional letters in opposition from San Joaquin Delta College staff and students, addressing clinical displacement issues and the approval process through EDP-I-01s.

Reza Pejuhesh: Discussed differences between clinical displacement concerns versus future enrollment increase requests.

Vicki Granowitz: Asked about calculation of placement opportunities and the one pediatric placement cited in comments.

Melby: Explained that clinical options fluctuate daily, schools may use outside sources, and programs may provide transportation or housing for remote sites.

David Lollar: Noted the pattern of public commenters opposing the same program and highlighted the underlying business need as a factor.

Melby: Asked for legal guidance on incoming emails during discussion; Pejuhesh confirmed acknowledgment is sufficient if they are form letters, no obligation to read post-public comment.

Alison Cormack: Asked about deferring Samuel Merritt's consent item to the next day; Melby advised against it since programs are scheduled to attend on the agenda date.

Vicki Granowitz & David Lollar: Preferred to move forward with the motion as scheduled.

Melby: Noted some emails expressed agreement with San Joaquin Delta College or raised concerns about form integrity.

Motion: **Dolores Trujillo:** Accept the recommendations of the Education and Licensing Committee for all items contained in 8.1

Second: **Nilu Patel**

1:58 p.m. Public Comment(s) for Agenda Item 8.1: Paloma Serna: Spoke about approving and expanding nursing programs across the state. She emphasized the board's responsibility when approving programs or enrollment increases, highlighting the potential impact on patient safety. Serna urged accountability for all nursing programs and stressed that non-compliance could result in preventable deaths. She requested the board ensure programs teach nurses to treat incarcerated individuals as deserving timely care.

Lisa Lucchesi, San Joaquin Delta College: Stated that she represents San Joaquin Delta College's nursing program, which has served the region for over 60 years. She highlighted the program's longstanding partnerships with local hospitals, clinics, and long-term

care sites, noting that graduates often stay to serve their community. Lucchesi expressed opposition to outside and private nursing programs entering the region, citing risks to clinical placements, faculty, and student support. She emphasized that more programs do not necessarily produce more local nurses but instead increase competition for limited clinical sites. Lucchesi pointed out that external programs are often driven by enrollment and tuition revenue rather than community need. She described the college's Hope Program, recognized by the California Community College Chancellor's Office, which supports local students and facilities. Lucchesi requested the board prioritize strengthening local programs and resist encroachment from external schools. She also corrected inaccuracies on the academic collaboration form regarding clinical site usage, specifically noting that Dignity Hospitals and San Joaquin General Hospital host far more students than reported. Lucchesi concluded by reaffirming the program's continued opposition to enrollment increases in their region, referencing an email from their director to Executive Officer Melby.

Vote:	DT	AC	PW	JD	NP	DL	VG	KN
	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
<u>Key:</u> Yes: Y No: N Abstain: A Absent for Vote: AB								

Motion Passed

2:32 p.m.

8.2 Information only: NCLEX update

8.3 Information only: Licensing program update

Mary Ann McCarthy referred board members to the meeting materials pertaining to agenda items 8.2 and 8.3.

Board Discussion: No Board Discussion.

Public Comment(s) for Agenda Item 8.2 Paloma Serna: Requested four minutes for public comment.

- **8.3:** Loretta Melby noted that two minutes is recommended but confirmed she would not cut Serna off.

Reza Pejuhesh clarified that her comments were relevant to both agenda items 8.2 and 8.3.

Serna stated that when she sees NCLEX pass rates on the agenda, she does not think of test scores but of nurses in jails who refuse care to people in medical distress. She emphasized that passing a test does not guarantee ethical practice, compassion, or the courage

to challenge custody staff when medical care is needed. She urged the board to treat test data as the bare minimum rather than the finish line, stressing that graduates must be prepared to serve vulnerable populations, including incarcerated individuals and pregnant people in withdrawal. She argued that licensing must ensure public protection through accountability, not merely paperwork, and called for stronger oversight in custody settings. Serna recommended that when nurses fail to provide basic care, their licenses should be revoked immediately rather than waiting for lawsuits or family advocacy, asserting that licensing should guarantee safety rather than shield neglect.

2:38 p.m.

Recessed open session and entered closed session

9.0

Closed Session

9.1 Disciplinary Matters

9.2 Pending Litigation

Aeli Hartmann v. Board of Registered Nursing, Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, case no. 24STCP03139

Recessed to August 21, 2025 – 9:00 am

Thursday, August 21, 2025 – 9:00 am Board Meeting

9:03 a.m.

1.0

Call to order, roll call, and establishment of a quorum

Dolores Trujillo, RN, President, called the meeting to order at: 9:03 a.m. All members with the exception of Katie Nair were present. Quorum established at 9:04 a.m.

2.0

General instructions for the format of a teleconference call

The meeting moderator provided general instructions for members of the public to participate in the meeting.

9:05 a.m.

3.0

Continue with unfinished agenda items from August 20, 2025, if necessary

Loretta Melby: Reported that the Closed Session from the previous day did not conclude and indicated that approximately 30 minutes would be needed to complete it. The board proceeded to enter closed session.

Returned to open session and quorum re-established at 9:33 a.m. (all members, with the exception of Katie Nair, present)

9:33 a.m. **4.0** **Report of Enforcement/Investigations/Intervention Committee (EIIC)**

9:34 a.m. **4.1** **Information only:** Presentation by the Executive Officer regarding reviews in which the requirements of direct patient care and work passing narcotics were removed or imposed by the Intervention Evaluation Committee, and review of program extension beyond three years; presentation of Intervention Program statistical data
Loretta Melby introduced agenda item.

Board Discussion: Patricia Wynne: Inquired about the length of certain programs noted in the materials, specifically those exceeding three years.

Loretta Melby: Explained that many of the comments were made before the Executive Officer (EO) review process, which may have produced different results. She noted that staff were reviewing the data prior to the EO review and were attempting to address any outliers. Programs exceeding three years were generally about three to six months longer. She referenced statistical evidence suggesting it takes eight years for recovery and stated that allowing programs to exceed three years indicates that graduates have a strong foundation to practice safely, though it represents a calculated risk that must be balanced.

**Public Comment(s)
for Agenda Item**

4.1: No public comments.

9:51 a.m. **4.2** **Information only:** Enforcement Division update

Shannon Johnson provided updates to the board.

Board Discussion: No Board Discussion.

**Public Comment(s)
for Agenda Item**

4.2: No public comments.

10:08 a.m. **4.3** **Information only:** Investigations Division update

Evon Lenerd Tapps provided updates to the board.

Board Discussion: Patricia Wynne: Asked about the use of fluid testing.

Shannon Johnson: Explained that fluid testing is intended as an alternative in emergency situations. Participants must have oral fluid kits to use this method, and another type of test can be administered later to cover any time gaps. Without a kit, the oral fluid test cannot be performed. She emphasized that oral fluid testing will not be a regular testing method.

Nilu Patel: Inquired about providers who divert medications and how to prevent them from contacting patients.

Shannon Johnson: Stated that while mandatory reporting is not required in California, employers have options to address concerns. Investigations take time, and local police can be contacted if controlled substances are involved. Employers can remove staff from work, but the board cannot do so based solely on an allegation until proof exists to file an interim suspension order or accusation, which does not remove the individual from work.

Loretta Melby: Clarified that a license allows a person to work, but it is the employer who determines patient contact and ensures competence. The board does not certify skill competency; that responsibility lies with healthcare facilities to protect patients. She noted that while mandatory reporting exists for BVNPT, it does not for BRN, limiting the board's access to reports. Loretta discussed employer-filed complaints outlining disciplinary processes and mentioned canceling travel nurse contracts as another mechanism to protect patients.

**Public Comment(s)
for Agenda Item**

4.3: No public comments.

10:16 a.m.

4.4 Information only: Intervention Program update

Shannon Johnson provided updates to the board.

Board Discussion: Patricia Wynne: Asked about communication with the new vendor.

Shannon Johnson: Noted that communication with Premier Health has improved and she is comfortable with the clinical case managers. While acknowledging that some processes are still being refined, she stated that the case managers are performing well, and BRN staff are supporting them as needed.

Alison Cormack: Asked about previous comments regarding multiple case managers being assigned.

Shannon Johnson: Explained that some initial case managers at Premier may have been uncertain about their roles and some may have left, but the situation has improved.

Vicki Granowitz: Mentioned receiving letters regarding nurse support group (NSG) leaders and sought clarification on the complaints.

Loretta Melby: Explained the NSG facilitator (NSGF) role and described feedback received from participants and leaders. She clarified that Birchwood will present again on their services and emphasized that the board does not employ NSGFs or assign participants to groups. She addressed concerns about potential financial exchanges and noted that letters received came from an NSGF worried about the board impacting their business.

Vicki Granowitz: Asked about the rationale for some NSGs being free while others charge fees.

Loretta Melby: Said this inconsistency is one reason for exploring a vendor to oversee the NSGs.

Vicki Granowitz: Shared her experience running a therapy and support group for sexual assault survivors and questioned the charges.

Loretta Melby: Clarified that NSGs are not therapy.

Shannon Johnson: Noted that there are standards for being a NSGF but no guidelines regarding fees, resulting in inconsistencies between groups.

Patricia Wynne: Expressed concern about limited information on NSGs and why attendance is required, noting that probationers were previously required to participate.

Shannon Johnson: Explained that twice as many probationers as intervention participants are required to attend NSGs.

**Public Comment(s)
for Agenda Item**

4.4:

Stephanie Trumm, RN (former Maximus case manager, *Maximus is the Board's previous contractor*): The board currently has a contracted vendor. Discussed Uniform Standard Five. Emphasized that the NSG is intended as an emotionally safe space for RNs to express feelings, voice concerns, and receive recovery support. Believes leaders do not need a master's degree to be effective. Does not see a need for an additional vendor. Suggested that the board

create universal guidelines for each new support group leader to sign, enhancing accountability and consistency.

Break: 10:40 – 11:00 a.m.

Quorum: Re-established at 11:00 a.m. (All members present with the exception of Member Katie Nair)

11:00 a.m.

5.0

Report on Legislation

11:00 a.m.

5.1 Discussion and possible action: Legislative Update

- Overview of the 2026 BRN Sunset Review process and legislative requests

Board Discussion: Dolores Trujillo: Asked who stakeholders should submit questions or issues to.

Loretta Melby: Stakeholders may contact legislative staff directly, but she prefers they also contact her to review questions/issues, as some may be outside the board's jurisdiction. Discussed joining the licensing compact, noting it shouldn't be part of the sunset process. Mentioned stakeholder requests to remove board authority, such as nursing program approval.

Vicki Granowitz: Raised issues for consideration: subsidizing RN support groups, pay inconsistencies, disparity in disciplinary actions between RNs and MDs (e.g., DUIs), and concerns that RNs convicted of drug/controlled substance offenses who complete criminal requirements face unnecessary board processes. Disagreed with majority of board being nurses rather than public members.

Loretta Melby: Clarified that DUI has a broad definition and low-level alcohol DUI convictions may not trigger board action.

Nilu Patel: Proposed eliminating outdated supervision and standardized procedures so APRNs can practice fully under the consensus model. Suggested giving existing APRN advisory committees real authority to shape scope and regulation to expand patient access and modernize laws. Recommended a separate division for APRNs similar to IEC and Licensing divisions. Mentioned concern about limited APRN representation on the board.

Loretta Melby: Explained proposed board composition and that changing it to include four APRN members would offset the balance and would make it nurse heavy. Right now we have 5 nurse 4 public.

That would make 8 nurses noting balance of public vs. licensed members would need adjustment. Explained standardized procedures for RNs, CNMs, CNSs, CRNAs, and NPs, and noted advisory committees have no regulatory power, they only provide policy recommendations. Outlined the role of the board to protect the public, not the profession.

Alison Cormack: Asked if sunset is about school approvals;.

Loretta Melby: Stated sunset reviews can address any topic, not just school approvals. Clarified it is not limited to that. Emphasized need for better data to inform board decisions, including school quality indicators and APRN program outcomes, to ensure fairness, consistency, and public trust. Discussed school quality indicators and the board's ability to access data for APRN program outcomes, and overlap with national accreditors.

**Public Comment(s)
for Agenda Item**

5.1:

Melanie Rowe, CRNA, Practice Director for CANA: Appreciates discussion of agenda item on APRNs and that it will be on APRN agendas. Expressed concern about framing APRN advisory committees as seeking "power," noting they are subject matter experts with limited opportunities (two meetings per year) to present professional issues. Emphasized that physicians and dentists do not face similar scrutiny in their professional discussions and questioned whether this focus advances public protection. Asked about subcommittees meeting with outside public and board staff.

Loretta Melby: Clarified that APRN advisory committees are not seeking power; responded to the issue as presented. Noted advisory committees meet twice a year (total of 12 meetings), creating a significant workload for staff. Highlighted other committees and board meetings (up to 40 per year). Discussed past advisory committee makeup, subcommittees' flexibility to meet, APRN versus RN population percentages, and opposition from physician groups. Explained that subcommittees can meet as often as desired, sometimes with board staff, legal counsel, or Executive Officer participation. Clarified that "authority" is equivalent to "power" and advisory committees do not hold board authority. Addressed board member appointments, including vacancies and appointing authorities. Outlined sunset report writing process and handling of issues outside board jurisdiction.

McCaulie Feusahrens: Offered assistance with scheduling or coordinating subcommittee meetings if needed.

Nilu Patel: Clarified her previous statement, emphasizing “authority” rather than “power.”

Public RN: Supported Nilu Patel’s point on APRN representation on the board. Highlighted growing APRN numbers and the need to examine discipline policies, noting that disciplined nurses cannot retire while physicians can. Called this a significant issue.

Alison Cormack: Explained board appointments: seven by the Governor (including two public members), one public member by the Senate, and one public member by the Assembly.

Monica Miller, CANA, AANP: Encouraged ongoing discussions regarding sunset due to current healthcare challenges, provider shortages, and potential federal impacts. Expressed hope for board extension and collaboration with staff.

12:11 p.m.

6.0

Adjournment

➤ Dolores Trujillo, President, adjourned the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

Submitted by:

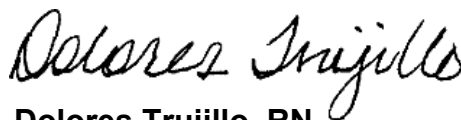


Loretta Melby, MSN, RN

Executive Officer

California Board of Registered Nursing

Accepted by:



Dolores Trujillo, RN

President

California Board of Registered Nursing