

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING  
EDUCATION/LICENSING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** April 17, 2025

**9:01 a.m.**

**Start Time:** 9:01 a.m.

**Location:** **NOTE:** Pursuant to the provisions of Government Code section 11133 a physical meeting location was not being provided.

**The Board of Registered Nursing held a public meeting via a teleconference platform.**

**Thursday, April 17, 2025 – 9:00 a.m. BRN Education/Licensing Committee Meeting**

**9:01 a.m.**

**1.0**

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

Jovita Dominguez, BSN, RN, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at: 9:01 a.m. All members present. Quorum was established at 9:01 a.m.

**Committee Members:** Jovita Dominguez, BSN, RN-Chair  
Patricia “Tricia” Wynne, Esq.  
Dolores Trujillo, RN

**BRN Staff:** Loretta (Lori) Melby, RN, MSN – Executive Officer  
Reza Pejuhesh – DCA Legal Attorney  
Mary Ann McCarthy, EdD, MSN, RN, PHN, Nursing Education Consultant - Staff Liaison

9:05 a.m.

2.0

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

**Public Comment  
for Agenda Item**

**2.0:** Mitchell Fuerst, President Marsha Fuerst School of Nursing– They brought an application for a new location in Citrus Heights twice and were deferred. They will be changing to a different city/location and will be using a new methodology to clearly demonstrate the clinical situation to assure the members of the committee that there will not be any clinical displacement. He wants to thank the committee for the opportunity to bring the application for the new location.

Paloma Serna – Mother of Elisa Serna who died in the Las Colinas detention facility in San Diego County on November 11, 2019. She's with the Saving Lives in Custody California and North County Equity and Justice Coalition. She wants to speak about nurse Danalee Pasqua who was charged last year along with Dr. Friederike Von Lintig. It was difficult for jurors to convict the two since her daughter was in custody for five days and a federal judge made the videos public showing multiple nurses, Dr. Carol Gilmore and other nurses involved in her death. She said it is surprising to see that Danalee Pasqua still has her license. She's been checking the website, and it shows a flag on her license but would like the members to continue to investigate this individual. She should not be practicing.

Jovita Dominguez said she offers her condolences and is sorry for Ms. Serna's loss.

Reza Pejuhesh said he asked the commenter if this was a closed case and the commenter said yes, however, it looks like an accusation was filed and he does not see a final disposition, so he presumes it is still ongoing. He does not have all the case details at his fingertips, and he doesn't think this is the time or place to go into it. He said the comment was received and thanks the commenter and offers condolences and is sorry for her loss. He wanted to clarify the status of the case for the record.

Prior to moving on to Agenda Item 3.1 Reza Pejuhesh said a hearing is scheduled at the Office of Administrative Hearings next month.

9:15 a.m.

**3.0 Review and vote on whether to approve previous meeting minutes**  
**3.1 January 22, 2025**

**Committee**

**Discussion:** No comments or questions.

**Motion:** **Jovita Dominguez:** Motion to Accept ELC Meeting Minutes from January 22, 2025, and allow BRN staff to make non-substantive changes to correct name misspellings and/or typos that may be discovered in the document.

**Second:** **Patricia Wynne**

**Public Comment for Agenda Item**

**3.1:** Reza Pejuhesh said they don't usually receive comments about active open cases in public comment during meetings. He wants to advise the committee members that there's a hearing next month for the case. He wants to caution members not to go view the video mentioned by the commenter as that may be entered into the administrative record as evidence. He apologized for interrupting again.

No public comments in any location.

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>PW</b>
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Key: Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB</b>			

**Motion Passed**

9:21 a.m. 4.0 *(Items for consideration within this agenda number will be discussed and voted upon as consent agenda items unless a committee member or member of the public state that they wish to pull one or more items out for further discussion and/or separate vote.)*

9:21 am 4.1 Discussion and possible action regarding whether to recommend approval of the proposed curriculum revisions and clinical facilities and to acknowledge the receipt of program progress reports  
Schools are identified within the meeting materials in tables titled: *Prelicensure Curriculum Changes; Progress Reports; and Clinical Agency or Facility Approvals*

**Committee**

**Discussion:** Patricia Wynne reviewed all the materials and has no issue with the consent items.

Dolores Trujillo has no issues with the information.

**Motion:** **Jovita Dominguez:** Motion to recommend approval of the proposed curriculum revisions and clinical facilities and to acknowledge the receipt of program progress reports.

**Second:** **Dolores Trujillo**

**Public Comment  
for Agenda Item**

**4.1:** Candice Elizabeth Whealon – She’s a co-director of the UC Irvine DNP program and did not see their program on the consent agenda.

Mary Ann McCarthy asked what the request was for. Commenter said there is a curriculum revision to align their curriculum with the new national task force standards.

Loretta Melby said there is one item for UC Irvine on page 52 for the DNP FNP program.

Commenter said that is perfect, but she cannot scroll on her computer right now.

Reza Pejuhesh spoke about the makeup of the agenda item and materials and pointed to the pages in the materials where the school information can be found. He said if there is any program in the materials that should be pulled out for discussion can do so.

No public comments in Sacramento.

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>PW</b>
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Key: Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB</b>			

**Motion Passed**

**9:29 a.m.**

**4.2**

**Discussion and possible action regarding whether to recommend continuing approval of approved nursing programs**

*Prelicensure nursing programs*

**4.2.1** Sonoma State University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program

**4.2.2** University of San Francisco Baccalaureate Degree and Entry Level Master's Degree Nursing Program

**4.2.3** Rio Hondo College Associate Degree Nursing Program

**4.2.4** Santa Barbara City College Associate Degree Nursing Program

*Advanced practice nurse practitioner nursing programs*

**4.2.5** Sonoma State University Family Nurse Practitioner Program

**4.2.6** University of California Davis Family and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Programs

**4.2.7** University of San Francisco Family and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Programs

**Committee**

**Discussion:** Patricia Wynne has no questions but appreciates the comprehensive nature of the materials to assist them in making decisions.

Dolores Trujillo agreed.

**Motion:** **Jovita Dominguez:** Motion to recommend continuing approval of prelicensure nursing programs, and continuing approval of advanced practice (nurse practitioner) nursing programs.

**Second:** **Patricia Wynne**

**Public Comment  
for Agenda Item**

**4.2:** No public comments in any location.

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>PW</b>
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b><u>Key:</u> Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB</b>			

## Motion Passed

9:32 a.m.            5.0            *(Items for consideration within this agenda number will be presented to the committee members for discussion and voted upon individually.)*

9:33 a.m.            5.1            Discussion and possible action regarding prelicensure nursing programs in non-compliance.

5.1.1            Merritt College Associate Degree Nursing Program (two years with non-compliances following a BRN continuing approval visit)

**Committee  
Discussion:**

Dolores Trujillo asked to hear from the school about what they're doing to clear their non-compliances.

Dawn Williams, school representative, said they have been working as a small faculty to rectify the non-compliances. They feel the administration is supporting them, but it is unfortunate that the timeliness of this is late in the game. Their faculty are small but mighty. They are working with Nurse Tim and the curriculum consultant to work with them on their curriculum. The grant is going to support them, and they have two full time instructor positions that are posted, and they've already started receiving applications. Things are happening fast, but it is late in the game.

David M. Johnson, school president, reiterates the support of director Williams. He appreciates the patience the members have exhibited in terms of their efforts to navigate and get to where they want to be. This process has elucidated some of the steps and measures needed to take to reclaim their position as one of the preeminent programs in the state. They are trying to navigate this process even as they continue as a district with some fiscal and budgetary exigencies and perhaps contributed to the process being a bit more elongated than they would like it to be. They are on track as Director Williams stated. They are excited to receive the grant to rebuild their nursing infrastructure.

Dolores Trujillo asked if the grant is \$1.5 or \$2 million.

Dawn Williams said it is \$1.15 million.

Loretta Melby said page 70 in the materials speaks about the CCR sections saying the program needs to come into compliance and that time is now. She spoke about the options to continue to defer the program and other possible motion options. She said the program enrolls 40 students once a year and held enrollment for one year voluntarily as well as enrolled only 25 in 2024 while they work to come into compliance. She said the committee and board could have taken steps to limit enrollment if they were a program who enrolls many students. She spoke about the other performance measures the committee could consider when making a recommendation for action.

Patricia Wynne thanks the program for their comments. She's impressed with the amount of work the school has taken to get into compliance. She understands change takes time. She doesn't know if quarterly reports are necessary, maybe annually. She's not in a punishing mood right now.

Dolores Trujillo asked if Patricia Wynne would be inclined to recommend quarterly reports to the assigned NEC.

Patricia Wynne said that would be fine and asked Mary Ann McCarthy if the NECs are in touch with the schools.

Mary Ann McCarthy said they are in touch with the schools all the time. She was assigned this program and has passed it on to another colleague who she works closely with. She said it is a little concerning about how long it has been for them to get to this point to hire a consultant because they came to ELC before and said they were getting a consultant and it's been a long time trying to get something in place. She said grant money is great, but the money is not

long lasting and worries when the grant doesn't continue if they are going to be able to pick up the faculty positions in the regular budget.

Patricia Wynne asked about length of time to report to the committee.

Mary Ann McCarthy said in the past they've done it quarterly and it is added to the consent agenda. But the committee can have them come more or less often. The NEC will work with them regardless of when they formally bring them back before the ELC and board.

Loretta Melby thinks they need to find out when these non-compliances will be cleared to help the committee determine how frequently they could come before ELC and the board. This was originally discovered in August 2023. A timeline is needed to track this and make sure they are making the necessary movement to come into compliance.

Mary Ann McCarthy asked about the program's timeline for the consultant, faculty, and grant going into effect. Will they be able to pay faculty this fall or next spring?

Dawn Williams asked the president to comment.

David M. Johnson said the faculty positions are not contingent on the grant. They are general fund hires and will be institutionalized irrespective of when the grant sunsets. These will be Fall 2025 hires.

Dawn Williams said they have a meeting scheduled with the consultant on Monday and within the next week or so they will be able to give an educated answer regarding a timeline for the curriculum.

Mary Ann McCarthy asked about faculty working on the curriculum which is usually outside their regular teaching and working

Dawn Williams said the faculty needs to dedicate time for curriculum and they set aside time for curriculum workshops that they have already been attending. They're using faculty meeting time to do this.

Dolores Trujillo said since this has been going on for two years, she is in favor of the optional motion to recommend return to ELC/board quarterly until areas of non-compliance are cleared and would like to keep this school at the forefront of her radar.

Patricia Wynne agrees.

**Motion: Dolores Trujillo:** Motion to recommend deferring taking action on the continuing approval status for Merritt College Associate Degree Nursing Program (two years with non-compliances following a BRN continuing approval visit) while they work to clear the area(s) of non-compliance. Recommend return to ELC/Board quarterly until areas of non-compliance are cleared.

**Second: Patricia Wynne**

**Public Comment  
for Agenda Item**

**5.1.1:** No public comments in any location.

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>PW</b>
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Key: Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB</b>			

**Motion Passed**

**9:59 a.m.**

**5.1.2** Copper Mountain College Associate Degree Nursing Program (one year with non-compliances following a BRN continuing approval visit)

## **Committee**

**Discussion:** Patricia Wynne asked to hear from the school

Dr. Camille Reese, school representative, explained her background and qualifications to work with this program. They are in the process of hiring two new faculty. They've been working on their curriculum and meet with faculty on a regular basis and are looking to determine where they need to make improvements. She has a lot of support from the community, president, and vice president at the college. They are developing strong partnerships with the other ADN programs in their area. They are working to revise their evaluation plan and is confident they can move forward in that process. She said they are in compliance and is uncertain what the discrepancies are.

Mary Ann McCarthy said when she prepared for the meeting, she read the executive summary but did not see the evidence needed to show full compliance.

Dr. Camille Reese said they've hired an Assistant Dean which is an area of non-compliance, and they are diligently working to address any concerns or deficiencies in the past.

Mary Ann McCarthy asked for the timeline to hire the faculty.

Dr. Camille Reese said the second-round interviews are next week and anticipate having them on board ASAP because there is work to do this summer and this faculty will participate in a retreat during the first week of May so they want to have them on board by then to be able to have their input in this process.

Loretta Melby gave some additional context about the process, information in the materials, what is required to comply with the BRN requirements.

Mary Ann McCarthy said there has been a lot of turn over at this program. She asked about the Assistant Dean if she is still a full-time faculty and whether they will be released from their teaching load.

Dr. Camille Reese said yes it will. She said she submitted information on the faculty and provided a copy of the current org chart which is usually updated during the summer. She said she wasn't asked to provide information on teaching load for faculty but can provide it if needed.

Mary Ann McCarthy said she was only speaking about the Assistant Director as addressed in the regulation.

Dr. Camille Reese said the AD gets a 20% release time now.

Mary Ann McCarthy said once the program has the information, they can work with their NEC to get them on the consent agenda.

**Motion:** **Dolores Trujillo:** Motion to Recommend deferring taking action on the continuing approval status for Copper Mountain College Associate Degree Nursing Program (one year with non-compliances following a BRN continuing approval visit) while they work to clear the area(s) of non-compliance. Recommend return to ELC in one year with quarterly reports to the assigned NEC.

**Second:** **Patricia Wynne**

**Public Comment  
for Agenda Item**

**5.1.2:** No public comments in any location.

**Vote:**

Vote:	JD	DT	PW
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	Y	Y	Y
<b>Key: Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB</b>			

**Motion Passed**

**10:22 a.m.**

**5.1.3** Fresno City College Associate Degree Nursing Program (program with non-compliances following a BRN continuing approval visit)

**Committee**

**Discussion:** Dolores Trujillo asked to hear from program.

Dr. Sonia Duarte, school representative, said she started in July and had their visit in December. She explained all the various steps they've taken to work on their compliance issues with their assigned NEC. She believes they need to provide the evidence to show compliance, and they will do that with their assigned NEC.

Loretta Melby said this visit was just conducted in December and the NEC hasn't had the opportunity to provide guidance to the program about their areas of non-compliance which is why they only have one option in their motion.

**Motion:** **Jovita Dominguez:** Motion to Recommend deferring taking action on the continuing approval status for Fresno City College Associate Degree Nursing Program (program with non-compliances following a BRN continuing approval visit) while they work to clear the area(s) of non-compliance. Recommend return to ELC in one year with quarterly reports to the assigned NEC.

**Second:** **Patricia Wynne**

**Public Comment  
for Agenda Item**

**5.1.3:** No public comments in any location.

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>PW</b>
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Key: Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB</b>			

**Motion Passed**

**Break from 10:32 – 10:40 a.m.**

**Quorum re-established at 10:41 a.m.**

**10:41 a.m.**

**5.1.4** Los Angeles City College Associate Degree Nursing Program (program with non-compliances following a BRN continuing approval visit)

**Committee**

**Discussion:** Jovita Dominguez asked if the school would like to comment on where they're at.

Christine Sloat, school representative, has been in the director role since fall 2024. She said they have full support from their district office, college administrators, president and vice president of academic affairs. She spoke about the steps taken and are taking to resolve the areas of non-compliance that includes limiting enrollment, hiring faculty members, purchasing simulation equipment, bringing on a simulation technician, and working with students.

**Motion:** **Jovita Dominguez:** Motion to Recommend deferring taking action on the continuing approval status for Los Angeles City College Associate Degree Nursing Program (program with non-compliances following a BRN continuing approval visit) while they work to clear the area(s) of non-compliance. Recommend return to ELC in one year with quarterly reports to the assigned NEC.

**Second:** Dolores Trujillo

**Public Comment  
for Agenda Item**

**5.1.4:** No public comments in any location.

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>PW</b>
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Key: Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB</b>			

**Motion Passed**

**10:49 a.m.**

**5.1.5** Fresno Pacific University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program (program with non-compliances following a BRN continuing approval visit)

**Committee**

**Discussion:** Jovita Dominguez asked for the school to talk on their behalf.

Esther Igboerika, school representative, had their BRN visit in November 2024, and she stepped into this role in January 2025. She spoke about steps being taken to resolve their areas of non-compliance that includes release time for PD and AD, hiring for the AD position, hiring clinical faculty, student review programs.

**Motion:** **Jovita Dominguez:** Motion to Recommend deferring taking action on the continuing approval status for Fresno Pacific University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program (program with non-compliances following a BRN continuing approval visit) while they work to clear the area(s) of non-compliance. Recommend return to ELC in one year with quarterly reports to the assigned NEC.

**Second:** **Patricia Wynne**

**Public Comment  
for Agenda Item**

**5.1.5:** No public comments in any location.

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>PW</b>
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Key: Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB</b>			

**Motion Passed**

**10:57 a.m.**

**5.2**

**Discussion and possible action regarding a request to teach out and close an approved advance practice nurse practitioner program**

**5.2.1** University of Southern California Family Nurse Practitioner program

**Committee**

**Discussion:** Jovita Dominguez asked to hear from the school.

Michelle Shelly Zappas, school representative, spoke about the reasons for closing their program that was based on their administration making the decision.

Jovita Dominguez commended the program on their pass rates.

Patricia Wynne asked why the NPs are being phased out.

Michelle Shelly Zappas said a lot of programs are going towards the BSN to DNP and had a recommendation that by 2025 all NPs be prepared at the doctoral level. The faculty made a push to elevate the NP practice. She thinks there is still a market for MSN programs but said AACN recommends moving

towards doctoral prepared that is consistent with other health care professionals.

**Motion:** **Jovita Dominguez:** Motion to Recommend acceptance of the request to teach out and close an approved advance practice nurse practitioner program at the University of Southern California Family Nurse Practitioner track. This teach-out closes admissions to the Nurse Practitioner program with a projected end date of December 31, 2027.

**Second:** **Patricia Wynne**

**Public Comment  
for Agenda Item**

**5.2.1:** No public comments in any location.

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>PW</b>
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>

**Key: Yes: Y | No: N | Abstain: A | Absent for Vote: AB**

**Motion Passed**

**11:04 a.m.**

**5.3 Discussion and possible action regarding a request for an enrollment pattern change for an approved prelicensure nursing program**

*REGION 10 Southern Border*

**5.3.1** University of San Diego, Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science, Entry Level

**Committee Discussion:** Dolores Trujillo asked to hear from the program about why they are changing their enrollment.

Kathy Marsh, school representative, thanked her NEC Michelle Johnson for helping with this and their curriculum changes. She said it has been difficult obtaining preceptor placements for 60 students at one time. This will make it easier on the hospitals and less competition for the other schools in the area.

Loretta Melby said San Diego is inundated so what is interesting with this request is that they are not asking for more students, they are asking to keep their same level of students and just the way they bring them in so it should be a neutral impact essentially to the community and not cause any increased demands on the resources that are already very limited in Sa Diego.

- Motion: Jovita Dominguez:** Motion to Recommend acceptance of the enrollment pattern change for an approved prelicensure nursing program at the University of San Diego, Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science, Entry Level Master’s Degree Nursing Program
- 40 students each fall and 20 students each spring for a continued annual enrollment of 60 students a year.

**Second: Dolores Trujillo**

**Public Comment for Agenda Item**

**5.3.1:** No public comments in any location

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>PW</b>
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Key: Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB</b>			

**Motion Passed**

11:10 a.m.

5.4

**Discussion and possible action regarding a request to grant initial approval of a new prelicensure nursing program**

**REGION 5 Central Coast and REGION 8 Los Angeles**

11:10 a.m.

**5.4.1 Pepperdine University Baccalaureate Degree and Entry Level Master's Degree Nursing Program**

**Committee Discussion:**

Dolores Trujillo asked to hear from the program.

Dr. Angel Coaston, school representative, appreciates their NEC, Katie Daugherty for her support and guidance. She thanks the members for reviewing their documentation and look forward to hearing feedback and questions.

**Motion: Jovita Dominguez:** Motion to Recommend granting initial approval of a new prelicensure nursing program, Pepperdine University Baccalaureate Degree and Entry Level Master's Degree Nursing Programs at their previously approved enrollment pattern from the feasibility study of 80 new students every Fall (64 BSN and 16 ELM) and 32 (16 BSN and 16 ELM) every Spring for a total annual enrollment of 112 students.

**Second: Patricia Wynne**

**Public Comment for Agenda Item**

**5.4.1:** No public comments in any location.

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>PW</b>
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Key: Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB</b>			

**Motion Passed**

*REGION 3 San Francisco Bay*

11:18 a.m.

**5.4.2** Saint Mary's College Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program

**Committee Discussion:**

Jovita Dominguez asked to hear from the program.

Pamela Stanley, school representative, thanked their NEC Kimberly Knight for all the work she's done to help them get their documents completed and preliminary accreditation visit. They can answer any questions from the members.

Loretta Melby said the materials include all information supporting the request and the school representative are not generally prepared to make any type of presentation to the members. However, if the members have any questions they can ask.

**Motion:** **Jovita Dominguez:** Motion to Recommend granting initial approval of a new prelicensure nursing program, Saint Mary's College Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program, at their previously approved enrollment pattern from their feasibility study of 50 students twice per year beginning Fall 2025, for an annual enrollment of 100 students.

**Second:** **Dolores Trujillo**

**Public Comment for Agenda Item**

**5.4.2:** No public comments in any location.

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>PW</b>
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>

**Key: Yes: Y | No: N | Abstain: A | Absent for Vote: AB**

**Motion Passed**

*REGION 7 Inland Empire*

**11:23 a.m.**

**5.4.3** Westcliff University Baccalaureate Degree and Entry Level Master's Degree Nursing Program

**Committee**

**Discussion:** Mary Ann McCarthy said the program requested to change their enrollment pattern from the one previously approved by the board without any new enrollments.

Loretta Melby explained the nursing education requirements for both BSN and ELM are the same and the request is neutral for clinical placements since it is for the same number previously approved by the board.

**Motion:** **Jovita Dominguez:** Motion to Recommend granting initial approval of a new prelicensure nursing program, Westcliff University Baccalaureate Degree and Entry Level Master's Degree Nursing Programs, to 40 students three (3) times a year for the BSN program yielding 120 students annually, and 20 students twice (2) a year for the ELM program yielding 40 students annually, for a total of 160 students for both programs.

**Second:** **Patricia Wynne**

**Public Comment  
for Agenda Item**

**5.4.3:** No public comments in any location.

**Vote:**

Vote:	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>PW</b>
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	Y	Y	Y
<b>Key: Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB</b>			

**Motion Passed**

**11:28 a.m.            5.5            Discussion and possible action regarding a request for a new campus location with an enrollment increase for an approved prelicensure nursing program.**

*REGION 1 Sacramento*

**11:28 a.m.            5.5.1        Samuel Merritt University Entry Level Masters and Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program (request for reconsideration to change February 2025 board action from denial to deferment)**

**Committee Discussion:** Dolores Trujillo is open to defer taking action.

Jovita Dominguez agrees.

**Motion: Dolores Trujillo:** Motion to Recommend accepting the request for reconsideration and defer taking action on the request for an enrollment increase for approved prelicensure nursing program, Samuel Merritt University Entry Level Masters and Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program – Sacramento campus to allow the program to consider other options for future Board approval consideration.

**Second: Jovita Dominguez**

**Public Comment for Agenda Item**

**5.5.1:** Tanya Altmann, CSUS – She is concerned with the deferment request with the same location but different clinical locations. In her 10 years she has not seen a

request where the school requests clinicals in another area and then there is no enforcement, and they do clinicals in the Sacramento area.

Loretta Melby said there are recent requests from nursing programs who are approved at one location and do clinicals in another location. She said this is an uncommon request but it is happening more often now. She gave some examples from previous schools and out of state programs. She said there will be a data bank tracking clinical facility approval, and the tentative release date is May 1. She said the data will allow the board to investigate issues that may arise from clinical placements of schools. She said the board has authority to look at this under CCR section 1423(b). If after investigation of any issues the board has authority to act and hold a program accountable if it is found the school is not following board laws and regulations.

Nancy James – Thanks the EO. Dean at Sierra College – She voiced her concern last month for the schools impacting their clinicals in the Sacramento region. She echoes Tanya Altman’s issues but also voices her concern about faculty recruitment and retention and their inability to get enough nursing faculty. She’ll come back when this program is back on the agenda.

Loretta Melby spoke about different options for Samuel Merritt in establishing their enrollment increase.

No public comments in Sacramento.

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>PW</b>
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Key: Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB</b>			

**Motion Passed**

11:42 a.m.            5.6            **Discussion and possible action regarding a request to accept a feasibility study for new prelicensure nursing programs**

*REGION 1 Sacramento*

11:42 a.m.            **5.6.1    Arizona College of Nursing Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program**

**Committee**

**Discussion:** Dolores Trujillo asked to hear from public comment.

Patricia Wynne said she is surprised this request is on the agenda based on the discussions going on for the last several months that Sacramento is not a good area to open a new program based on impaction.

After Public Comment:

Loretta Melby said Carol Velas is the consultant for Arizona College and would like to speak but she is having difficulty getting on to speak.

Dr. Debbie Long, school representative, said Carol did extreme due diligence and had difficulty getting contact information to send the surveys out. She said there were a lot of roadblocks to the consortium and have discussions because they are not an active member. She said it was not intentional to leave everyone off the survey list. She said they heard identical worry when they opened their Ontario campus. She said they've brought faculty from other areas, and they have faculty in other areas of the country. She said some faculty are interested in relocating to California. She said if anyone contacts their neighbors in Ontario it will show they are very good neighbors who work with the other programs. They have 100% pass rate. They have a rich mentoring program. They take NPs in the area who are interested in becoming faculty and mentor them into the role to help avoid impaction with faculty.

Patricia Wynne said she doesn't think their program has any ill feelings about their institution. She has concerns about the other schools who are looking to locate in an area that is severely impacted.

Dr. Carol Velas, school representative, appreciates Michelle Johnson and Mary Jane Rosenblatt for their guidance during their feasibility study. She knows there is clinical impact in this area but asks the ELC and board to keep in mind that the guidelines say this is a two-year process. Any decision today will not impact any program in the area for two years. She said the Department of Public Health Care Services said there are four major hospitals, Dignity Health, Sutter Health, Kaiser, and UC Davis are expanding their footprints in the area to accommodate this enrollment growth for the population growth. The expansions should be finished when they come into the area in March 2027. None of this is going to impact any of the schools that are here opposing the program now.

Loretta Melby said workforce data cannot be considered by the members or board based on the recent sunset bill. She said when the update to CCR 1432 to add the EDP-I-01 to the process includes new campus locations, it was aimed to be a one-year process not two years. She spoke about the different types of information by law that can be considered by the board.

Carol Velas said she was not speaking about workforce but that the expansions will create more clinical opportunities for students. She spent a week in Sacramento to speak directly with representatives in all organizations and that was very clear they could not displace other programs. They obtained 26 facility verification forms in alternative areas. They stayed away from big hospitals because they knew they were impacted. She tried to go to the consortium, but they are not approved and cannot attend those meetings. She said she called the schools to obtain contact information for the surveys. She said they have a partnership with Tenant Hospital in Modesto and Turlock for 12-15 of their employees in a cohort. She spoke about the regulations and guidelines and all other attempts to follow them as they prepared this request. She said she was a NEC for six years and liaison to this committee, so she knows the regulations

and said they are missing out on a wonderful program by not even considering this program to come into the Sacramento area.

Loretta Melby addressed some of the issues brought up by Dr. Velas. She pointed to the data on the BRN website showing the regional information for the nursing students. She spoke about displacement data on the BRN dashboard. She spoke about attending committee and board meetings. She spoke about a HCAI presentation at the November 2024 meeting showing shortage and surplus areas are in the state.

Carol Velas said she already reviewed the information.

Loretta Melby said she is sharing to the public, board, and committee members. She also showed the different tabs in the interactive dashboard. She also showed the statewide nursing data by region to show all that has been done to address areas of concern in this region.

Jovita Dominguez asked if this is time for public comment.

Loretta Melby said that concluded and is closed. The committee can ask questions, make a motion, defer more discussion to the board.

Carol Velas said she doesn't think it is fair or equitable that there's no responsibility for the programs to meet with them. They cannot attend the director's and dean's meeting, or consortiums. She would like to know what they can do, that is more than what they did. She spent months on all the reports shown by EO Melby.

Patricia Wynne said they rely on all the charts that show all the increases they've evaluated.

Carol Velas said there are 5 million people and wonders if there is an ability to replace nurses in the workforce.

Dolores Trujillo said she works in this area, and it is becoming impacted. She thinks they've had ample discussion and is ready for a motion.

Loretta Melby asked if this could be consistent to defer the program to consider alternatives since they've already spent \$40,000. She explained what must be done if they are denied starting all over including spending another \$40,000. She suggested the third bullet that allows the program to continue to work to get approved in the same region or in another area. That has been the precedent for all other schools that are not approved or accepted.

Dolores Trujillo asked Patricia Wynne for her thought process on this.

Patricia Wynne thinks they should be consistent and defer action, so they don't have to start the process all over again.

**Motion:** **Dolores Trujillo:** Motion to Recommend defer taking on the request for acceptance of the feasibility study for a new prelicensure nursing program secondary campus in Rancho Cordova requested by Arizona College of Nursing Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program to allow them to present new information to the board at a future time for consideration for approval.

The Board may accept or not accept the feasibility study, or may defer action on the study to provide the program applicant with an opportunity to provide additional information.

**Second:** **Patricia Wynne**

**Public Comment  
for Agenda Item**

**5.6.1:** Nancy James, Sierra College – She is deeply concerned with colleges and universities seeking to open in the Sacramento area. The area is inundated with requests for clinical placements and will have a huge impact on clinical

placements. She said this will put a strain on nursing faculty as well. She suggests the feasibility study not be accepted because additional nursing programs will negatively impact what is currently here and should not be allowed.

Tanya Altman, CSUS – She said she submitted a letter of objection to the board about this request. She said she spoke with Arizona College and was told they are conducting a survey. She did not get the survey, but a random faculty member did which concerns her since they know who she is. She said last month they had a regional planning for Psych Mental Health, and they invited one school trying to come into Sacramento and they said they had a contract with one of the mental health facilities. When they finished their planning, it showed there was one available spot on a Tuesday evening in the summer for less than 10 students. They asked the program if that would fill their need in Sacramento and they said no they would look elsewhere.

Karen Griffith, Deputy Director for Children and Family Services for Sacramento Employment Training Agency, also known as SETA – She listed out the various programs she oversees in the community. She is supportive of the Arizona College request as it increases access to their families and children, but she wants to acknowledge they are not subject to the inner working and impacts of the Sacramento nursing programs.

Dr. Heather Brown, Dean California Northstate University – She is asking the committee to deny this request for Arizona College. Their program was recently approved by the BRN. This new program is proposed to be right next door to their program in Rancho Cordova. She has not heard from Arizona College about this request. She listed a variety of investments and reasons why the program should be denied.

Dr. Angela Straw, Department Chair of California Northstate nursing program – She is requesting Arizona College be denied for the same reasons as Dr.

Heather Brown. Adding an additional 144 students each year will negatively impact all nursing programs.

No public comments in Sacramento.

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>PW</b>
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Key: Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB</b>			

**Motion Passed**

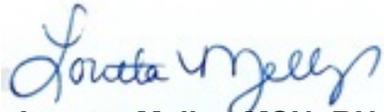
12:34 p.m.

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**Adjournment**

➤ **Jovita Dominguez, Chairperson, adjourned the meeting.**

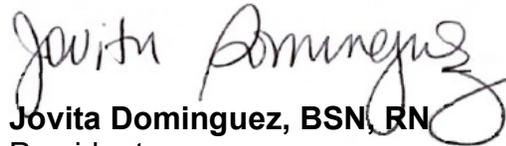
**Submitted by:**



**Loretta Melby, MSN, RN**  
Executive Officer

California Board of Registered Nursing

**Accepted by:**



**Jovita Dominguez, BSN, RN**  
President

California Board of Registered Nursing