

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status
From Initial Approval to Initial Approval with Warning
Cephas Center for Health Sciences in Dallas, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the proposed change in approval status for the Cephas Center for Health Sciences (CCHS) Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program in Dallas, Texas, from Initial Approval to Initial Approval with Warning based upon the 2015 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, findings in the 2015 Self-Study Report, and compliance with Rule 214.

Historical Perspective:

- The VN Program at CCHS was approved by the Board in April 2012 and began enrolling students in May 2012.
- CCHS is a private institution owned by Peninnah (Penny) Ihemelu, RN, BSC who also serves as Director of the program.
- The program is designed to be delivered in a twelve (12) month format (four quarters).
- The most recent survey visit was conducted on March 15, 2012, by Robin Caldwell, PhD, RN.
- The program is currently on initial approval status.
- The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the past two years are provided in the table below:

NCLEX Examination Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-PN® Examination Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2015	Initial	43.75%	7/16
2014	Initial	26.57%	6/21
2013	New Program		

- Due to the 2014 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate of 26.57%, the Program Director and faculty were required to submit a Self-Study Report (SSR) in 2015 that would evaluate factors that may have contributed to the graduates' performance on the NCLEX-PN® examination and a description of the corrective measures to be implemented.
- The Education Consultants conducted a conference call with the Program Director and faculty members on May 6, 2015, to discuss the process of developing the SSR. A SSR was received in the Board office on August 11, 2015.
- The Program Director and faculty members identified factors in the SSR that may have contributed to the decline in the pass rate and designed the following corrective measures:
 - Revise admission requirements; and
 - Strengthen student policies related to remediation and use of ATI resources.

- On March 18, 2016 the Education Consultants contacted the Program Director concerning changing the program's approval status from Initial Approval to Initial Approval with Warning at the Board meeting on April 21, 2016.
- The CCHS VN Program was provided the opportunity to write a response letter to be included with the Board report, but elected not to do so.

Rationale for Recommendations:

Rule 214.4(c)(3)(A) states: "A warning may be issued to a program when the pass rate of first-time NCLEX-RN® candidates is less than 80% for two (2) consecutive examination years..."

The Education Guideline for writing a Self-Study Report requires that "The effects of the corrective measures should be evaluated as a part of the Total Program Evaluation Plan".

Staff Recommendations:

Move to change the approval status for the Cephas Center for health Sciences Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program in Dallas, Texas, from Initial Approval to Initial Approval with Warning based upon the 2015 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, findings in the 2015 Self-Study Report, and compliance with Rule 214, and impose the conditions and requirements in the attached letter and Board Order (Attachment #1).

April 22, 2016

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

Dear Ms. Ihemelu:

At the April 21-22, 2016 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) discussed the approval status of the Cephas Center for Health Sciences Vocational Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, based upon the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2015, findings in the 2015 Self-Study Report, and compliance with Rule 214.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status of the Cephas Center for Health Sciences Vocational Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas from INITIAL APPROVAL to INITIAL APPROVAL WITH WARNING and impose the conditions and requirements in the attached Board Order.

If you have any questions or if we may be of any assistance, please contact Board Staff at gayle.varnell@bon.texas.gov or 512-621-5179.

Sincerely,

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

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

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

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on April 21, 2016, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status of the Cephas Center for Health Sciences Vocational Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 214, based upon the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2015, findings in the 2015 Self-Study Report, and compliance with Rule 214.

Representatives from the Cephas Center for Health Sciences Vocational Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas discussed the change in approval status during a conference call with Board Staff and were offered the opportunity to provide a written response for the Board's consideration. After review and due consideration of the materials presented by Staff and filed by the Cephas Center for Health Sciences Vocational Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of the Cephas Center for Health Sciences Vocational Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas from INITIAL APPROVAL to INITIAL APPROVAL WITH WARNING and imposes the following conditions and requirements:

1. In accordance with Rule 214.4(a)(3)(A), a program survey visit will be conducted by Board Staff during 2016.
2. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the corrective measures outlined in the 2015 Self-Study Report is to be submitted to Board Staff no later than December 1, 2016, per Education Guideline 3.2.1.a.

Entered this 21st day of April, 2016

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