

**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW VOCATIONAL NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
MEDVANCE INSTITUTE - GRAND PRAIRIE
VOCATIONAL NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider the MedVance Institute (MVI) Grand Prairie proposal to establish a vocational nursing educational program in Grand Prairie, Texas and results of the survey visit. The final revised version of the proposal was sent to members of the Board on computer disks. A Notice of Public Hearing has been posted (See Attachment #1).

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

- The first draft of a proposal from MVI Grand Prairie to establish a vocational nursing educational program was received on October 29, 2008 in the Board office.
- Revisions of the proposal were made based on review by Board staff.
- A final version of the proposal was received in the Board office on September 24, 2009.

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSAL:

Overview:

- Kirchner Investment Management Corporation (KIMC Investments, Inc.) is proposing to initiate a vocational nursing education program at the MedVance Institute (MVI) - Grand Prairie campus.
- KIMC is a proprietary institution with a corporate office in West Palm Beach, FL and owns ten (10) MVI campuses in four states.
- The sole purpose of KIMC is to operate MVI schools with no other businesses owned or operated by the corporation.
- MVI - Grand Prairie is approved by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).
- The program proposes an initial enrollment in the vocational nursing educational program of one cohort of thirty (30) students during the first year of operation. The first cohort enrollment is anticipated in June 2010, following final approval from TWC to add the program to the Grand Prairie campus, followed by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools
- Anticipated graduation of the first cohort is 12 months from the start date.

Present and Anticipated Need for Program:

- The proposal includes evidence of numerous current and projected job openings for Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) in the Grand Prairie/ Dallas/ Fort Worth area.
- Results from surveys of health care agencies in the area indicate a consistent need for LVNs.
- The proposal includes letters of support from legislative representatives and other community leaders and from health care institutions in the area.

Potential Student Population:

- The proposal lists the sources of potential students from current students at MVI - Grand Prairie including students in the medical assistant, medical billing and coding specialist, medical office administration, surgical technology, and sterile processing technician programs.
- Other sources of potential students are qualified applicants for other nursing educational programs in the area who were not admitted to those programs related to facility constraints, as well as high school students interested in health care and individuals currently working in health care and interested in furthering their education and improving their job opportunities.
- Twenty-four (24) potential students calling to inquire about a potential vocational nursing program were surveyed and results are presented. A large majority of the survey respondents indicated that they plan to further their education to become registered nurses.

Impact on Existing Programs:

- The proposal states that there are currently five (5) vocational nursing educational programs within a twenty five (25) mile radius including: Concorde Career Institute, Dallas Nursing Institute, El Centro College, Platt Health Careers, and Universal Health Services.
- The program has selected and contacted clinical sites not currently in high demand by other nursing programs.
- MVI will join the local clinical consortium with other nursing education programs and clinical institutions in the scheduling of clinical sites in area acute care hospitals; this will facilitate scheduling at John Peter Smith Hospital.
- MVI clinical coordination for other smaller health agencies that do not participate in the consortium will be handled locally by the agency without the use of the clinical consortium.
- Community health care facilities were surveyed and indicated a willingness to serve as clinical affiliates for the proposed program.
- The proposal includes surveys of various health care facilities indicating the number of MVI students that could be accommodated at the facility.
- A copy of a signed clinical affiliation agreement is included as Appendix 18 as an example. The proposed Director has verbally indicated there are at least three (3) additional three agreements in place.
- The proposed program will provide clinical learning experiences in a wide variety of health care facilities, including acute care, long term care, and short term rehabilitation.

Director/Faculty:

- The MedVance Institute National Director of Nursing and proposal writer, April Schroer, MSN, RN, meets the requirements for the program director. She is proposed as Director until BON approval is obtain, at which time a permanent Director will be hired.
- The proposal identifies a proposed program director and seven (7) prospective registered nurse faculty members.
- The program director and faculty will be hired after program approval.

Budget:

- Proposed budget includes salaries, secretarial and support staff, professional continuing development costs, library subscriptions, computers, audiovisuals, durable and non-durable medical equipment for the skills laboratory.
- The budget projections address the required elements of Rule 214.

Students:

- MVI provides the following student support services: developmental learning programs, learning assessment programs, counseling programs, and resources to promote retention of students.
- Information in the Student Handbook, regarding eligibility for licensure includes all the required information as cited in Rule 214.8(b)
- A receipt specifically listing the Board's eligibility information as cited in Rule 214.8(b) for students to sign acknowledging receipt of said eligibility information is present.
- MVI is compliant with The Americans With Disabilities Act.

Program of Study:

- The proposed curriculum is well-developed and includes all required elements.
- The proposed program curriculum includes 558 hours for classroom instruction, and 840 hours for clinical practice (lab and clinical).
- The clinical evaluation tools submitted with the proposal demonstrate leveling and progression throughout the curriculum.
- The MVI campus has internet access for student use. Computers are available for student use in two (2) computer labs with 30 computers in each lab.
- All students will have the opportunity to participate in the ATI Entrance Test, Assessment Test and Virtual ATI (NCLEX preparation).

Total Program Evaluation:

- The Total Program Evaluation Plan includes a plan for evaluating the required areas.
- Numerical benchmarks are present for all areas of evaluation in the Total Program Evaluation Plan and the benchmarks will be revised as the tool is used.

SUMMARY OF SURVEY VISIT:

- The proposed program director, April Schroer, MSN, RN, and other MVI staff conducted the tour of the site and provided additional information to the Board visitors.
- A report of the survey visit is included in this document (See Attachment #2).

Concerns from the survey visit were the following:

- While the proposed educational resources have been included in the proposal, not all of the actual educational resources were in place at the time of the survey visit.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros:

- MedVance Institute (MVI) - Grand Prairie has been diligent in its efforts to formulate a satisfactory proposal to establish a new vocational nursing educational program addressing all requirements and receive approval from the Board. The school has responded promptly to all suggestions by board staff for improvements to the proposal document.
- MVI is approved by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).
- The facilities for other programs at the site were noted to be seemingly adequate for the programs being taught.
- A qualified national director of nursing is in place for the program until a permanent program director is hired after BON approval.
- Seven (7) prospective faculty members have been identified for the proposed program.
- The proposed program of study/curriculum is well-developed and addresses all required elements.
- Adequate clinical facilities for clinical learning experiences have been identified for the first year of the program.
- Adequate budget projections to operate the program and acquire the necessary facilities, resources and services were included.
- The regional director of MVI plans to mentor new program director and faculty as required.

Cons:

- The program did not have all equipment and instructional media for student use as indicated in the proposal at the time of the survey visit.
- There is no evidence that the program has purchased all laboratory equipment listed in the proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Move to approve a vocational nursing educational program to be established by MedVance - Grand Prairie in Grand Prairie, Texas, and grant the program Initial Approval status and issue the commendations and requirement to be met, as indicated in the attached letter (See Attachment #3).

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701-3942

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for

Consideration of a Proposal from MedVance Institute - Grand Prairie

To Establish A

Vocational Nursing Educational Program

in

Grand Prairie, Texas

Date and Time: October 22, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

Place:

Hobby Building
333 Guadalupe Street
Tower 2, Room 225
Austin, Texas

The Board will hear testimony from individuals who wish to present information concerning the proposal. Written testimony will also be considered and should be received in the Board's office by October 9, 2009.

Address written testimony to:

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director
Texas Board of Nursing
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701-3942

**TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING
SURVEY VISIT REPORT**

NAME OF PROPOSED NURSING PROGRAM: MedVance Institute - Grand Prairie
Proposed Vocational Nursing Educational Program

PROPOSED DIRECTOR: April Schroer, MSN, RN

DATE OF PROPOSED APPOINTMENT: After the program obtains Texas Board of Nursing (BON) approval.

REASON FOR SURVEY VISIT: Visit of the site to determine adequacy of facilities, resources, and services.

DATE: September 11, 2009

SURVEY VISITOR(S): Paul R. Waller, PhD, RN, Nursing Consultant for Education
Richard Gibbs, LVN, Board Member

The following survey tool includes only the standards/criteria related to 214.11, Facilities, Resources, and Services which were the focus of the survey visit. No other standards/criteria were evaluated during the site visit.

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
§ 214.11 Facilities, Resources, and Services		
(a) Classrooms and nursing skills laboratory facilities shall be provided to accommodate the learning needs of the students.	The program area has one designated classroom for the proposed program and one designated room for the nursing skills laboratory area. Computer labs are shared with other educational programs.	Criteria met.
(b) An appropriately equipped skills laboratory shall be provided to accommodate maximum number of students allowed for the program. The laboratory shall be equipped with hot and cold running water. The laboratory shall have cabinets for storage of equipment.	The room designated for nursing skills lab is of adequate size and includes hot and cold running water and cabinets for storage of equipment. The facility includes three outfitted beds/stations with three adult mannequins. Not all of the resources listed in the proposal were in place at the time of the survey visit. The proposed director indicated purchase and delivery of the remaining equipment and supplies will be completed after BON approval of the program. She understands the rest of the equipment and supplies must be in place prior to enrollment and implementation of the program and expects a requirement.	Criteria partially met. Requirement # 1 The director shall provide photographic and documentary evidence to Board staff that all the resources and equipment listed in the proposal are in place prior to enrollment of students and implementation of the program.

<p>(c) The director or coordinator and faculty shall have office space provided, other than the classroom. There shall be privacy for counseling of students.</p>	<p>The program director has a private office with computer, phone line/extension on second floor, along with the faculty office, classroom, skills and computer labs. The faculty will share an office and have individual computers, phone and internet access. The director's office is designated for counseling of students.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>
<p>(d) The learning resources, library, and departmental holdings shall be current, use contemporary technology appropriate for the level of the curriculum, and be sufficient for the size of the student body and the needs of the faculty. (1) Provisions shall be made for accessibility, availability, and timely delivery of information resources. (2) Facilities and policies shall promote effective use, i.e. environment, accessibility, and hours of operation.</p>	<p>The library contained a limited number of books appropriate for the program as well as other programs on campus. Internet access is available to internet database resources. A plan is in place for acquisition of additional resources for the library and classroom after program approval.</p>	<p>Requirement # 2 The director shall provide a copy of the receipts and delivery records documenting acquisition of additional resources for the library and teaching aids for the classroom and computer lab.</p>
<p>(e) Teaching aids shall be provided to meet the objectives of the program.</p>	<p>Audiovisual equipment is available for use in the classroom and skills lab. A plan is in place for acquisition of additional instructional software. Computers are readily available for student use.</p>	<p>See requirement above.</p>
<p>(f) Adequate restrooms and lounges shall be provided convenient to the classroom.</p>	<p>There are male and female restrooms with sufficient space for the student's use. There is a break room with tables and chairs and vending machines for students, along with a spacious outdoor break area.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>

<p>§ 214.12 Records and Reports</p>		
<p>(a) Student Forms - Student records shall be maintained on all students and shall be accessible to all faculty members and to Board representatives. Record forms may be developed by an individual school. Hospital employment forms are not to be used for student records.</p>	<p>Record forms are developed for the school. A separate storage room with metal locked cabinets for storage of student records is available.</p>	<p>Criteria met</p>
<p>(b) Required Student Forms - The required student forms are the student application, evidence of student's ability to meet objectives/outcomes of the program, clinical practice evaluation, transcript, signed receipt of written student policies, evidence of student receipt of eligibility information, and statement of withdrawal.</p>	<p>The program has developed a receipt of written student policies form including information for eligibility for licensure. The application form, for the nursing program will be the form in current use by the controlling agency.</p>	<p>Criteria met</p>

<p>(c) Record Storage - Records shall be safely stored to prevent loss, destruction, or unauthorized use. Records of all graduates must be complete prior to permanent storage. Records on students who withdraw from the program shall be completed up to the date of withdrawal.</p>	<p>See (a) above</p>	
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DRAFT LETTER

October 26, 2009

April Schroer, MSN, RN
Vocational Nursing Educational Program
MedVance Institute - Grand Prairie
MedVance Institute Corporate Offices
1401 Forum Way, Suite 600
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Dear Ms. Schroer :

At the October 22-23, 2009 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the MedVance Grand Prairie proposal to establish a new vocational nursing educational program in Houston, Texas and the report of the September 11, 2009 survey visit. The members of the Board wish to thank you and **[Dorothy Norment, VP Regulatory & Academic Affairs and David Moore, Campus Director for Grand Prairie]** for being available to answer questions.

As indicated by the enclosed order, the Board is please to inform you that based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the decision of the Board to grant Initial Approval status to the MedVance Institute - Grand Prairie Vocational Nursing Educational Program and issue the following commendations and requirements to be met. The program has Board approval to implement the program with the initial enrollment of one (1) cohort of students of thirty (30) students during the first year of the program.

Commendations:

1. The school administration is commended for the excellent support of the proposed program and the commitment of financial resources for the development and implementation of the proposed program.
2. The school and the author of the proposal are commended for the well-written proposal and the timely response to suggestions by board staff for improvements to the proposal document.

Requirements:

1. Rule 214.11 related to Facilities, Resources, and Services, requires in pertinent part that "(b) An appropriately equipped skills laboratory shall be provided to accommodate maximum number of students allowed for the program; . . ." The survey visit conducted by board staff on September 11, 2009 revealed that the room designated for nursing skills lab is of adequate size and includes hot and cold running water and cabinets for storage of equipment. The facility includes three outfitted beds/stations with three adult mannequins. Not all of the resources listed in the proposal were in place at the time of the survey visit. The proposed director indicated purchase and delivery of the remaining equipment and supplies will be completed after BON approval of the program. **Therefore**, the director shall provide photographic and documentary evidence to Board staff that all the resources and equipment listed in the proposal are in place prior to enrollment of students and implementation of the program.

2. Rule 214.11 related to Facilities, Resources, and Services, requires in pertinent part that (d) the learning resources, library, and departmental holding shall be current, use contemporary technology appropriate for the level of the curriculum, and be sufficient for the size of the student body and needs of the faculty. The survey visit revealed the library contained a limited number of books appropriate for the program and that a plan is in place for acquisition of additional resources for the library and classroom after program approval. **Therefore**, the director shall provide a copy of the receipts and delivery records documenting acquisition of additional resources for the library and teaching aids for the classroom and computer lab.

Requirements are mandatory criteria based on program assessment directly related to the rule that shall be addressed in the manner prescribed. If you have any questions, or if we may be of any assistance, please contact board staff by e-mail to paul.waller@bon.state.tx.us or by phone at (512) 305-7658.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President

Paul R. Waller, PhD, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: John Hopkins, CEO/ President
MedVance Institute
1401 Forum Way, Suite 600
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Texas Workforce Commission

Enclosure

DRAFT BOARD ORDER

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

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the matter of the proposal of MedVance Institute - Grand Prairie in Grand Prairie, Texas

For approval to establish a Vocational Nursing Educational Program

ORDER OF THE BOARD

TO: MedVance Institute - Grand Prairie

The Texas Board of Nursing in and for the State of Texas in a regularly scheduled meeting, held on the 22rd day of October 2009, considered the proposal for authority to establish a Vocational Nursing Educational Program by the Board, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code.

At the meeting, Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP, President of the Board, presided and the following members were present:

Deborah Hughes Bell, CLU, ChFC, Consumer Member
Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN, Representing VN Programs
Patricia Clapp, Consumer Member
Tamara Cowen, MN, RN, Representing Practice
Sheri Denise Crosby, JD, Consumer Member
Marilyn J. Davis, BSN, RN, Representing Practice
Blanca Rosa Garcia, PhD, RN Representing ADN Programs
Richard Robert Gibbs, LVN, Representing Practice
Kathy Leader-Horn, LVN, Representing Practice
Josephina Lujan, PhD, RN, Representing BSN Programs
Beverly Jean Nutall, LVN, Representing Practice
Mary Jane Salgado, MEd, Consumer Member

The Board reviewed the proposal of the above school and after having discussed the proposal in an open public meeting, the Board makes the following findings:

FINDINGS

That a written proposal has been filed with said Board.
That a public meeting on said proposal was held to take testimony and evidence by the Board.
That the written proposal does meet the minimum requirements for proceeding with the establishment of an approved program offering a certificate in Vocational Nursing.

ORDER

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT, the proposal of Medvance Institute - Grand Prairie is contingently approved, having been found to comply with minimum requirements and standards for establishing a Vocational Nursing Educational Program to prepare vocational nurses.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT THE aforementioned entity is authorized to proceed to meet all requirements of the Board for Initial Approval, and that prior to the admission of any students that all requirements issued by the Board must be met. In no event will the program admit students until the legal requirements and standards for vocational nursing education as described in Rules and Regulations Relating to Vocational Nursing Education, §214.1-§214.13 (effective 10/19/08) are met.

Specifically, the Board requires the following conditions as described in the above rule to be met by May 1, 2010 if students are to be admitted to the MedVance Institute - Grand Prairie Vocational Nursing Education Program:

1. The director shall provide photographic and documentary evidence to Board staff that all the resources and equipment listed in the proposal are in place prior to enrollment of students and implementation of the program; and
2. The director shall provide a copy of the receipts and delivery records documenting acquisition of additional resources for the library and teaching aids for the classroom and computer lab.

DATED THIS 22nd day of October 2009.

THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

Seal

By: _

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP, President