

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status from Initial with Warning to Initial Approval
Fortis Institute in Grand Prairie, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider a change of approval status for Fortis Institute in Grand Prairie, Texas, Vocational Nursing Education Program from Initial with Warning to Initial Approval based upon the reports indicating adherence to Board requirements, and allow the program to resume enrolling students into the program.

Historical Perspective:

- The VN program at Fortis Institute was granted Initial Approval at the October 2009 Board meeting.
- The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2011 was 83.33% (5/6).
- The approval status was not changed to Full Approval because of numerous student complaints about the program.
- Board Staff conducted a survey visit to Fortis Institute on March 16, 2012, and identified noncompliance issues related to faculty qualifications, faculty turnover, faculty preparation, lack of adequate supplies in the nursing skills lab, inadequate staff, and inadequate clinical learning experiences.
- At the April 19-20, 2012 meeting, the Board changed the approval status of the program from Initial Approval to Initial with Warning, issued requirements to the program, and prohibited further enrollments until the areas of noncompliance had been resolved.
- During the following weeks, the program corrected noncompliance issues related to faculty, skills lab equipment, and staff.
- Board Staff conducted a follow-up survey visit jointly with an evaluation team from the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) on July 2, 2012. The requirement to secure adequate clinical learning experiences had not been completed and the team identified a new area of noncompliance in the inaccurate documentation of student clinical evaluations.
- This information was presented to the Board at the July 19-20, 2012 meeting and the Board issued two requirements related to adequacy of clinical experiences and incorrect documentation in student records. The program remained on restrictions related to enrollment of students.
- Mishaun Jackson, MSN, RN, resigned as program director on August 21, 2012, and Stephanie Wingate, RN, was approved by Board Staff and is serving as Interim Director.
- On August 13, 2012, the program provided a full explanation of the documentation errors and copies of new policies for documentation were included. Board Staff acknowledged receipt and offered suggestions for future documentation.
- A full report of exhibits dated August 30, 2012, was received in the Board office providing evidence that additional clinical affiliating agreements have been obtained to meet the clinical objectives and rule requirements. A full schedule of the current students' clinical activities has been provided and validated with the current director.
- The only clinical agreement questioned by Board Staff was one with the Gladney Center for Adoption which did not seem appropriate for the role of the licensed vocational nurse.
- There are currently only fifteen (15) students in two (2) cohorts enrolled in the program. Three (3) of the students will graduate in October and the other twelve (12) will graduate in March, 2013.
- There are sufficient qualified faculty presently employed for the program instruction.

Pros and Cons:

Pros:

- The program has adequately met the Board requirements in all areas of concern.
- There are an adequate number of qualified faculty for didactic and clinical instruction.

Cons:

- The program has experienced changes in the director role several times.
- The attrition rate has been high for each cohort. In the initial cohort, only six (6) of sixteen (16) completed the program. There are currently fifteen (15) students in the remaining two (2) cohorts.

Rationale for Board Staff Recommendation:

Since the program has complied with all Board requirements, allowing enrollments of new students seems timely. The program suggested twenty-four (24) students each quarter. Their previous pattern was for sixteen (16) students each quarter. Board Staff recommend that the program remain on Initial Approval but remove the Warning, allow the program to admit twenty (20) students per quarter, and conduct a follow-up survey visit during Fall 2013. (Twenty students will allow for two clinical groups.)

Staff Recommendation:

Move to:

- accept reports from Fortis Institute in Grand Prairie, Texas, Vocational Nursing Education Program, that indicate compliance with Board requirements,
- change the approval status from Initial with Warning to Initial Approval,
- allow enrollment of twenty (20) students per quarter, and
- authorize a follow-up survey visit in Fall 2013 (See draft letter in the Attachment)

DRAFT LETTER

October 22, 2012

Stephanie Wingate, RN
Interim Director, Fortis Institute
Vocational Nursing Education Program
401 E. Palace Parkway, Suite 100
Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

Dear Ms. Wingate:

At the October 18-19, 2012 meeting, the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the approval status of Fortis Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program in Grand Prairie, Texas, as well as evidence provided to Board Staff indicating program compliance with Board requirements and Rule 214. The Board wishes to thank you and for being present to answer questions.

Based upon the discussion and information that the program has met outstanding requirements issued to the program, the Board decided to change the approval status of the program from Initial with Warning to Initial Approval, allow the program to enroll twenty (20) students each quarter, and schedule a survey visit during Fall 2013 to validate continuing compliance with Rule 214.

If you have questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact Board Staff at (512) 305-6814 of janice.hooper@bon.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN
President

copy: William Bowker, Fortis Campus President
The Texas Workforce Commission
ABHES