

Helpful Hints for Individual Schools When Working with the California Board of Registered Nursing

Notes from presentation to CACN April 24, 2015

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Important Reminders:

- Stay informed about the actions, decision, regulations and activities of the BRN.
- Recognize that the board members get their information from the staff. The board member's understanding is only as good as that coming from the staff if the school does not directly inform the board member(s).
- If there are more than three board members in one place, it is considered an open board session. Thus, schools can meet with only one or two individuals privately, informally.
- Governors vary in level of support higher education for nurses.
- When preparing a proposal for change, focus on safety of the public (not just on what is best for nurses/schools)
- If proposing new resolutions: keep staff involved and run things by them to avoid later issues. Maybe ask the Executive Officer who s/he would want assigned to the topic.
- Concurrent clinical: since that is the requirement, the minimum would logically be one semester unit which = 45 hours.
- Schools – It is harder to remove a program/school's approval than it is to get initial approval so it is important that we keep the steps in new program approval process strong

Consider Your Resources:

- Schools with campuses in other states may provide suggestions for process (e.g. University of Phoenix and West Coast University).
- Network with seasoned members of CACN to help broaden your understanding of BRN Regulations and "politics".
- Utilize CACN to serve as the interface between your program and BRN for situations that you wish to remain anonymous. Calls to the board on your behalf can be made by the president or executive officer without divulging the program by name.

Opportunities for Strengthening Your Programs Relationship with the BRN and Staff:

- Attend BRN meetings or watch the recordings.
- There may be inconsistencies in how NECs interpret the regulations. Serious concerns should be sent to the Executive Director.
- Develop constructive professional relationships with your NEC and model the way so that your faculty also has the positive relationship.

Brag About Your Program:

- Use media to get out our message. Look at how other states do it. Consider press releases.

Advice for Students

- Students must report convictions when applying for NCLEX even if they think they have a “clean record”.
- Work with the student so they know they need to be contrite and honest.
- Encourage them to explain what have they done since to prevent repeats offenses?
- Explain to the student that the processing time for their record review will be longer than other students without infractions.
- Their application will be reviewed and sent to enforcement.
- The enforcement staff will review the application and make a recommendation.
- The Board members are then asked to agree or disagree with the recommendation (approve/deny).
- The Board may be asked to discuss the case prior to making a final decision.
- Advice to the students – be honest and patient!

11/15 AB/PM