

October 15, 2011

To: The Operating Room Nursing Council of California (ORNCC)

From: Monica Weisbrich, RN  
Member ORNCC

Subject: Professional Nursing Issues

### **BOARD REGISTERED NURSES (BRN)**

ADMINISTRATION—The Board has moved to new headquarters (across the parking lot). The address is 1747 N. Market Sacramento, CA 95834-1924. All phone numbers and the PO Box are the same.

The hiring freeze is still in place and therefore the 32 FTE approved positions for enforcement still go unfilled. The Board has subsequently asked for 18 additional positions to supplement the approved FTE enforcement positions.

The BRN workforce task force has been reconvened. The purpose of the task force is to look at workforce issues in CA. The first meeting is October 20, 2011. Tricia Hunter, RN is a member of the taskforce.

### **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

- SB 161 (Huff). The diastat bill was signed by the Governor which means UAP's can administer the drug to students K thru 12.
- SB 538 (Price) The Sunset Bill was to have extended the BRN till 2016 but on 10/9/2011 Governor Brown returned the bill to the Senate WITHOUT his signature. Brown stated, *Unfortunately, extraneous harmful provisions lurk within the otherwise benign sunset extension bill. Provisions that would dramatically expand pension benefits for a select group of Board investigators. This makes no sense fiscally and flies in the face of much needed pension reform.* THE BRN BOARD HAS EXISTED FOR 106 YEARS. The legislature is due to reconvene session in December of 2011. Not signing the bill but instead returning it to the legislature, leaves open a window to *fix* the bill—i.e. remove the portions concerning salaries of peace officers with and without subpoena power and said pensions—and return the revised/amended bill to the Governor for his signature. The Governor has specifically asked in his letter that the Legislature for legislation that restores the Board of Registered Nurses by 1/1/2012.
- SB 747 (Kehoe) The continuing education bill regarding lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender patients. The Governor also returned this bill to the Senate without his signature stating *I believe that respective licensing boards are better suited than the Legislature or Governor to decide these matters*

DIVERSION/DISCIPLINE—A glaring issue in this division is the lack of clerical support which is causing back-logs:

- Complaint Division—300 plus cases
- Probation Division—532 probationers to be tracked
- Site and Fines—1160 cases at the Attorney General’s office. 576 accusations have been filed since 7/2011

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- Committee did not have a quorum
- Currently the Board is not accepting feasibility studies because of lack of staff
- There are still multiple problems with nursing programs applying to take the NCLEX-RN exam.
- The applicants from Nigeria are still an on-going problem
- The School of Nursing from Armenia are posing similar problem.
- Pass rates of international students are going down. Reason to be investigated.

NCLEX RESULTS—FIRST TIME CANDIDATES

JULY 1, 2010 THRU JUNE 30, 2011

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Total Taking Test</u>	<u>% Passed</u>
California	11,283	87.63
United States & Territories	145,613	87.73