



clarification of the term would require a regulation change. The Board supports the use of a "hands-on" exam, believing a vet must handle an animal to perform an effective examination. The Board was able to agree on the following draft definition:

-The DVM-patient-client relationship is a pre-condition to providing or rendering any veterinary service.

-Good veterinarian practice requires a "hands-on" physical examination. The extent of this exam is a matter of sound professional judgment as to what is medically necessary and appropriate under certain circumstances. The exam may be cursory depending on unique facts, such as the suspected existence of rabies in an animal, the emergency condition of an animal, or the examination of only a few animals of an entire herd.

As of this writing, the Board has not yet filed a proposed regulation change with the OAL.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

March 8-9 in San Diego.
May 5-6 in Monterey.

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSE AND PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN EXAMINERS

Executive Officer: Billie Haynes (916) 445-0793

This agency regulates two professions: vocational nurses and psychiatric technicians. Its general purpose is to administer and enforce the provisions of Chapters 6.5 and 10, Division 2, of the Business and Professions Code. A licensed practitioner is referred to as either an "LVN" or a "psych tech."

The Board consists of five public members, three LVNs, two psych techs, and one LVN with an administrative or teaching background. At least one of the Board's LVNs must have had at least three years' experience working in skilled nursing facilities.

The Board's authority vests under the Department of Consumer Affairs as an arm of the executive branch. It licenses prospective practitioners, conducts and sets standards for licensing examinations, and has the authority to grant adjudicatory hearings. Certain provisions allow the Board to revoke or reinstate licenses.

The Board currently licenses approximately 68,000 LVNs and 14,000 psychiatric technicians.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Update on Task Force Hearings.
The Board has now completed public hearings scheduled from December 1986 through October 1987. The hearings addressed recommendations from the Task Force on the Future Role of the Licensed Vocational Nurse and the Psychiatric Technician. (See CRLR Vol. 7, No. 4 (Fall 1987) pp. 69-70 and Vol. 7, No. 3 (Summer 1987) p. 93.)

In addition to the oral testimony presented at these hearings, the Board has received over 2,000 written comments and has responded to each. The greatest number of letters has expressed opposition to Recommendation #4, which advises the Board to "use a universal skills profile (task analysis) for all non-acute care facilities to direct specific curricular decisions and to specifically prepare the vocational nurse graduate for employment in non-acute care." The Board has also received opposition to Recommendation #5, which would require vocational nursing programs to provide a minimum 36-unit curriculum with a focus on the sub-acutely ill person in other than the acute care setting. A variety of LVN employers has submitted commentary, all attempting to ensure that the training of LVNs will meet their institutional needs. Additional letters received by the Board will be tabulated and presented at future meetings.

An advisory committee representing a broad range of parties with an interest in vocational nursing is scheduled to meet on March 2 in Los Angeles and March 11 in Sacramento to discuss the Task Force's recommendations and public responses. A similar committee is

scheduled to meet to discuss the less controversial psychiatric technician recommendations on March 18 in Sacramento and March 25 in Los Angeles. A special Board meeting regarding the final recommendations of the Task Force is scheduled for November 2-4, 1988, in Los Angeles.

LEGISLATION:

SB 1161 (Greene), which would enact the Certified Nurse Assistant Law, is pending as a two-year bill before the Senate Business and Professions Committee. The Board opposes SB 1161.

RECENT MEETINGS:

At its November 6 meeting in Los Angeles, the Board ratified the Executive Officer's actions taken during August and September of 1987. During this period, 326 vocational nurse licenses were issued; 5,205 renewals were processed; and 60 complaints were received regarding vocational nurses. The Board also issued 2,120 renewals for psychiatric technicians and received 14 complaints against licensees.

At the same meeting, the Board reviewed the results of the psychiatric technician licensure examination given in September. Five hundred eight individuals took the examination and 387 passed, resulting in a pass rate of 76%. The total cost of administering the September exam at two sites was \$6,234.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

March 3-4 in Los Angeles.
May 13 in Burlingame.
July 14-15 in Monterey.
September 23 in San Diego.



BUSINESS, HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

Director: Jay Stroh (916) 445-3221

The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) is a constitutionally-authorized state department. The Alcoholic Beverage Control Act vests the Department with the exclusive right and power to license and regulate the manufacture, sale, purchase, possession, and transportation of alcoholic beverages within the state. In addition, the

Act vests the Department with authority, subject to certain federal laws, to regulate the importation and exportation of alcoholic beverages across state lines. ABC issues liquor licenses and investigates violations of the Business and Professions Code and other criminal acts which occur on premises where alcohol is sold. Many of the disciplinary actions taken by ABC, along with other information concerning the Department, are printed in the liquor industry trade publications *Beverage Bulletin* and *Beverage Industry News*.