



microchip constitutes a surgical procedure and is within the definition of the practice of veterinary medicine (section 4826, Chapter 11 of the Business and Professions Code).

Since California does not have mandatory continuing education for veterinarians, the Board has prepared a statement strongly recommending twenty hours of continuing education for licensed veterinarians within each two-year license renewal period.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

May 14-15 in Santa Barbara.

July 7-8 in San Diego.

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. The Board consists of five public members, three licensed vocational nurses, two psychiatric interns, and one licensed vocational nurse 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. A licensed practitioner is either an "LVN" or a "psych tech."

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

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Psychiatric Technician Fee Increases. On March 17, the Board held a hearing in Sacramento on proposed changes in the fees for psych tech applications, renewals and licensing. The Board proposed to increase the application fee from \$10 to \$25, change the renewal fee from \$48 to \$45 annually, increase the re-examination fee to \$35, and set the initial license fee at \$45.

The Board claims that, due to the general decline in the number of psychi-

atric technician applications, the Board is not able to fund its operations. The Board receives no monies from the General Fund and must rely on the psychiatric licensure process to fully fund its activities and programs.

NCLEX-PN Test Results. The Board gave its first National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-PN) on October 15, 1986. (See CRLR Vol. 6, No. 4 (Fall 1986) p. 56.) In California, 55% of those taking the exam failed. Executive Officer Haynes stated that several factors probably contributed to the low passage rate. The first factor is the change in the test format from multiple choice to the case method, which requires additional reading comprehension and reading retention. The fact that the majority of California applicants have English as a second language may also have increased the failure rate. Mrs. Haynes recommended that the Board actively participate in the exam review process in light of the low passage rate.

Survey of the Los Angeles Unified School District Vocational Nursing Program. Two nursing education consultants surveyed the Los Angeles School District's program from September 22 to October 10, 1986. During the visit the Board detected twenty-five violations of the vocational nurse regulations. The school district has been given until April 1, 1988 to correct all

violations. The school district will not be granted approval to start new classes prior to April 1, 1988 unless all violations are corrected and the school submits an application to the Board for reconsideration.

LEGISLATION:

SB 246 (Watson) would authorize the issuance of an interim psychiatric technician's permit for a fee of not more than \$20. The bill contains an urgency clause and would take effect immediately. Under the new system, the permittee would work under the supervision of a licensed psychiatric technician or a registered nurse. The supervisor must be present and available at the facility during the hours worked by the permittee.

RECENT MEETINGS:

At its January 9 meeting, the Board elected new officers: Gwendolyn Hichey is now President, and Janiece Lackey is the new Vice-President.

The Executive Officer noted that the budget change proposal for the psychiatric technician computerized exam was not approved by the Department of Finance. She made a commitment to the Board to actively seek approval for the computer program in 1987.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

To be announced.



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*.

ABC divides the state into two divisions with assistant directors in charge of each division. The state is further subdivided into 21 districts, with two districts maintaining branch offices.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Alcohol Abuse Programs. On March 5, ABC conducted its second public hearing to receive comments on the subject of "happy hours" and other marketing practices and promotions which foster the overconsumption of