



CRLR Vol. 8, No. 3 (Summer 1988) pp. 82-83 for background information). The program is charged with inspecting veterinary facilities to ensure compliance with state laws, regulations, and BEVM standards. The inspection process also includes maintaining inspection records, filing reports, issuing violation notices, and assisting BEVM in hearings and prosecutions. Board member Jean Guyer stated that the program has been very well received.

#### FUTURE MEETINGS:

January 10-11 in San Jose.

### 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:

*Computer Aided Testing.* The Board is currently working with agencies throughout the state in order to implement a computer testing system for licensing psychiatric technicians. (See CRLR Vol. 8, No. 2 (Spring 1988) p. 80 for background information.) The Board anticipates that six computers will be available statewide for licensing examinations and the scheduled date of implementation is set for September 1989.

To provide information on the Psychiatric Technician Computer Administered

Testing Project, the Board held two orientation sessions in September and October for psychiatric technician directors, educators, and mental health and developmentally disabled representatives and students.

#### LEGISLATION:

*SB 645 (Royce)* authorizes BMQA's Division of Allied Health Professions to adopt and administer regulations establishing standards for additional technical supportive services which may be performed by medical assistants. This bill also requires the Division to request recommendations concerning these standards from other agencies, including the Board. This bill was signed by the Governor (Chapter 666, Statutes of 1988).

*SB 1552 (Kopp)* requires healing arts boards regulating dentists, physicians and surgeons, registered nurses, marriage, family and child counselors, and clinical social workers to consider including training regarding the characteristics and methods of assessment and treatment of AIDS in continuing education requirements. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 22 (Chapter 1213, Statutes of 1988).

*SB 1966 (Davis)* allows the Board to require continuing education for psychiatric technicians. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 20 (Chapter 1078, Statutes of 1988).

*SB 2755 (Royce)* authorizes the Board of Registered Nursing to appoint a special advisory committee to study the shortage of registered nurses in California. This special advisory committee is required to report to the legislature and the BRN on its recommendations and solutions. This bill was signed by

the Governor on September 26 (Chapter 1421, Statutes of 1988).

*AB 4401 (Filante)*, as amended on August 1, provides that a law prohibiting the Department of Health Services from requiring the use of an RN for the performance of any service which may lawfully be performed by an LVN will be repealed on January 1, 1994. The bill also requires a skilled nursing or intermediate care facility to provide an RN for consultational purposes during the hours in which an LVN is used. This bill was signed by the Governor (Chapter 786, Statutes of 1988).

#### RECENT MEETINGS:

At its July 15 meeting, the Board sent out a reminder to all interested parties that a special Board meeting was scheduled for November 2-4 in Los Angeles. The purpose of this meeting was to allow the advisory committees from the Task Force on the Future Roles of the Licensed Vocational Nurse and Psychiatric Technician to make recommendations pursuant to the public hearings held in March, April, and May of this year. (For background information, see CRLR Vol. 8, No. 3 (Summer 1988) p. 83; Vol. 8, No. 1 (Winter 1988) p. 75; Vol. 7, No. 3 (Summer 1987) p. 93; and Vol. 6, No. 4 (Fall 1986) pp. 56-57.) The Board was expected to make final decisions regarding all Task Force recommendations at its regularly scheduled November 16 meeting.

#### FUTURE MEETINGS:

January 13 in Palm Springs.

March 2-3 in Los Angeles.

May 12 in San Francisco (tentative).



## BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING 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