



wide districts. The Board is now accepting bids for the inspection program, which Board members believe to be necessary to monitor minimum standards of practice. Successful bidders will inspect veterinary facilities to enforce 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.

Bids are being judged on criteria which include knowledge of acceptable veterinary practice in the areas of record-keeping and sanitation. Acceptable background criteria for the inspectors include five years' work experience as either a California licensed veterinarian or AHT. The bids were to be evaluated by early summer.

In May, the Board reviewed the goals and objectives statement to be submitted to the Department of Consumer Affairs this summer. BEVM goals and objectives include (1) the establishment and maintenance of an equitable, job-related licensing examination which tests competency for the practice of veterinary medicine; (2) ensuring that licensees provide safe and effective veterinary services by continuing a random hospital inspection program; (3) development and enforcement of new regulations and legislation to clarify and establish current minimum standards of professional performance; and (4) increasing professional and consumer knowledge of acceptable standards of professional performance by studying the feasibility of mandatory continuing education for veterinarians, offering speaker services to consumer groups, and publishing educational pamphlets.

Also in May, the Board was notified of a July public hearing to receive comment on its proposed citation and fine regulatory language. (See CRLR Vol. 8, No. 2 (Spring 1988) p. 79.) Any language adopted would be added to section 2043, Chapter 20, Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, and would provide for the imposition of a civil penalty according to the nature of the violation. The Board reviewed criteria which would be used to determine the amount of a civil penalty, including (1) the good or bad faith exhibited by the cited individual; (2) the nature and severity of the violation; (3) the prior history of violations by the veterinarian; and (4) the extent to which the cited person cooperates with a Board investigation or attempts to mitigate any damage or injury. (See CRLR Vol. 8, No. 1 (Winter

1988) p. 74 and Vol. 7, No. 4 (Fall 1987) p. 69 for additional background information.)

**FUTURE MEETINGS:**  
To be announced.

**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 completed the public hearings of the Task Force on the Future Roles of the Licensed Vocational Nurse and Psychiatric Technician. (For background information, see CRLR 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.) In keeping with the overall Task Force plan, the Board recently held six advisory committee meetings throughout the state, four of which concerned vocational nurses and two of which focused on psychiatric technicians. The advisory committees consist of volunteers from the areas of education and labor, as well as representatives from hospitals and health organizations. After reviewing all of the recommendations received by the Task Force, the advisory committees will make a presentation to the Board at a

special Board meeting scheduled for November 2-4 in Los Angeles.

**LEGISLATION:**

*SB 1552 (Kopp)* would require the Board to consider including AIDS training in its continuing education requirements. At this writing, this bill is pending in the Assembly Health Committee.

*SB 1966 (Davis)* would require a psychiatric technician to take continuing education as a condition to renew his/her license. The Board supports this bill, which is pending in the Assembly Health Committee at this writing.

**RECENT MEETINGS:**

The Board recently received approval for a budget change proposal, effective July 1, 1988, which is earmarked for implementing a computer testing system. (See CRLR Vol. 8, No. 2 (Spring 1988) p. 80 for background information.) The Board now anticipates that six computers will be available statewide for licensee applicants taking the state licensing examination. The initial stages of research and development to implement this innovative system are now under way.

**FUTURE MEETINGS:**

September 23 in San Diego.