

Nursing Board Sees Bevy Of Changes

Interim Executive Officer Steps In, Governor Seats 6 New Members

Following Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's move to replace members of the California Board of Registered Nursing, the board's executive officer has resigned and an interim replacement has been made.

Ruth Ann Terry, RN, executive officer for nearly 16 years and board staff member for 25 years, said in an e-mail to her staff that it was "with much sadness" she decided to resign, according to a news release. During a special session July 27, the board named Louise Bailey as its interim executive officer.

These changes come in the wake of a recently published Los Angeles Times and ProPublica investigation showing the board can take years to discipline nurses accused of egregious misconduct, according to the news release. The investigation showed the board did not use available tools to learn about dangerous nurses or stop them from practicing, the news release states.

The report also found the board takes "an average of three years and five months to investigate and close complaints against nurses, while many continue to practice despite complaints and criminal records, documented histories of incompetence, drug abuse, and poor care," according to the news release.

The governor replaced four members of the nine-member board and filled two vacancies, the news release states. The six new board members sworn in Wednesday are Ann Boynton, a private healthcare consultant; Judy Corless, a nurse from Corona; Jeannine Graves, a nurse from Sacramento; Richard Rice, a retired state official; Catherine Todero, a San Diego State University nursing professor; and Katherine Ware, a nurse from Davis.