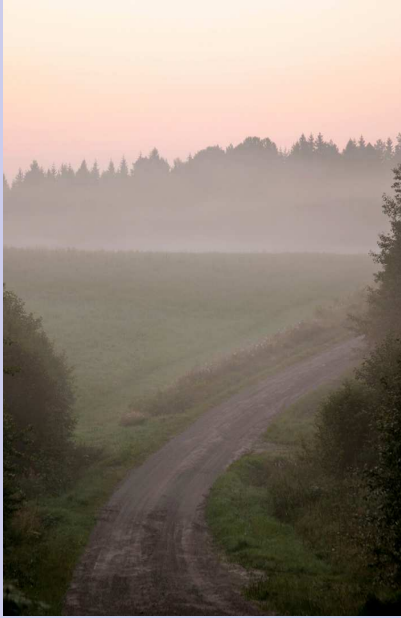


**A road back...**



Let us offer you an  
alternative  
route  
to the future...



**Office of the  
Vermont Secretary of State**

Office of Professional Regulation  
National Life Drive  
Floor 2  
Montpelier, VT

Main Phone: 802-828-2396

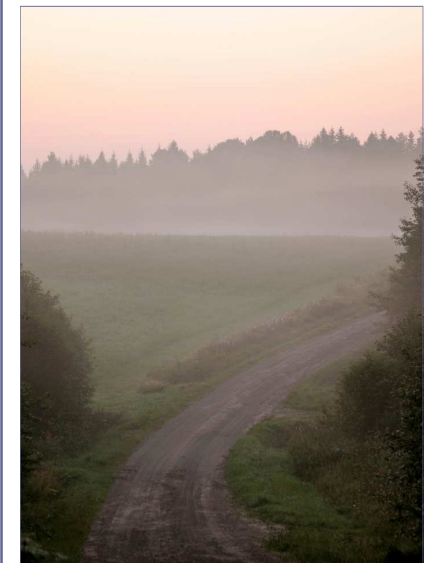
Website:  
[www.vtprofessionals.org/opr1/nurses](http://www.vtprofessionals.org/opr1/nurses)



Recover Your  
Nursing Career

## Alternative Program

**An alternative to  
disciplinary action for  
Recovering Nurses and  
Nursing Assistants**



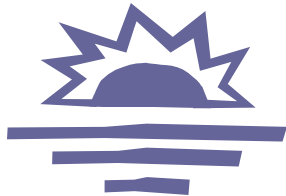
Office of the  
Vermont Secretary of State

Board of Nursing

## Alternative Program Facts

### What is the Alternative Program?

Started in 2004, the Vermont State Board of Nursing offers the Alternative Program as a voluntary, confidential program for eligible nurses and nursing assistants who are physically or psychologically dependent on alcohol or other drugs. The Alternative Program provides a non-disciplinary approach to helping participants in their recovery.



### Why is this program offered?

The Board of Nursing believes that chemical addiction is an illness and should be treated as such. Providing they cooperate fully with recommended treatment and comply with requirements of this program, nurses are allowed to avoid disciplinary action and to continue practicing professionally if they have acknowledged their

condition and asked for support while they engage in sound recovery methods.

### Who is eligible to apply for the Alternative Program?

In order to be considered for this program, the nurse or LNA must meet the following criteria:

- Hold a valid license or be eligible for licensure in the state of Vermont;
- Voluntarily request admission to the program;
- Agree to undergo a comprehensive assessment, at the nurse's expense, from an approved alcohol and drug abuse counselor.
- Agree, in writing, to comply with the requirements of the program.

*"Asking the Board of Nursing to become involved in my private struggle was the most challenging call I ever made. Today, because of the program, I am a healthier person and a better, safer nurse."*

Alternative Program Participant

### What are the terms of the agreement?

Each candidate for the Alternative Program enters into a written agreement for an extended period of time. Under the

terms of the agreement, the nurse's participation in the program remains confidential and disciplinary action is not initiated as long as the nurse complies with the terms of the consent order. Terms include monthly reports from employers and counselors, attendance at a 12-Step program, as well as random specimen testing. These are known to be effective methods used in rehabilitating professionals and protecting the public.



If you would like more information about the Alternative Program established by the Vermont Board of Nursing, or if you would like to know more about how you would participate, please call the number below.

**Confidential Contact info:**

**Phone - 802-828-2819**