

Meeting Minutes – Occupational Licensure Advisory Committee

Department of Labor and Human Rights

January 4, 2024, 10:00 a.m., Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Nathan Svihovec – Commissioner, Department of Labor and Human Rights

Carolyn Laird – Temporary Research Assistant, Department of Labor and Human Rights

Mark Hardy – Executive Director, Board of Pharmacy

Sandra (Sandy) DePountis – Executive Director, Board of Medicine

Petra Mandigo Hulm – Clerk of Court, North Dakota Supreme Court; Secretary-Treasurer, Board of Law Examiners

Rebecca (Becky) Pitkin – Executive Director, Education Standards and Practices Board

James Schmidt – Executive Director, State Electrical Board

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Committee members discussed background checks as being a deterrent to the goal of licensing out-of-state applicants within three days and possible solutions to speed up the process, such as recommending that the Legislature appropriate funds to Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) to hire more employees. Commissioner Svihovec said he planned to meet with BCI to discuss the issue.

Members also briefly discussed how boards track the speed of the application process.

Commissioner Svihovic broached the idea of formulating a short questionnaire for associations and unions to get their views on their boards' licensure process for out-of-state applicants and continuing education requirements, in lieu of attempting to reach out to individual licensees. This way associations and unions will have an opportunity to make their views known for this study. Members agreed that the proposed questionnaire should seek to reflect where the associations and unions believe their members are at with respect to those issues.

Mr. Hardy joined the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

After concluding discussion about the associations and unions questionnaire, members spoke about the response rate for the licensing boards' questionnaire; Governor Burgum's goal for this study to result in actionable solutions for the Legislature to implement next year; and universal licensure.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.