

Meeting Minutes - Occupational Licensure Advisory Committee

Department of Labor and Human Rights

March 7, 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

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.

Commissioner Svihovec outlined the topics of discussion for the meeting: A brief review of the first three meetings with individual licensing boards; the deadline for submission of the final study report to the Interim Workforce Committee; and a report on the meeting with North Dakota Information Technology (NDIT) about using Microsoft's PowerBI for compiling and tracking licensure data.

Commissioner Svihovec briefly summarized the meetings held with the Board of Veterinary Examiners, the Board of Dietetic Practice, and the Board of Chiropractic Examiners. Members discussed what was learned from the meetings; processing times being an issue for boards which require background checks; legislative action on occupational licensure being focused on helping individual boards become more efficient; and state laws on universal licensure.

Commissioner Svihovec reported that the Interim Workforce Committee must have its work completed by mid-November, so the target deadline to submit the SB2249 Legislative Study final report is October 25. Members recommended that when each board is sent its section of the draft report, there be one week to respond.

Commissioner Svihovec spoke about the meeting with NDIT staff regarding the possibility of using PowerBI for tracking licensure data if the Legislature decides to require boards to submit it on a regular basis. Members commented on what data could possibly be requested; in what form data could be submitted; and, if necessary, ensuring boards do not have to bear the cost of using PowerBI or any other service to compile the data.

Members briefly discussed the questionnaire which will be sent to associations and unions to gather their input on the licensure process for out-of-state applicants.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.