

Minutes of the
Occupational Licensing Reform (OLR) Workgroup
SPECIAL MEETING – TEAMS conference call
Friday, July 10, 2020 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Members present: Michelle Kommer, Katie Ralston, Jace Beehler, Adam Martin, Dirk Wilke, Matt Gardner, Rick Gardner, Senator Judy Lee

Members absent: Representative Cynthia Schreiber Beck, Senator Randy Burckhard, Senator Scott Meyer, Senator Kristin Roers.

Guest Speakers: Adam Parfitt, David Byerman, Cory Everett

Staff: Sherri Frieze

Welcome and Introductions

Katie Ralston opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m., welcoming members and guests via the Microsoft TEAMS video conferencing platform.

Occupational Licensing Reform: Survey Results and Analysis

David Byerman, Consultant

Adam Parfitt, Executive Director

Cory Everett, Consultant

Adam gave an overview of the topics that would be covered more in depth by David and Cory.

KEY FINDINGS

North Dakota's Regulatory System is well positioned for enhancements to maximize reciprocity.

- Board vacancies are rare
- Frequent meetings supplemented by Special Meetings
- Licensure application/processing time is reasonable
- Mobility/Portability strategies already in place
- State reciprocity agreements
- Multi-state licensure compacts
- Complaints process nearly universal

Licensure Environment for Military Spouses

- Survey Measured Limited Utilization of SB2306 Expediency Provisions
- This may reflect a heightened awareness created by SB2306
- Limited utilization could also reflect existing efficiencies

BROADER CONTEXT

- Gradations of licensure and inconsistent, application of gradation tiers nationally
- Resistance to national standards/solutions

The Report Identifies Reform Opportunities

- Criminal convictions/Good Moral Character Requirements
- Universal Reciprocity
- Consistency and Coordination
- Public outreach and consensus building

CONCLUDING REMARKS

- Essential to equip board members for success
- Important to share information amongst boards
- Further study warranted regarding gradations of license
- Further study warranted for alternate pathways to licensure

David provided the findings from the survey.

INITIAL PLANNING

Survey authorization and contract, SurveyMonkey.com

- SB2036 Compliance
- "One Stop Shop" for Consumers and applicants

Occupational Licensing Reform (OLR) Workgroup

PILOT SURVEY

- Eight boards identified through the ND Department of Commerce
- Testing
- Response Rate

FINAL SURVEY

- Sixty-one boards identified
- Eleven boards removed due to redundancy
- Survey disseminated May 13th and due on June 3rd
- 96 percent response rate – from 48 boards
- 97.6 percent of board seats are filled
- 23.4 percent of boards comprised entirely of those in the industry
- 27.7 percent of all board seats are general public
- Boards meet regularly, with abundant Special meetings
- 43.5 percent of boards oversee “Gradations of Licensure”
- Military experience typically isn’t substitutable for education
- Six boards automatically disqualify due to criminal conviction
- Majority of boards have a “Good Moral Character” clause
- Majority of boards have academic pathway to licensure
- Initial application fees range from \$0 to 1200
- Renewal application fees range from \$0 to 750
- Continuing education fees vary
- SB2306 - Questions show limited applicability

Cory discussed the findings of each topics.

- Regulatory structure
 - ND is a Model A State
- Gradations of licensure
- Pathways
- Geographic mobility and universal reciprocity
- Military Experience and Spouses
 - Consider burden of proof and time to prepare application
- Criminal Convictions and Good Moral Character
 - Nearly all boards report they do not automatically disqualify applicants for a criminal conviction
 - Most boards do have a “Good Moral Character” or similar clause
- Steps to Universal Licensure
 - Dedicated staff to perform equivalence analysis
 - Reciprocity agreements
 - Telepractice authorities
 - A dedicated and well-planned outreach campaign
 - Identification and cultivation of stakeholders

Next Steps Katie Ralston

The Occupational Licensing Reform Subcommittee will meet July 29th, 2020 to review the report. The committee will then develop recommendations for presentation to the Workforce Development Council at their next meeting.

Adjourn

Meeting was unanimously adjourned at 10:25 a.m.