

Governor's Office of the Western Regional Education Compact
State of Nevada Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)
Commission Meeting
Minutes for August 25, 2015
Disc 1, File #12

In Attendance:

Vance Farrow – Executive Commissioner, Nevada Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)
Frederick Lokken – Commissioner, Nevada Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)
Vic Redding – Commissioner, Nevada Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)
Greg Ott – Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, State of Nevada
Jeannine Warner – Director, Governor's Office of the Western Regional Education Compact (WRHEC)
Dana Westre – Accountant Technician, Governor's Office of the Western Regional Education Compact (WRHEC)

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Farrow at 10:36 a.m.
2. **Public comment.** There was no public comment.
3. **Nevada WICHE Commissioners appointments.** The new Nevada WICHE Commissioner Frederick Lokken was welcomed, and Commissioner Vance Farrow was congratulated on becoming the new Executive Commissioner.
4. **Approval of Minutes from the March 9, 2015 Commission meeting.** The minutes were reviewed. Commissioner Lokken moved to accept and approve the minutes as presented. Executive Commissioner Farrow seconded. Motion approved.
5. **Certification of Fiscal Year 2015 alternate APRN 2-year program applicant.** Ms. Warner stated the applicant was notified per Open Meeting Law requirements. Ms. Warner stated this applicant is an alternate in the event a current participant declines funding. (NOTE: Commissioner Redding entered the meeting at 10:41.)

Commissioner Lokken moved to approve the applicant. Executive Commissioner Farrow seconded. Motion approved.

6. **Fiscal Reporting. Review of the Fiscal Year 2015 year-end reports: CAIS report, Income Statement, Aging Report, Accounts Receivable Report, Collections Summary, and Programs Matrix.** The fiscal reports were reviewed. Commissioner Lokken asked if the remaining balance in the Administration Account was part of the balance forward into next fiscal year. Ms. Warner answered no, the balance forward is allowed only from the Programs (Loan & Stipend) Budget.

Ms. Westre reviewed the Programs Budget income statement, and stated the balance forward into Fiscal Year 2016 was \$34,264 and the reversion amount was \$119, 173. Included in the reversion amount is the PSEP differential of \$11,433; HCAP differential of \$-240; and, because 1 mental health participant and the alternate both declined funding in the last days

of the fiscal year, there was a loan repayment program slot savings of \$2,000. Commissioner Redding stated if there is a revenue shortfall for Fiscal Year 2016, then that would be the first line of justification if the Contingency Fund is needed. When more revenue than was budgeted comes in in a fiscal year, it goes back to the General Fund. He does not consider that to be a one-way street. Ms. Warner stated a 1st year veterinary medicine slot is being held for Fiscal Year 2016 because of the anticipated lack of revenue for Fiscal Year 2017. So, this consideration to possibly use the Contingency Fund is appreciated because to see this amount of money reverted back to the state, and then hold a slot open because of the funding timing, is disconcerting.

Ms. Westre reviewed the programs matrix and the aging, accounts receivable, and collections reports. There were no questions.

7. **Temporary advance request from State General Fund for authorized Fiscal Year 2016 program expenses of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education's Fund for Student Loans.** Ms. Warner stated due to the Nevada WICHE's new program structure that eliminated the loan repayment program and added the mental health expansion project as of Fiscal Year 2016, the deadline to pay WICHE support fees moved from May to earlier in the fiscal year. There will be 7 months of non-General Fund revenue that will not be received when needed. The total support fee amount needed in November is \$1,062,518, and by the end of October projected revenue is \$990,000, leaving a shortage of \$83,000. To meet program bills deadlines, WICHE is authorized under NRS 353.357 to receive an advance at 50% of projected non-General Fund revenue. It is anticipated there will be no problem paying back the funds by the deadline date of August 1, 2016. It is the staff's recommendation the Commission request an advance of approximately \$83,000; and, staff requests permission to adjust to the actual amount requested to meet the program expenses due by November 2015.

Commissioner Redding moved to request approximately \$83,000, staff to adjust this amount as necessary, and to update the Commission of the final amount requested. Commissioner Lokken seconded. Motion approved.

Commissioner Lokken asked has this request been made in the past. Ms. Warner answered the last time was approximately 2007 or 2009. Commissioner Redding stated that during the last 6 biennia when the WICHE was under the NSHE, the NSHE was able to float the funds to the WICHE program until the WICHE revenue came in; however, this has become an issue once again. Commissioner Redding asked should they, the Nevada Commissioners, ask Regional WICHE for a payment reschedule, or is it simply a mechanics issue. Ms. Warner answered it is a mechanics issue; payment is due to Regional WICHE in November each year, and the Regional payments go out to the schools each January. According to the estimate, the revenue needed would not be received until April 2015. The funds are due to Regional by their November deadline.

8. **Proposed agency organizational chart to determine the reporting structure of the Governor's Office of the Western Regional Education Compact/ State of Nevada WICHE (ref: NRS 397, Senate Bill 195).** Ms. Warner stated that with the 2015 legislation from SB195, the agency (formally known as) WICHE transitioned out from the NSHE to the

Governor's Office as the "Western Regional Higher Education Compact", Agency 017. The Commission remains as "WICHE" per NRS 397. Ms. Warner asked Mr. Ott to confirm this information was accurate; Mr. Ott confirmed. Ms. Warner stated the chart reflecting these changes has been provided to the Commission based on SB 195, NRS 397, and legal counsel's review and input of the structure. The chart is being proposed to the Commission to increase transparency and identify the line of decision-making authority for the Commission. She asked the Commission to review and determine an organizational structure for the office.

The organizational chart was reviewed. Commissioner Redding asked if the administration within the Governor's Office or Brian Mitchell reviewed this, and are they comfortable with this. Executive Commissioner Farrow answered he shared the chart with Mike Willden's office, they are aware of it. He has received no feedback against what is being proposed. He did not speak to Brian Mitchell about the chart. Commissioner Redding stated it was his understanding they were looking for some collaboration with the Office of Science, Innovation, and Technology (OSIT), WICHE, and one or two other education-related programs, and he wants to ensure the Commission does not inadvertently do anything that will not fit into the master plan of Mike Willden. Executive Commissioner Farrow stated when speaking with Ms. Warner, and with regard to internal WICHE functions, he did not see an issue with this as compared to whatever the larger picture is with OSIT, WICHE, and any other education component within what would be the WRHEC office, if you will, which may have a different picture. But with regard to WICHE's internal function, there has been no issue with this chart. It was noted that Mr. Mitchell had prior commitments and could not attend today's commission meeting.

Commissioner Redding asked how this relates to the mechanics such as signature authority for leave, travel, all of those minutia documents; is that the Executive Commissioner, is that the Administrative Manager in the Governor's office? Executive Commissioner Farrow said he does not have any problem in doing this in his role as Executive Commissioner. If the Commission wants to establish that the Executive Commissioner be responsible for it, that's fine; however, if there is a better suggestion he is open to that. Commissioner Redding stated he doesn't necessarily have a suggestion, other than this is a good time to update the signature policy that was in place while under NSHE. Ms. Warner stated staff will update the signature authority. As everyone may be aware, she will be out on maternity leave for a few months, and she has talked to Executive Commissioner Farrow about the signature authority and other internal procedures while she is gone, and they will be submitted at the next commission meeting. Commissioner Redding stated that is the issue he was thinking about.

Commissioner Lokken moved to accept the organizational chart as presented. Commissioner Redding seconded. Motion approved.

9. **Director's Report.** The report was reviewed. Ms. Warner began with the quarterly activities for the 2nd quarter. There were no questions.

Ms. Warner stated the physical WRHEC staff move was established on August 7, 2015, and most of the operational needs were in place within the first 2 weeks. The move went smoothly. Additional organization will continue over the next couple of months; however,

the office is up and running. The space is shared with OSIT, which will result in 6-7 people in the space. She had concerns about privacy, and spoke with Mr. Ott regarding protecting the privacy of participant's information. It was determined there are no issues with privacy within the office space structure. She added there were some unforeseen expenses associated with the move, but she is comfortable that there will be no problem there, and the budget will be closely monitored. Staff is excited to be under the Governor's office and the opportunities it may provide the WRHEC office.

Ms. Warner stated that under SB195, technically, the name of the office is the "Western Regional Higher Education Compact", but she would like to continue using the working title "WICHE", which has been used for decades, to avoid any confusion. If the Commission has any questions or issues, please let her know. She discussed the working title with, and it was approved by, Executive Commissioner Farrow; however, formally it is the Western Regional Higher Education Compact.

Ms. Warner stating the mental health expansion project is underway and the psychology interns are in their internships. This year's funding as well as the APRNs' funding were sent in early August.

Nursing coursework classes are to begin January 2016. Applications are due by October 15, 2015, and selections are in November. Contracts go out in December in time for January classes.

Executive Commissioner Farrow asked when the accreditation process is to begin for the interns and is there anything the Commission can do to support them. Ms. Warner stated the Regional office handles that, as they did with Alaska and Hawaii. She will follow up with Regional and report back. Commissioner Redding suggested, as an item for new business, to have Dennis phone in to update the Commission and review what the next steps are, as well as the potential expansion. The agency request budget will be due to the Governor in the next year for next biennium, and it is not too early to start discussions as to what, if anything, the Commission might want to do differently.

Commissioner Farrow stated a few telemedicine and telehealth measures were passed last session. Also, along that same line of communication would be any potential additional outreach or access to health professional shortage areas within mental behavioral health. With the expansion of the clinical psychiatric intern program at UNLV, as well, interns are being introduced to the folks at Volunteers in Medicine of Southern Nevada to try to get them additional hours. The difficulty is having enough professional oversight while the students are earning hours, having enough preceptors. So, the question becomes, are there any additional conversations WICHE can generate to ensure that the program has sufficient hours for the students, and what partnerships can WICHE bring to the table to meet the demands of the program. The other piece is UNSOM is looking to expand their community footprint throughout northern Nevada. As the med school goes into Winnemucca, Elko, Ely, Battle Mountain with the clinic-type structures, the Commission can look at their behavioral health services see if it can help create a connection through telemedicine/telehealth. WICHE can then communicate with the program directors the kind of opportunities that are available, especially now that their services can be billed out. It is important to ensure the program is

successful. He added having Dennis (of the WICHE Mental Health Program) come to a meeting to discuss how the Commission can start communications on their behalf, how the Commission can support them further, is a great idea. Everybody has access to care issues with regard to primary care and behavioral health. Here is this wonderful program, and if the Commission can show there is a big need for the program and the need to expand, maybe the State might chime in and invest in it.

Ms. Warner stated the next meeting will be a planning meeting for the next biennial budget. It will be a larger meeting to discuss where the Commission would like to take WICHE over the next biennium. She asked the Commission to forward agenda topics to staff. Executive Commissioner Farrow stated he gave Ms. Warner information from Bob Potts of GOED a cross-reference of health care job openings over the past 10 years, in addition to all of the professions that those jobs correspond to, and the location quotients of those professions. The Commission can compare where Nevada stands with the rest of the nation regarding the number of individuals getting degrees in healthcare, and the number of jobs that have been both opened and filled. The Commission can then see what is trending, decide what it now wants to go after, and overlay that with Nevada's existing educational programs to determine what and who it wants to support. The location quotient information is real-time data. Commissioner Redding stated that is a great data-driven argument for funding for the executive budget and for the legislature. This is all great and is all coming together.

Commissioner Lokken stated he would like to learn how the Commission sets priorities and that next meeting we will get that started. What is the Commission's working relationship with NSHE, what is its workforce development role, and is there an opportunity to broaden that? The medical school in the south is a big issue, and Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) is joining the 4-year ranks. Fiscal Year 2017 is supposed to be the Governor's priority of higher education year, and if the Commission has good dialogue with folks it can tie some things together. Commissioner Redding stated the Commission has spent so many years cutting budgets, it will be exciting to get positive numbers in front of these requests. Executive Commissioner Farrow stated there will be a lot of grant funds for STEM-based workforce development programs. The funds may be tied to the university system, but certainly tied with corporate and employee buy-in to create and/or reinforce pipelines, so the Commission will want to be on the lookout for that. Those dollars will be made available with this next biennium, and the Commission will want to be a part of that push. Commissioner Lokken stated the program is now within the office of Science, Innovation and Technology, so clearly someone thought the Commission would find partnership and collaboration with the STEM agenda and the grant program.

10. **New Business.** Commissioner Redding asked if the next meeting will be the big planning meeting to discuss priorities. If so it would be best to have a face-to-face meeting, if it is possible to get all of the attendees in one place. The meeting will be planned to be person-to-person.
11. **Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
12. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.