



***Nevada Governor's Office of the Western Regional Education Compact
for the
Nevada Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
Commission Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2017
8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.***

In Attendance:

Vance Farrow – Executive Commissioner, State of Nevada WICHE (via teleconference)
Fred Lokken – Commissioner, State of Nevada WICHE
Vic Redding-Commissioner, State of Nevada WICHE
Jeannine Warner – Director, Governor's Office of the Western Regional Education Compact
Colleen Lennox – Accountant Technician I, Governor's Office of the Western Regional Education Compact
Frederick Perdomo – Senior Deputy Attorney General (DAG), Office of the Attorney General, State of Nevada

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order by Executive Commissioner Farrow at 8:05. The meeting was posted in accordance with the State of Nevada's Open Meeting Law (OML).

2. Public Comment. There was no public comment.

3. Introduction of new administrative fiscal staff: Accountant Technician I.

Commissioner Farrow welcomed Ms. Colleen Lennox and asked for a brief background. Ms. Lennox most recently worked with the 2017 Legislative session as a Committee Secretary for Senate Revenue and Economic Development. Her background and education include 2 Associate's Degrees, 1 in Deaf Studies with a secondary focus on Pre-Nursing, and the other in General Studies and Music. She is a graduate of Santa Barbara Business College in Computer Accounting and Business Management.

Director Warner welcomed Colleen Lennox to the staff. She stated the AT1 position had been vacant since early March 2017 and was difficult to fill. It was necessary to conduct two rounds of interviews because they were not satisfied with the qualifications of the applicants in the first round. Ms. Lennox came to WICHE as the last interview of the second round and

started in her new position approximately 3 weeks ago. She was hired for her enthusiasm and initiative, good problem solving skills and ability to handle challenging and complex work. She is excited to have Colleen with WICHE.

4. Discussion, recommendations, and action regarding the minutes from the February 1, 2017 Commission meeting.

Commissioner Farrow asked if everyone got a chance to look at the minutes from the February meeting. Director Warner commented staff had worked hard to get the minutes completed but they are incomplete at this time. DAG Perdomo stated as long as the audio recording or minutes are made available within 30 days of the meeting, it is perfectly acceptable to table the item until the next meeting.

Commissioner Lokken moved to table review of the previous meeting's minutes until the next meeting. Commissioner Redding seconded the motion. All were in favor; none opposed. There was no further discussion. Motion carried.

5. Discussion, recommendations and action regarding selection and term of the new Nevada WICHE Executive Commissioner.

Recommendations were discussed for a new Nevada WICHE Executive Commissioner. Commissioner Redding made a nomination for Commissioner Lokken for the remainder of term of the 2017-2019 Biennium, which is the usual term to allow the chair to take the Commission through the next legislative session. Commissioner Lokken accepted the nomination. Commissioner Farrow seconded and expressed that Commissioner Lokken is "the right man for the job". Commissioner Lokken has served well, has shared information when he represented the Commission in Executive Commission Meetings when the other commissioners could not attend, and provides a transparent role. Commissioner Lokken thanked both commissioners and stated that he is very much looking forward to the role.

There was no further discussion. Commissioner Farrow called for the vote for Commissioner Lokken to be the Executive Commissioner for the 2017-2019 Biennium. All were in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

6. Discussion, recommendations and action regarding the appointment of one (1) Legislative Advisory Committee (LAC) representative from Nevada to serve as a proxy for Senator Hardy at the September 2017 Regional WICHE LAC meeting.

Commissioner Farrow asked if Senator Hardy requested for someone else to attend in his stead, or has he withdrawn from the LAC? Commissioner Redding answered Senator Hardy had a conflict and could not attend the September meeting. The Senator indicated that he would be happy to continue to serve on the LAC but would understand if the Commission wanted to appoint a permanent replacement. Commissioner Redding suggested that it may be good practice for the Commission to have two LAC members plus an alternate in the event that one of the permanent appointees is not available. The current choices for the Commission were to appoint an alternate, appoint a permanent replacement for Senator Hardy, or delegate that authority to the Executive Commissioner.

Commissioner Farrow stated Assemblywoman Joiner would be an excellent choice to attend the LAC meeting as Senator Hardy's proxy. Commissioner Lokken suggested Senator Julia Ratti might be a good choice for alternate LAC representative, stating she would be present at every event and approach it with amazing passion if she decided to accept. Commissioner Farrow mentioned that the new Executive Commissioner is in a good position to approach her for that conversation to gauge interest. Senator Ratti would give WICHE a strong voice in the Legislature. Commissioner Farrow asked Director Warner if she would reach out to Assemblywoman Joiner to see if she would be able to represent Nevada at the meeting. Director Warner confirmed she would do so and that she will work with Regional WICHE to make sure Assemblywoman Joiner gets the information for that meeting in Park City, Utah. Commissioner Farrow delegated to Commissioner Lokken to reach out to Senator Ratti to gauge her interest in serving as WICHE's LAC alternate. Commissioner Lokken pointed out that they have two representatives, but will explore the question with Senator Ratti.

Commissioner Lokken motioned for Staff to discuss the appointment with Assemblywoman Joiner. Commissioner Redding seconded. There was no discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Discussion, Recommendations and action regarding Pharmacy participant Pan's request for extension time to provide service due to long term medical hardship (ref: NAC 397.060).

Director Warner stated for the record the individual was notified per Open Meeting Law requirements. Director Warner requested that discussion of this item be conducted in closed session per NRS 241.030 to consider the personal health of the participant. The participant's information has not been included in the public meeting packet to protect the private health information of the requestor. Commissioner Lokken moved to enter closed session to discuss the agenda item per NRS 241.030. Commissioner Redding seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The Commission entered into closed session.

Commissioner Lokken motioned to enter back into open session; Commissioner Redding seconded. Motion approved. The Commission reentered into open session.

Director Warner stated that the principal amount of the stipend grant is \$17,175 and does not include accrued interest, which must be calculated. Commissioner Redding motioned to forgive participant Pan's service obligation including the grant balance of \$17,175 plus accrued interest. Commissioner Lokken seconded the motion. There was no further discussion Motion passed unanimously.

8. Director's Report.

Outcomes of the 2017 legislative session including WICHE's 2017-2019 biennial budgets, performance measures, reissuance of 2015 Letter of Intent, and Senate Bills 90 and 210.

Director Warner discussed the budget and performance measures. The slot matrix materials were provided for the Commission's reference. The Performance Measures were provided to

the Legislature as part of the agency's biennial budget. The Subcommittees on Ways and Means and Senate Finance successfully closed WICHE's budgets on May 8, 2017. There were no significant changes and the budgets closed almost to 100% of the Commission's recommendations. In B/A 2681, there are two new Occupational Therapist slots for PSEP. The Commission had reduced the vet med slot to one. That was reinstated, enabling funding for three slots. All slots for Nurses and Social Workers were supported and received funding. There is a minor, technical adjustment to the Psychology slots. Instead of the agency the support fee to the Regional WICHE office, the funding will go to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The reasoning is if the funding goes through DHHS, then the interns will be able to bill Medicare and Medicaid. Director Warner saw no significant changes in B/A 2995. Approved was a new marketing and website effort for online applications and establishment of the online practice database.

In proposed legislation, there were two bills with potential to affect the agency: Senate Bill 90 and Senate Bill 210. Senate Bill 210 proposed to help anesthesiology students but did not meet deadline and died. Senate Bill 90, which would have impact on the State Area Reciprocity Agreement (SARA), also did not meet deadline and died. The Commission's budget was funded in full.

Commissioner Redding asked if there was any sense or feedback from discussions or the committees during the whole budgetary process, things the Commission should take into consideration when building the next budget request. Director Warner sensed that WICHE has strong support from the Legislature, they like what WICHE is doing, particularly the focus on mental health and the collaboration with DHHS. Commissioner Farrow mentioned are certain considerations for the Commission to keep in mind. There is a constant weighing of resources from professions of greater need than in others. This came up during the session particularly pertaining to supporting in Veterinary Medicine. There were certainly questions that led to whether or not there should be investment in certain slots versus other slots. He encouraged the Commission that, as needs and demand for services changes over time, the decisions for support in various fields will have to be justified before the next legislature.

Commissioner Lokken asked Commissioner Farrow, in the logic of moving Nevada WICHE under the Governor, if he knew of any future plans given that Governor Sandoval is going to term out in another year. Was there some thought that the agency would always retain its autonomy and independent status under the NRS or somehow that the Commission is supposed to become part of something else? Or, have no discussions like that ever occurred? Commissioner Farrow responded that there were some conversations regarding moving WICHE under DETR in the 2017 session, but that did not occur and he did not believe that was being considered at any point moving forward. Looking at the upcoming elections and the new Governor, he is sure they may have some thoughts but thinks that is going to be a learning curve. He did not necessarily anticipate anything new for probably the next year to two years. Commissioner Farrow commented it takes a while for folks to figure out what they want to do, so he would imagine that WICHE will be on solid ground for at least another two years.

Commissioner Lokken stated that a concern he has is the uncertainty after Sandoval. There was some insulation in the past perhaps with NSHE, but “we are right in line of sight now.” Commissioner Farrow commented that is true, but the Commission has support from the Legislature for what the Commission and agency are doing and why we are doing it. The Commission can justify the need as well as the budget. As long as there are results for what is being done, he thinks the agency has firm ground to stand on in any defense of someone targeting its budget. If someone did want to shorten it, or cut it, or do anything to the agency or budget, they would need to have very strong justification as to why that would be the case. He would like to think that the Commission does a good enough job and there is plenty enough need that the agency would be out of harm’s way. But “the wind blows strong in both directions,” so the Commission will have to wait and see what the political climate is for now.

Fiscal Year 2017 applicant certification lists for the PSEP and HCAP programs.

The certification lists for applications for the year were provided to the Commission for the PSEP program for its review. There were no questions about the materials provided.

Update on agency’s financial reporting status; fiscal operations cross-training

Director Warner acknowledged to the Commission that the financials for the first quarter of FY2017 was provided to the Commission in February, but the agency quarterly financials were not able to be provided to the Commission due to a staffing vacancy for the agency’s fiscal position. Estimated timeline for Colleen’s training is at least 6 months in the financials just to get her started. She hopes to have the 2017 end-of-year financials at the next meeting. The Administrative Services Division office provides services for B/A 2995 and that office will provide the end-of-year reporting for that budget. WICHE’s previous accountant technician 1 offered to complete the end-of-year financials for the B/A 2681. Quarterly reports will require Ms. Lennox to be trained.

Director Warner notified the Commission that her supervisor under the Governor’s Office requested that she cross-train along with the new Accountant Technician 1 on the financial operations of the agency including ECSI, DAWN, Advantage and the other state financial systems. Her responsibilities will shift from programs to financial.

Nevada Psychology Internship Consortium (NV-PIC): Update on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) renewal.

Director Warner reminded the Commission that the Nevada Psychology Internship Consortium’s 2-year MOU expires this year. There was no news on the accreditation from the site visit in May. The visit was reported to have gone really well and NV-PIC is pleased with the verbal feedback. They eagerly await for more information on the accreditation and hope to hear the final decision in October.

Regarding the MOU, there is a new draft in place. NV-PIC hoped to have it finalized by the time the new cohort begins in August and the current MOU expires. Another very quick meeting may need to be conducted for approval of the MOU to continue the collaboration for the next two years. Commissioner Lokken wanted to know status of the Master of Social

Work project. Director Warner answered that the budget for the five slots was just approved, and now it is a matter of outreach and marketing.

9. New Business.

May 2017 Commission meeting (Coeur d'Alene, ID).

The next Regional meeting is in Denver on November 9 and 10 in Denver. Commissioner Farrow mentioned that Nevada WICHE will likely send two new commissioners early for training and orientation.

Commissioner Redding proposed a future discussion topic. Regional WICHE is looking at cyber-security-type fields as a potential area of program focus. This may be a field Nevada WICHE could follow and consider as a future priority. He mentions there was also a cyber-security initiative in the 79th Session. Commissioner Lokken adds that Regional WICHE may envision itself as a provider of best practices or recommending timelines. It would not do the work but might assist with writing grants to explore avenues of greater collaboration. It would be a newly defined service. Commissioner Lokken said a three-year contract was given to the new WICHE President, Joe Garcia. It might be good for Nevada WICHE to reach out to President Garcia and have a conversation with Governor Sandoval to discuss the potential for future funding of cyber-security education by Nevada WICHE

Propose future meeting dates.

The next meeting for the Nevada body will be decided by Doodle poll.

Director Warner stated decisions for NV-PIC are needed by August. Commissioners Farrow and Redding pointed out that there may only be one Commissioner for a while, so a meeting will have to happen after they are appointed. Commissioner Farrow agreed. Commissioner Redding stated that according to DAG Ott, even though the terms are up Commissioners continue to serve until their replacements are named.

Commissioner Lokken asked if it is procedure to speak with the new Chancellor about WICHE. Commissioner Redding answered that it is not usual in Nevada and other states for the Chancellor or System President to have a seat on the WICHE Commission. There is no obligation for this and it is up to the Governor to determine who occupies the Commission seats. He feels that is a discussion for the new Chancellor to have with the Governor.

Commissioner Lokken commented that the first year under the new administrative structural arrangement has been completed. He has not seen anything about the annual Operating Budget that was handed off, and there has not been a conversation about an evaluation for Director Warner since the new arrangement began, she has not been evaluated. These are things the Commission understood would happen but they have not happened. Commissioner Lokken does not know if WICHE underspent or overspent the budget, and suggested that information go on the agenda for the next meeting to meet the fiduciary responsibility of the Commission to monitor the budget. The Commission handed over WICHE's budget for someone else to manage and that is odd. Commissioner Lokken is still unsure why the

Commission did that and does not understand why the WICHE Commission could not be in control of its own budget.

Commissioner Farrow replied that this is a very valid point and said he knows that there are probably some outstanding things that have fallen in the cracks. To Commissioner Lokken's point he agreed regarding the lines of communication given that there are going to be some changes, and it needs to be ensured that those lines are not dotted but solidified such that there is always constant communication within the Governor's office. Commissioner Lokken and Director Warner began working on the MOU between the two agencies, they are probably still looking at it, and there are definitely some things to iron out so the organization can operate a lot smoother. There are more discussions that need to take place and suggested addressing these things again on a future agenda to finalize the direction the Commission wants to take.

Commissioner Lokken says he would like the MOU concept to be agendized. He has spent more time than he imagined he would on it and it is un-writable, especially based upon the current organizational structure that was agreed to. It does not make sense because it defines no role for the Commission in that relationship. The Commission has a dotted line to its own Executive Director. He proposes writing an MOU that states WICHE and OSIT are co-housed but thinks there should be an honest discussion as a Commission focusing on reducing the complexity. He states that the Commission is trying to create something that is unnecessary. Being under the Governor's office is spectacular, and sharing this office space might be good, maybe there are advantages in the future. But he does not understand why the Commission felt it had to mingle the administrative side of the agency or the budget. He would feel better if he could have that conversation. Commissioner Farrow agreed.

Commissioner Farrow's term is officially up on April 29th, but he continues to serve until Ms. Gillian Barclay is appointed in his place by the Governor. However, he does not know the concrete answer of when his capacity as a Commissioner officially ends. He points out that there were concerns about a potential conflict of interest given that he is over a health system and now presides over dollars to support health professionals and their placement. Although he feels he knows where the lines of ethics lay, his exit from the Commission was dictated to him. Commissioner Farrow had supposed that he would remain in his Commission position but was told otherwise; he is not the person who can make that decision as to how long he is going to be allowed to remain in the position. He comes off the Commission when Ms. Barclay is officially appointed, but he does not know the timeline. He will help out anyway he can. Regarding his replacement, Commissioner Farrow will encourage her to be more proactive than reactive regarding Nevada WICHE because he likes Nevada WICHE and thinks that what it does is important. WICHE should be able to stand firm on both legs. Fighting for what Nevada WICHE does and why it does so is important. He anticipates that Ms. Barclay will do a good job. She is not the type of person to follow blindly, she will ask questions and be a good steward. Commissioner Redding added that he is available as an invited guest of WICHE as a resource because of his many years of experience on the WICHE Commission.

Commissioner Lokken expressed his thanks to the departing leadership for all their generosity and help when he first came to the Commission, especially for allowing him to ask questions. Director Warner expressed her happiness for Commissioner Farrow's new position but also see that Nevada WICHE has a true loss at his leaving. She is thankful for his caliber and talent as an inspiration to her. Commissioner Farrow is grateful for the environment of the Commission that allows each of them the latitude to freely discuss their opinions and to be heard and understood. GOED will always be a partner with WICHE, he will always be a family member with GOED and WICHE. He is only a phone call away and will always do what he can to support WICHE.

10. Public comment. There was no public comment.

11. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 09:05.