

Meeting minutes: Nursing Home Workforce Standards Board

Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024

Minutes prepared by: Linnea Becerra

Location: Hybrid – Minnesota Room (Department of Labor and Industry) and Webex

Attendees

Members present

- Commissioner Nicole Blissenbach
- Chair Jaime Gulley
- Katie Lundmark
- Kim Brenne
- Maria King (remotely)
- Michele Fredrickson
- Michelle Armstrong
- Paula Rocheleau
- Mary Swanson

Visitors present

- Erin Huppert
- Brian Elliott
- Rick Varco
- Todd Bergstrom

DLI staff members present

- Ali Afsharjavan
- Linnea Becerra
- Paul Enger
- Leah Solo

Agenda items

1. **Call to order** – the meeting was called to order by Jamie Gulley at 11:07 a.m. A roll call was taken. A *quorum was declared*.
2. **Approval of agenda** – a motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Commissioner Nicole Blissenbach and seconded by Michele Fredrickson. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed *unanimously*.
3. **Approval of drafted meeting minutes** – a motion to approve the Feb. 8 drafted meeting minutes as presented was made by Kim Brenne and seconded by Michelle Armstrong. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed *unanimously*.

4. Board updates –

- Accolades were given to the Public Hearing Workgroup for a successful month of public engagement meetings and events. The Data Workgroup shared it would be meeting in the afternoon and would take up discussion started at the full board meeting, as well as taking a deeper dive into the questionnaire results. The Certification and Training Workgroup started discussion surrounding waivers and exemptions.
- Ali Afsharjavan shared that rules are being drafted and there will be discussion regarding them in the near future.

5. New business –

- Executive Director Leah Solo presented on the questionnaire reports. The reports were analyzed by question and then broken down by Greater Minnesota and Twin Cities areas.
- Solo presented the *Draft Chart of Wage Standards Questions*, which listed categories and the statute that influences them. There was discussion around geography and occupation considerations. She highlighted some specific response information, including benefit responses, overtime, top three improvements, and difficulties of employers to attract and retain employees.
- The board took a break in rooms other than the Minnesota Room.
- Katie Lundmark presented the *Principles for Achieving Consensus on Nursing Home Standards* drafted by Mary Swanson, Paula Rocheleau and her. She reviewed each bullet point in the memorandum and proposed the board adopt the principles before moving forward. The group decided to hear the next agenda item before voting to adopt the principles.
- Jamie Gulley presented *Minimum Standards Options*, which included six options for worker standards. There was discussion by the board regarding paid holidays and benefits, and whether to set minimum wage standards based on geographic location or on one amount for the whole state.
- Option 5 – *Option 1 Plus Minimum Wage by Job Class in the Minimum Standards Options* was discussed by the board, directing questions to Kim Brenne about the abilities of the Department of Human Services (DHS) to pull data and reporting by job class. This discussion led to revisiting the analysis of data for the *WFSB 20240130 11452* spreadsheet prepared by DHS and shared at previous meetings. There was discussion about to cost to the state, the total costs and the kind of data the DHS staff could pull for review by the March 21 meeting. It was concluded the Data Workgroup would discuss this at its next meeting, which took place March 14 at 3 p.m.

6. Next meeting – the next meeting is Monday, March 21, 2024.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Lundmark to adjourn the meeting at 1:21 p.m. and seconded by Armstrong. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.