

Minutes: Nursing Home Workforce Standards Board

Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025

Minutes prepared by: Linnea Becerra

Location: Hybrid – in the Washington Room at the Department of Labor and Industry and via Webex

Attendance

Members present

Michelle Armstrong

Commissioner Nicole Blissenbach

Kim Brenne (remotely)

Jamie Gulley

Maria King (remotely)

Katie Lundmark

Mary Swanson (remotely)

Visitors present

Maisie Blaine (remotely)

Brian Elliott (remotely)

Isaac Martin (remotely)

Kayla Revier (remotely)

DLI staff members present

Linnea Becerra

Paul Enger

Leah Solo

Agenda items

1. **Call to order** – the meeting was called to order by Chair Jamie Gulley at 11:01 a.m. Roll call was taken. A quorum was declared.
2. **Approval of agenda** – a motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Michelle Armstrong and seconded by Katie Lundmark. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
3. **Approval of drafted meeting minutes** – a motion to approve the March 13, 2025, drafted meeting minutes as presented was made by Armstrong and seconded by Lundmark. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
4. **Board updates** –
 - Executive Director Leah Solo updated the board about some of the bills moving at the Capitol. The bills are making their way to the finance committees. There are lines in both the Senate Human Services bill and the House Human Services bill to fund the Nursing Home Workforce Standards Board (NHWSB) standards. The Senate bill also includes a rate add-on for 2028 and 2029; the House bill includes language from House file (H.F.) 1419, which includes an upfront payment, as well as the

add-on language in 2028 and 2029. Money to fund the rates was also in the governor's budget. The Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) presented some policy language that clarified NHWSB definitions and is being heard in the DLI language bill that is included in the Senate Omnibus bill.

- a. Solo reported about the Data Workgroup's most recent meeting. This meeting focused on a list of possible data items to collect and analyze as presented by the employers on the board. The Data Workgroup narrowed its focus to four main categories for data collection: access; quality; hours and benefits; and Medicaid rates and costs. The group also talked about the readiness and accessibility of the data. Gulley asked how health insurance information is collected and Kim Brenne pulled up a sample cost report to show the board. The cost report shows employee insurance questions as follows: Did the facility offer health insurance? How many employees were enrolled? Was the facility self-insured? Did the facility use a captive or relative organization for all or part of its workers' compensation plan? Brenne explained the cost to the employer, not the employee, is reported. Gulley asked how questions could be added to the cost report and Brenne said it would be hard and time-consuming to add questions. Lundmark said comparing insurance coverage between facilities is difficult. Gulley said baseline insurance information would be helpful, as well as why people are electing to not take coverage through their employer. Gulley asked if retirement plans were tracked on the cost report; Brenne said employer contributions to retirement plans costs are reflected in the report and would show up in a couple of different places in the report, depending on the type of contributions. Secure choice (implemented in 2026) will not show up on the cost report, because they are taken from employee wages.
- b. The Public Hearing Workgroup met, but did not have a substantial report.
- c. The Waiver Review Workgroup did not meet because there were no applications for a waiver.
- d. The Waivers and Variances Workgroup and the Certification/Training Workgroup did not meet.

5. New business –

- 6. Next meeting –** the next meeting is Thursday, May 8, 2025.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Nicole Blissenbach to adjourn the meeting at 11:33 a.m. and seconded by Armstrong. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.