

## Minutes: NHWSB Certification/Training Workgroup

Date: Monday, Oct. 21, 2024

Minutes prepared by: Linnea Becerra

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

### Attendance

#### Members present

Commissioner Nicole Blissenbach (remotely)

Jamie Gulley

Katie Lundmark (remotely)

#### Visitors present

Todd Bergstrom

Brian Elliott

#### DLI staff members present

Ali Afsharjavan (remotely)

Linnea Becerra

Paul Enger (remotely)

Leah Solo

### Agenda items

- 1. Call to order** – the meeting was called to order by Jamie Gulley at 11:07 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 Commissioner Nicole Blissenbach and seconded by Jamie Gulley. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Approval of drafted meeting minutes** – a motion to approve the Aug. 5, 2024, drafted meeting minutes as presented was made by Commissioner Blissenbach and seconded by Gulley. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
- 4. Board updates** –
  - The workgroup discussed the public hearing on curriculum, including:
    - adding a slide for how workers can give feedback to the board;
    - not receiving a lot of comments by the public;
    - making the training of workers as easy as possible for employers (compliance and streamlining); and
    - making the training not complicated and keeping the training from being employer versus employee.

- Executive Director Leah Solo walked through the memo “Timeline and updated application for certifying worker organizations (CWOs).” She explained her reasoning for changing the application from two steps to one step and walked through the timeline and process for reviewing applications.
- Katie Lundmark asked about the process for the employer reaching out to worker organizations. Solo explained CWOs would need to provide geography, languages, shifts, etc. and that no money would be exchanged between the CWO and the employer.
- Commissioner Blissenbach and Gulley said the timeline looks reasonable. Gulley said this workgroup would make sense to be the one to review applications and have staff members do the preliminary review.
- Solo asked for feedback about the move from a two-part application to one-part application. Members agreed a one-part application makes sense. There was discussion about how organizations ask the executive director for help. It was resolved that a call to the director and an informal conversation about the requirements would be sufficient.
- The language in statute regarding engaging with or advocating for nursing home workers is “at least five years of demonstrated experience engaging with and advocating for nursing home workers.” There was discussion about what type of evidence CWOs would need to provide; it was concluded the responses could be pretty broad (lobbying, bargaining, taking in feedback and delivering it to decision makers in one way or another).
- There was discussion about the capacity each CWO has in relation to the number of staff members it has. It was concluded this decision would be made on a case-by-case basis. The group needs to see the plan and take geography and time into consideration.
- The application review could consist of a goal for each section and the information provided will help the board plan for the need and the future needs of the nursing home workforce.
- There was discussion about the reasonableness of the interactive portion of the curriculum. It was decided that seeing some initial applications can inform the group about whether a clearer definition is needed. For now, the language seems sufficient.
- The group talked about sending a GovDelivery bulletin about CWOs’ intention of applying, to gauge how many applications the board may receive.

**5. New business –**

- 6. Next meeting –** the next meeting is Dec. 16, 2024, at 3 p.m., in the Washington Room at the Department of Labor and Industry.

## Adjournment

A motion was made by Lundmark to adjourn the meeting at noon and was seconded by Commissioner Blissenbach. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.