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Information

Professional Practices Committee

Division of Professional Practices Workload Report

Executive Summary: This agenda item provides a report on the Division of Professional Practices' current workload.

Recommended Action: For information only

Presenter: Nanette F. Rufo, Director, Division of Professional Practices

Strategic Plan Goal

I. Educator Quality

- d) Effectively, efficiently, and fairly monitor the fitness of all applicants and credential holders to work with California students.

Division of Professional Practices Workload Report

Introduction

To increase its oversight over the work of Division of Professional Practices (DPP), in 2011 the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) directed staff to present information about DPP's workload as a standing part of the Commission's agenda.

The DPP is responsible for managing the disciplinary caseload and providing legal advice to the statutorily created disciplinary review committee, the Committee of Credentials (Committee). The Committee is an investigatory body comprised of seven members appointed by the Commission for two-year terms. Members include an elementary teacher, a secondary teacher, one school board member, a school administrator, and three public representatives. The Committee is responsible for reviewing allegations of misconduct against a credential holder or applicant and making a recommendation to the Commission as to whether probable cause exists for adverse action against a credential or application. Once the Committee makes a recommendation for an adverse action, the credential applicant or holder may accept the recommendation and the matter is placed on the Commission's Consent Calendar. The applicant or holder also has the option to appeal the Committee's recommendation and ask for an administrative hearing. An administrative hearing is a full evidentiary hearing, held before an administrative law judge, where witnesses testify and evidence is presented.

Highlights for the March 2015 Statistics

The Commission's dashboard (Attachment A) reports on six key measurements in line graph form, showing both current year numbers as well as the prior year numbers for comparison purposes. The statistics cover the work done during the month of March.

The "Total Cases" are the number of open cases within DPP, including cases in the Intake Unit, before the Committee, pending before the Commission and pending an administrative hearing. At the end of March the caseload was 2,503, a decrease in total caseload.

"Cases Opened" are new cases received during the month, from all sources, including criminal arrest notices, district reports and educators who self-report misconduct. In March, staff opened 433 cases, which is within the normal range of 400-500 cases a month.

As can be seen in the "Initial Review Cases" and the "Formal Review Cases," the Committee continues to effectively handle the large number of cases under consideration by the Committee. The numbers in these two charts reflect the number of cases reviewed by the Committee at its monthly three-day meeting. The two-step process (initial review and formal review) is required by statute.

“Cases Closed” is the number of matters closed during by Commission action, Committee action or closed by staff where the Commission has given formal delegation of authority (e.g. single alcohol offenses that do not involve schools or minors). In March, 578 cases were closed, up from the month before.

“AG Cases” is the number of cases in which the Office of the Attorney General (AG) represents the Commission in an administrative hearing as a result of an individual appealing the recommendation of the Committee. When a person appeals, the Commission’s case file is transferred to the AG’s office with a request that the AG represent the Commission in the administrative hearing. That number continues to grow, with 228 cases open at the AG’s office, continuing the trend of increasing numbers of cases at the AG’s office.

Attachment A
DPP Monthly Dashboard Reports

