



Commission on Teacher Credentialing

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Office of the Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 8, 2011
TO: Commission Stakeholders
FROM: Beth Graybill, Interim Executive Director
RE: Teacher Discipline Improvement Initiative Update

The Commission held its August 2011 meeting last week in which it discussed two agenda items (Items 1H and 2A) directly related to the audit. The first contained the workload data for the Division of Professional Practices. During the month of June, the Division opened 578 new cases and closed a total of 487 cases, bringing the total caseload for the division to 3,270. Of the 578 new cases, approximately 49 percent were opened as a result of receiving a report of arrest or prosecution (RAP) for a credential holder, and 46 percent were opened as a result of affirmative answers to one of the fitness questions when either applying for a new or renewing an existing credential. During the month of June, the Committee on Credentials (COC) reviewed a total of 397 cases; of which 238 were presented on the consent calendar, 28 were presented on a discuss calendar, 65 had an initial review, and 54 underwent a formal review. The remaining 12 cases involved probation violation, requests for waivers, and consent determinations.

An individual's case must be presented to the COC two times (initial and formal review) prior to any adverse action being recommended to the Commission. The COC, which meets monthly, has historically been able to review approximately 50-60 cases in the Initial Review phase and 45-55 cases in the Formal Review phase. With the division establishing better methods of tracking caseload information and as staff move reports of misconduct through the intake and preparation process more quickly, the number of cases in the queue waiting to be scheduled for the COC's Initial Review will continue to grow. Currently, there are 366 cases pending COC review, with almost 900 potential cases waiting to begin the COC's discretionary review process. Because serious cases needing urgent action move to the front of the queue, some of the less serious cases could remain in pending status for 19 or 20 months before they complete the COC process. Although the establishment of the Discuss Calendar will help some of these cases move through the queue more quickly, the backlog that results from the statutory review requirements and timelines and the review capacity of the COC suggest the need to look at policy options that could speed up the review process.

The Commission has directed staff to convene a series of meetings requesting input from stakeholders, the public, and policymakers who work with various stakeholder groups in the Fall of 2011. The Commission is interested in hearing the views of many interested parties, including teacher organizations, employers, law enforcement, and the public. Staff plans to bring

information and recommendations from the stakeholder meetings to the Commission by January 2012.

Update on Other Commission Activities

For your information, the Commission publishes a “Stat of the Month” on various teacher credentialing data. This “did you know” type feature, is accessible through the Commission’s website, <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/statistics.html> and is compiled by Dr. Marjorie Suckow in the Professional Services Division. The Stat of the Month for August looks at recent enrollment trends in teacher preparation programs. Enrollment in these programs has a direct relationship to the number of initial credentials CTC issues and to the Commission’s budget. Data indicate that teacher preparation program enrollments (traditional or alternative route) declined 17.9 percent from 2007-08 to 2009-10. The number of teacher candidates earning initial teaching credentials (multiple subject, single subject, or education specialist) also showed a declining trend of about 14.1 percent during that same period. You can download more complete information on this topic through the following link: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/statistics/2011-08-stat.pdf>.