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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

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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.

February 2015

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 December 2014 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 December.

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 December the caseload was 2,575, continuing a trend of a slight increase 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 December, staff opened 506 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 December 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 December, 380 cases were closed, up slightly 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 223 cases open at the AG's office, continuing the trend of increasing numbers of cases at the AG's office.

Total Cases

	OCT	NOV	DEC
2013	2442	2406	2440
2014	2550	2449	2575

Cases Opened

	OCT	NOV	DEC
2013	577	463	508
2014	474	426	506

Initial Review Cases

	OCT	NOV	DEC
2013	84	90	91
2014	95	90	93

Formal Review Cases

	OCT	NOV	DEC
2013	66	68	58
2014	77	71	72

Cases Closed

	OCT	NOV	DEC
2013	444	499	474
2014	344	527	380

AG Cases

	OCT	NOV	DEC
2013	145	147	147
2014	215	210	223