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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.

Division of Professional Practices Workload Report

Introduction

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

Highlights from the December 2021 Statistics

The Commission's dashboard reports on six key measurements in line-graph form, showing both current year numbers as well as prior year numbers for comparison purposes.

The "Total Cases" are the number of open cases within DPP, including cases in the Intake Unit, before the Committee of Credentials (Committee), pending before the Commission, and pending an administrative hearing. At the end of December, the caseload was 2,438 and below the normal range of 2,600-2,800 cases (pre-COVID).

"Cases Opened" are new cases received during the month, from all sources, including criminal arrest notices, district reports, affidavits, and educators who self-report misconduct. Following the COVID-19 closures in March 2020, DPP received fewer reports of misconduct, which resulted in fewer cases being opened. As expected, staff has begun to open an increased number of cases due to an increased number of applications received. In December, staff opened 541 cases, which is above the normal range of 400-500 cases opened per month.

The "Initial Review" and "Formal Review" charts reflect the number of cases reviewed by the Committee at its normal three-day meeting in December. The two-step process is required by statute. The Committee reviewed fewer Initial Review cases in the past few months due to the overall decline of the DPP caseload. Staff expects Initial Review cases to return to 90 cases/month in the near future if reports of misconduct received return and stay at normal levels as schools reopen.

"Cases Closed" is the number of matters closed by Commission action, Committee action or closed by staff where the Commission has given formal delegation of authority (i.e., single alcohol offenses that do not involve schools, minors, or publicity). In December, 323 cases were closed, which is below the normal range of 400-500 cases per month.

"AG Cases" refer to cases in which an educator requests an administrative hearing to challenge the recommendation for discipline made by the Committee. An administrative hearing is an evidentiary proceeding where an administrative law judge hears and rules on the evidence. The Commission is represented in these hearings by the Office of the Attorney General (AG). The number of cases where the AG is representing the Commission is shown in the last graph. The number of cases currently at the administrative hearing stage is 163.

Workload Conclusion

DPP is committed to work that is critical to public service and the Commission's mission. DPP continues to maintain a steady case production, while at the same time ensuring quality case preparation for the Committee.

DPP Monthly Dashboard Reports

