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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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Division of Professional Practices Workload Report

Introduction

Updates on the Commission's Division of Professional Practices (DPP) workload are presented to the Commission to provide insight into the scope and level of work in the area of educator discipline. This report covers the period of October through December of 2023 in comparison to the same period last year.

Background

The Commission's dashboards report 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, DPPs caseload was at 2,880. With the current increase in application submissions, the data is trending toward a continued increase of workload in DPP.

"Cases Opened" are new cases opened during the month, from all sources, including criminal arrest notices, district reports, affidavits, and educators who self-report misconduct. While DPP opened 311 cases in December, the average number of cases opened through the first half of FY 2023-24 was 324.

The "Initial Review" and "Formal Review" charts reflect the number of cases reviewed by the Committee at its normal three-day meeting in December. This two-step review process is required by statute. The Initial Review cases in December totaled 77. While the goal is 90 cases at initial review each month, DPP continues to expect this number to fluctuate as cases move through the Committee process.

"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, 307 cases were closed, which is lower than the normal monthly average of 446, established in FY 2022-23.

"AG Cases" refers 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 179.

Next Steps

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

