

## Nevada Governor's Office of the Western Regional Education Compact

# for the

# Nevada Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

Commission Meeting Minutes February 15, 2019 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

In Attendance: Fred Lokken: Executive Commissioner, Nevada WICHE Dr. Gillian Barclay: WICHE Commissioner Arsenio Escudero, WICHE director Colleen Lennox, WICHE accountant technician 1

<u>Guests:</u>

Theodore Parento, WICHE, Health Care Access Program participant, Psychiatric Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, member of the public

- Call to order. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Lokken at 3:33 p.m. This meeting was posted in accordance with the State of Nevada's Open Meeting Law (OML). Fred acknowledged no legal counsel was present.
- 2. Public Comment. There was no public comment.

- Discussion, recommendations and action regarding the minutes from the February 7, 2019 Nevada WICHE Commission meeting. \*\*Minutes from this meeting are not completed due to staff resources available to prepare them timely for this meeting. DAG David Gardner and DAG Greg Ott notified on 2/11/19 via email.
- 4. Discussion recommendations and action regarding participant request for consideration by the Commission. Closed session per Nevada Revised Statute 241. (Attachment M & N) Request does not require a closed session per NRS 241. Conducted as an open session. Ted Parento waived his right to notice of meeting per NRS 241. Ted Parento requested of the Commission to forgive 1 month of his first year and all of the second year of service obligation to allow him to apply for Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) application for loan forgiveness, which is in conflict with WICHE service obligation. Arsenio discussed the draft spreadsheet of scenarios (Attachment M). The scenarios showed impacts to WICHE revenue, the loan portfolio. Colleen explained each impact in detail from attachment M.

Colleen researched every Commission meeting and recorded every student request of the Commission over the past 7 years (Attachment N). There was no 1 to 1 correlation or exact comparison found for this request. Each request was individual. Considered were Ted's work hours, NRS 397.0617, NRS 397.0685 and possible HCAP Grant conversion. For Ted to qualify for the HRSA loan forgiveness program, HRSA requires Ted's obligation to WICHE be complete by July 18, 2019.

The research referenced 2 previous relevant Commission decisions involving Commissioner Vic Redding and contingent options granted. The first scenario: If the Commission forgives the grant obligation entirely today without conversion allowing Ted to apply for HRSA and his application to HRSA is not accepted then Ted is obligated to WICHE again. This would require the participant to remain in contact with the WICHE office and provide documented proof of acceptance by HRSA. If HRSA accepts the participant's application, the Commission would write-off the grant obligation. The second scenario: If the Commission forgives the service obligation and has the agency track Ted's work time throughout the agreed grant obligation time to ensure the State is fully repaid. The Commission could choose either contingency or both. Discussion ensued regarding the 2 contingent plans, possibility of the work time plus overtime equaling the hours obligation of 1 year before 12 calendar months passed and relative statute. Staff administers the grant service time by the number of hours worked per 1 year of full-time work (2,080 hours), not by calendar year. Ted verified he is the only Psychiatric APRN on-call for the Department of Corrections for the entire state. Fred stated he did not see where the Commission had the authority to write-off the obligation in compliance with NRS 397.0685.

Fred takes issue with the lack of documentation for the number of hours worked. Stated the statute did not allow 1 month of service time be written off before 1 year of service was complete. Discussion of Ted's time of certification, licensure, service with the state and field for which Ted was funded, NRS 397.0617, 397.0685 paragraphs a and b. Fred interpreted NRS 397.0685 as applicable only to state employees.

Staff recommendation from director Escudero was to make no recommendation, because request did not comply with statute.

Gillian confirmed nationwide changes within HRSA as the source of change in compatibility of programs. HRSA requires completion of WICHE grant obligation before someone can apply to the HRSA program. Fred mentioned he would have a different opinion if this question were asked in August of 2019, after the 1-year minimum obligation required by NRS 397.0685 was met. Fred stated no action necessary on this item.

5. New Business: Propose future meeting dates. 39:24 Arsenio informed the Commission that he learned from the Budget Office that WICHE does not have to have a budget hearing, because the budget will be passed as it is. Fred has no update on the Bill Draft Request (BDR) regarding reversion, will check with prior WICHE director Lena Frias, for status.

Gillian mentioned the existence of a BDR to fund additional slots for Geriatric Nurse Practitioners. Colleen confirmed the BDR calls for WICHE to administer 10 more slots, Senate 121.

Arsenio informed the Commission that he had reached out to the Budget Office regarding the path of the reversion BDR and expected an answer within the next few days.

Commission requested to schedule meetings every two weeks through the end of Session and every other month thereafter.

- 6. Public comment:\* There was no public comment.
- **7.** Adjournment. Having no further business and receiving no public comment the meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.



## Nevada Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

Notice of Public Meeting April 28, 2015 1:30 p.m.

Nevada System of Higher Education Building 2601 Enterprise Rd., Main Conference Room Reno, Nevada 89512 For additional assistance, call (775) 784-3221

#### Via Videoconference:

Nevada System of Higher Education Building 4300 S. Maryland Pkwy., Room 101 Las Vegas, Nevada 89119 For additional assistance, call (702) 889-8426

	AGENDA	
1.	Call to order.	For Possible Action
2.	Public Comment*.	Information Only
3.	Discussion, recommendations and action regarding the minutes from the February 4, 2015 and April 1, 2015 commission meetings. Attachment #3	For Possible Action
4.	Discussion, recommendations and action regarding certification of Fiscal Year 2015 Health Care Access Program for Loan Repayment applicants in the fields of dentistry, mental health, and nursing. Attachment #4	For Possible Action
5.	Discussion, recommendations and action regarding veterinary medicine participant C. Roth's request for an extension on repayment of her student loan. Attachment #5	For Possible Action
6.	Discussion, recommendations and action regarding the appointment of two (2) Legislative Advisory Committee representatives from Nevada for Regional WICHE appointment. Attachment #6	For Possible Action

WICHE Agenda April 28, 2015

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	Fiscal reporting. Fiscal Year 2015 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter:	
	- CAIS Report	
	- Income Statement	
	- Aging Report	
	Accounts Receivable Report     Attachment #7	Information Only
8.	Discussion, recommendations and action regarding the proposed Health Care	
	Access Program (HCAP) Mental Health Expansion Project:	
	<ul> <li>Approve final matrix with the March 2015 approved nursing slots</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Review and determine possible loan repayment and percentage of</li> </ul>	
	repayment for nursing support	
	<ul> <li>Determine the length of required service in return for nursing support (2 nursing programs)</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Determine redistribution of the balance of funds in the event a</li> </ul>	
	participant withdraws from their program before its completion.	
_	Attachment #8	For Possible Action
9.	Discussion, recommendations and action regarding contingencies in the event of a revenue shortfall in Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017.	
	a revenue shortrail in Fiscal rears 2016 and 2017.	For Possible Action
10.	Discussion, recommendations and action regarding Nevada WICHE's policy for PSEP participants who choose to attend an in-state public higher education institution.	
	institution.	For Possible Action
11.	Director's Report.	
	<ul> <li>Review quarterly activities (AY2015 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter)</li> </ul>	
	- Website: Upcoming online applications	
	- Update on Mental Health Expansion Project	
	- Updates on SB76 and SB195	
	<ul> <li>Updates on SB76 and SB195</li> <li>Review meetings with the Governor's office regarding WICHE's transfer</li> </ul>	
		Information Only
12	<ul> <li>Review meetings with the Governor's office regarding WICHE's transfer Attachment #11</li> </ul>	Information Only
12.	<ul> <li>Review meetings with the Governor's office regarding WICHE's transfer Attachment #11</li> <li>New business.</li> </ul>	
12.	<ul> <li>Review meetings with the Governor's office regarding WICHE's transfer Attachment #11</li> </ul>	Information Only For Possible Action
12.	<ul> <li>Review meetings with the Governor's office regarding WICHE's transfer Attachment #11</li> <li>New business.</li> </ul>	

\*Public Comment Note: No vote or action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken (NRS 241.020). Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name. The Commission Chair may elect to allow additional public comment on a specific agenda item when that item is being considered (AB59, effective January 1, 2012).

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#### Nevada Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Commission Meeting Minutes for April 28, 2015 Disc 1, File #10

In Attendance:

Vic Redding – Executive Commissioner, Nevada WICHE Vance Farrow – Commissioner, Nevada WICHE Brian Mitchell – Education Fellow, Office of Governor Sandoval Greg Ott – Deputy Attorney General (DAG), Office of the Attorney General, State of Nevada Jeannine Warner – Director, Nevada WICHE Dana Westre – Accountant Technician, Nevada WICHE

- 1. Call to order. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Redding at 1:37 p.m.
- 2. Public comment. There was no public comment.
- Approval of Minutes from the February 4, 2015 and April 1, 2015 Commission meetings. The minutes were reviewed. Commissioner Farrow moved to approve the minutes as presented. Executive Commissioner Redding seconded. Motion approved.
- 4. Certification of Fiscal Year 2015 Health Care Access Program for Loan Repayment applicants in the fields of dentistry, mental health, and nursing. Ms. Warner stated all applicants were notified per Open Meeting Law requirements. Statute requires the Commission to certify applicants. It is the staff's recommendation to certify all applicants, as they meet statutory requirements for certification. Executive Commissioner Redding asked if all applicants can meet their service obligations. Ms. Warner answered, yes. He also asked about the number of applications received. Ms. Warner answered there are sufficient applicants to fill the number of slots. Commissioner Farrow moved to approve the certification list. Executive Commissioner Redding seconded. Motion approved.
- 5. Veterinary medicine participant C. Roth's request for an extension on repayment of her student loan. Ms. Warner stated the participant has been notified per Open Meeting Law requirements. The participant is requesting a loan modification due to financial hardship that is identified in the letter provided.

Ms. Roth's student loans consist of 70% of her current income. She is requesting a reduced payment forbearance. Because an extension will take her past the 10-year statutory timeframe to repay the loan, which is a conversion loan because she did not return to Nevada to fulfill the practice portion of her obligation, her request must be brought to the Commission. The request is to reduce the current \$1,260 monthly payments to \$810 per

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month, with annual increases of \$225. The terms are 103 months and are to be paid off by July 2023. She also pays \$225 on her regular student loan, so her total monthly payment will be \$1,035. She has been consistent in past payments and maintains good communication with staff. Staff is recommending approval of her request with the annual increases.

Executive Commission Redding asked if the principal is being reduced or are the terms for repayment just being stretched out. There is the delicate balance between collecting revenue and putting someone in the position of not paying at all. Ms. Warner answered the term for repayment is being extended only. Commissioner Farrow moved to allow Dr. Roth to extend her student loan payments over the period of the new terms in order to meet her obligations to the program. Executive Commissioner Redding seconded. Motion approved.

6. Appointment of two (2) Legislative Advisory Committee (LAC) representatives from Nevada for Regional WICHE appointment. Executive Commissioner Redding stated this is not a Nevada WICHE Commissioner slot but rather 2 designees to attend the annual LAC meeting in September to advise the WICHE program on agendas and issues. These slots do not have the same separation of power issue that Nevada WICHE had with the legislative commissioner. In fact, the requirement is to appoint 2 sitting legislators to the LAC.

Ms. Warner stated the regional office is updating the composition of their LAC list and they are asking the WICHE Commission for their consent in appointing the LAC members. The members are composed of state legislators from the 16 western states and territories, and their purpose is to strengthen state policy making in higher education in the west by engaging legislators in the discussion of higher education issues, and seeking their input in strategies for interstate collaboration. Each state is allotted 2 members, unless 1 or more of the WICHE commissioners from the state is a legislator, in which case they are allotted 3. The LAC members serve 2-year terms. Senator Debbie Smith is the latest to be appointed in 2013, however there is 1 vacancy. Regional is requesting either to reappoint Senator Smith and a 2<sup>nd</sup> LAC member, or appoint 2 new members. Executive Commissioner Redding stated, historically, Nevada has appointed 1 member from each house. The regional letter states, typically, the appointments are from each house, but it is not required.

A list of options was provided to the Commission. Executive Commissioner Redding stated the list contains representatives from the education and the money committees. However, in no way is that the list we have to choose from. He suggested Senator Joseph Hardy, who is not on the list. Commissioner Farrow asked if Executive Commissioner Redding has discussed this with Senator Hardy. Executive Commissioner Redding answered Senator Hardy would be willing to serve if nominated. Commissioner Farrow asked if Senator Smith is willing to return as a member. Executive Commissioner Redding answered he has not spoken to her. Commissioner Farrow recommended submitting Senator Hardy's and Senator Smith's names. That will represent both northern and southern Nevada. An alternate is also needed. Executive Commissioner Redding recommended Senator Hickey. Commissioner Farrow agreed. Executive Commissioner

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Redding moved to reappoint Senator Smith, appoint Senator Hardy, and designate Assemblyman Hickey as an alternate. Commissioner Farrow seconded. Motion approved.

7. Fiscal Reporting. Fiscal Year 2015 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter CAIS, Income Statement, Aging and Accounts Receivable Reports. Ms. Westre stated fiscal reporting for the quarter contained no unusual information to report. There will be future discussions about the personnel and travel portions of the budget. Executive Commissioner Redding stated the NSHE office has a different pay cycle than the rest of state government. NSHE pays the last payroll of the current fiscal year on the first day of next fiscal year on a rolling basis. WICHE needs to pay the last payroll on the last day of the current fiscal year because on July 1, 2015, if either the Governor's budget or SB195 or both pass this spring, there will be no range of accounts at NSHE to pay June payroll. The \$14,606.42 uncommitted balance in the Administration Account CAIS report will be brought down significantly when the extra payroll needs to be paid in June of FY2015.

Ms. Westre stated the Income Statement contains the projected potential reversion amount. The Aging Report reflects accounts in 1-3 months delinquency status, which are converted grant loans due to unfulfilled practice obligations. There may be difficulty obtaining payment on a couple of those, just as it was difficult to obtain the practice obligation forms from the participants. All efforts will be made to avoid collection status.

There were no questions on the remaining reports provided.

8. Proposed Health Care Access Program (HCAP) Mental Health Expansion Project: approve final matrix; determine possible loan repayment and percentage of repayment for nursing support; determine the length of required service in return for nursing support for the 2 nursing programs; and, determine redistribution of the balance of funds in the event a participant withdraws from their program before its completion. Ms. Warner stated the first item for Commission approval is the final FY2016-2017 programs matrix, which includes the March 2015 approved nursing slots. The matrix was provided for the Commission to approve \$1,104,450 for FY2016, and \$1,140.744 for FY2017. Staff requested final approval of the matrix. Commissioner Farrow moved to approve the matrix as presented. Executive Commissioner Redding seconded. Motion approved.

The second item is a possible loan repayment, including the percentage of the loan repayment, for the nursing slots. Nursing is an HCAP field, and historically there has been a 10% payback for the tuition assistance program. The purpose for the payback is to help reduce the amount of General Fund request and help support cash flow. Does the Commission want to apply the 10% payback for the psychiatric nursing slots?

Executive Commissioner Redding stated that psychiatric and regular nurses are close to the same category, so the precedent is set. However, he has concern because a lot of dollars were taken from the traditional program that has a repayment provision and were moved from to the mental health internships. There will be no repayment provision for the internship slots, so our revenue streams have already been reduced. He is leery of doing

that again. Commissioner Farrow agreed and had no objection to the payback requirement. Executive Commissioner Redding stated if staff discovers it is difficult to recruit with the payback requirement, then the Commission can take a different approach. Commissioner Farrow moved to apply the 10% payback requirement on the psychiatric nursing slots. Executive Commissioner Redding seconded. Motion approved.

Next, Ms. Warner stated the length of service in return for nursing support for the 2 individual nursing programs also requires Commission approval. The Commission previously indicated they were interested in a service requirement. The current requirement is 1 year of service for 1 year of funding with a statutory maximum of 2 years with an underserved population. The staff recommendation is 1 year for 1 year for the nursing coursework slots, and for the RN-to-APRN slots a 2 year service requirement for 2 years of funding. To meet the underserved requirement, both program's participants will be required to work in a facility where their new skills can be applied. Commissioner Farrow moved to approve the service requirement as recommended by staff. Executive Commissioner Redding seconded. Motion approved.

Ms. Warner stated the last section for Commission approval is how to determine redistribution of funds in the case a participant withdraws from the program before completion. For example, if a nurse quits half way through the first year or if a psychiatric intern leaves half way through their program, what should be done with the remaining funds? For the nursing program, the funds can be reallocated to another student. However, in the psychiatric internship program that is not an option. Another intern cannot come in half way through the program. Another option is to redistribute the funds among the remaining participants.

Executive Commissioner Redding stated he agrees nursing funds could be utilized to fund another applicant. However, if the funds are distributed amongst the remaining students, does that put the support fee amount over the maximum per slot? Ms. Warner stated that it has been done in the past, so the precedent is there. Executive Commissioner Redding stated he struggles with that option for the psychiatric internship slots. If one drops and the slot's remaining funds are utilized to distribute amongst the remaining interns, that amount is a large amount of funding to be spread among the remaining participants, which is a big difference from the initial slot funding amount. Commissioner Farrow asked if the Commission has the lateral movement to move the funds into other fields that might need funds. Ms. Warner answered IFC approval would be needed. In the past, the funds have remained in the field as approved in the matrix.

Executive Commissioner Redding stated it is too difficult to determine this scenario at this time, and it would be best to look at instances case by case, should one occur.

9. Contingencies in the event of a revenue shortfall in Fiscal Years 2016-2017. Ms. Warner stated this is a continuation of the March 2015 discussion of the potential cash flow shortage, in which the Commission recommended that all unexpended funds be balanced forward for the upcoming 2016-2017 Letter of Intent. The request is currently under consideration.

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> The payment procedure for programs is to fund as cash comes in. PSEP slots are funded with General Fund, balance forward funds, and cash receipts to date in the second quarter of the fiscal year. HCAP slots are funded as cash receipts come in, and Loan Repayment slots are funded with the remaining cash receipts for the year.

> Given the structure of the new mental health program, there is a proposed revision to funding programs to avoid not going over budget by the end of the fiscal year. The 1st option is within the Letter of Intent under consideration to balance forward all unused revenue needed to fill slots from the previous year. This may or may not be enough. The 2nd option is to leave PSEP slots open until the revenue comes in. For example currently 1 veterinary medicine slot is being left open; 4 slots are approved but 3 will be filled until it is determined sufficient revenue will come in. A payoff of \$70,000 is expected in July, but if that payoff is not received the program will be short about \$43,000. If the payoff does come in, the slot may be filled. The 3<sup>rd</sup> option is to offer lower ranked students year-to-year funding only, as there is a possibility their funding will be short for their remaining school years. The 4<sup>th</sup> option is to merge the Administration and Loan & Stipend Budgets; however, the benefit of that is minimal.

Executive Commissioner Redding asked what the budget analyst says about going to IFC if the revenues do not come in. That is the reason that fund exists, and he does not like the idea of disadvantaging students because of program cash flow issues. This is not different than any other account that is funded by General Fund and non-general funds at the state level. If revenues do not come in and money has to be spent in November, it certainly puts the business practices under the spotlight to prove that all revenue is being sought after. However, he is completely comfortable that the problems that existed 7 or 8 years ago no longer exist, so the program can stand up to that scrutiny. This is a much better option than disadvantaging the students. He hesitates to leave slots open, as well, because it causes a struggle for students. Commissioner Farrow stated what potentially happens is the scramble to replace those funds may not yield enough for that student to continue school, and that creates the situation where the student will default on loans because they cannot complete their degree. He has seen that happen and it is a terrible situation.

Executive Commissioner Redding stated nothing needs to be done today for Fiscal Years 2016-2017. Ms. Westre asked will the veterinary medicine slot be held open. Ms. Warner stated that is how it has been done over the last 10 years. Ms. Westre added the payoff projections are conservatively projected, and hopefully the payoffs will come in at the level they have over the last 3 years. However, there is no crystal ball and anything can happen with payoff projections. She asked Ms. Warner if there is a problem holding the veterinary medicine slot until later in the year. Ms. Warner answered no, Regional can fund the 4th student when the funding is secured.

Executive Commissioner Redding stated it makes sense to keep doing current practices through Fiscal Year 2016, and consider going to the Contingency Fund if the need arises. Commissioner Farrow agreed.

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- 10. Nevada WICHE's policy for PSEP participants who choose to attend an in-state public higher education institution. Ms. Warner stated a shift occurred with the physical therapy funding under the HCAP program, which funded students only at UNLV, to the PSEP program where students have access to all PSEP-participating schools. UNLV is one of those PSEP schools. Currently, any Nevada resident can apply for PSEP physical therapy funding and receive the PSEP funds, which includes UNLV. This is an unusual situation which causes double-dipping. Executive Commissioner Redding stated under the PSEP program it would be double-dipping and circumvents the intent of the PSEP program to provide in-state tuition rates to students who go to school out of state. He would support a policy to disallow the use of Nevada PSEP funds for in-state public schools. Commissioner Farrow agreed. Executive Commissioner Redding moved that Nevada WICHE's revised policy on PSEP students be that those funds are not available for in-state public higher education. Commissioner Farrow seconded. Motion approved.
- 11. **Directors Report.** The quarterly Director activities were presented to the Commission. There were no questions.

Ms. Warner announced on-line applications will be available soon on the new Nevada WICHE website. She noted that applications previously required social security numbers. However, in the interest of protecting personal information sent via email, the application has been revised and that sensitive information was transferred to an alternate form that will be printed, signed and mailed as part of the application process. Ms. Westre stated a portion of the project will be completed by June 30, 2015 and the remainder by the end of July 2015.

Ms. Warner stated the nursing mental health expansion project applications will be sent out this week to target markets. Applicants will be certified, and the selection process will be June 2015. Funding for mental health slots will be early July 2105, as the psychology internships and nursing program start August 2015. The internship program is getting ready for the accreditation process. According to Dr. Gilden, the NV-PIC coordinator, all 4 of the NV-PIC sites have been matched with their first choice candidates for doctoral interns in the first phase of the national psychology match process. This is a remarkable feat for an internship program, especially one that is new, and this speaks to the work of the training committee and the efforts they put in to develop a quality training program, as well as begin the application for the Association of Psychology Post Doctoral and Internship Centers and APA accreditation. Commissioner Farrow asked how long the accreditation process will take. Ms. Warner answered 1 year, so the students who come out of this first year should come from an accredited program.

Ms. Warner stated SB76 was approved in the Senate as "amend and do pass." It is currently exempt and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. The bill will have to pass if the mental health slots and the new budget are to be implemented. Senate Finance has been notified of the situation. Executive Commissioner Redding asked if SB76 does

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not pass, will the mental health internships not be funded in August? Ms. Warner answered it could, but the interns would be required to be Nevada residents.

Ms. Warner stated SB195 was approved on the Senate floor as "amend and do pass" on April 15, 2015. It is scheduled for tomorrow's Assembly hearing. Ms. Warner, Brian Mitchell of the Governor's office, and Constance Brooks of NSHE will attend.

Executive Commissioner Redding stated he was talking with LCB staff about the LOI, and two things were to be accomplished in the letter. The first was to remove the restriction that the balance forward funds only be used for the HCAP program. That will not be a problem and that language will be removed. The issue is the concept of the balance forward of all remaining funds, if that is even done in an LOI. The LOI is not to be used for permanent structural issues that should be handled in legislation, but to be used for unique, one-time circumstances. There is also concern that this is a backdoor creation of a permanent reserve fund, which is exactly what the intent was. He did not feel that section of the LOI will be well received.

Ms. Warner stated at the April 1, 2015 meeting, Executive Commissioner Redding gave a summary of the March 24, 2015 meeting with Mr. Willden and Mr. Mitchell regarding the Governor's support for the transfer of WICHE to his staff. A meeting was held today, should SB195 pass, to begin talking about potential office locations. There are a few locations suitable for the program. Mr. Mitchell stated that after the meeting today, he did some digging around and, depending on what happens with shuffling around of other state agencies, the Governor's office may be able to find space within the capital complex. He will keep staff notified. He added if that falls through, the option to temporarily utilize the NSHE space may be necessary until permanent space is located.

- New Business. Executive Commissioner Redding stated unless there is something pressing an early to late June meeting should be sufficient. Ms. Warner stated an early June meeting is needed for nursing applications certification. An early June meeting will be scheduled.
- 13. Public Comment. There was no public comment.
- 14. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

# Cheryl Roth, DVM, DABVP, DAAPM

20744 Gemini Trail • Lakeville, MN 55044• Phone: 952-985-7099 E-Mail: DrCRoth@gmail.com

November 20, 2014

ų,

WICHE 2601 Enterprise Road Reno, Nevada 89512-1666 dana\_westrc@nshe.nevada.edu

Dear Ms. Dana Westre:

I am writing to request help in managing the payback of my WICHE student loans. I am currently paying back on \$130,000 of loans at \$1,810/month. We have been trying very hard to make these payments every month; however, they have proven to be a significant financial burden. I am working part time as a relief emergency veterinarian in Minnesota. I average about \$3000/month in income and have an additional \$276/month in federal loans; therefore, my monthly student loan payments are 70% of my income. I work only those shifts that my husband is not working so that we can avoid childcare expenses. I cannot afford to work full time because the added cost of childcare for our 3 children would result in a negative income after paying my student loans.

I don't know what my options might be, but desperately need to cut my monthly payments back some. Thank you for your help in this matter. I may be reached by mail, email or phone as noted above.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Roth, DVM, DABVP, DAAPM

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### Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

### Notice of Public Meeting February 19, 2014 3:00 p.m.

Information: (775) 784-3221

Via video conference:

University of Nevada School of Medicine 1664 N. Virginia Street, Reno, NV 89557 Whittemore Peterson Institute Center for Molecular Medicine, Room 113 Nevada System for Higher Education 5550 W. Flamingo Road, Suite C-1, Las Vegas, NV 89103

	AGENDA		
1.	Call to order.	For Possible Action	
2.	Public Comment*.	Information Only	
3.	Discussion, recommendation, and action regarding authorization for Nevada to participate in the Regional WICHE's State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (W-SARA) pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 397.060.	For Possible Action	
4.	Presentation on Project ECHO and Nevada Health Service Corps - Dr. Evan Klass, University of Nevada School of Medicine.	Information Only	
5.	Review and approval of the minutes for July 15, 2013, and October 30, 2013.	For Possible Action	

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6.	Discussion, recommendations, and action regarding certification of Fiscal Year 2014 alternate applicant in the field of physician assistant.	For Possible Action
7.	Discussion, recommendations, and action regarding Fiscal Year 2014 graduate nursing: determine number of slots to be funded and amount of funding based on applicant pool.	For Possible Action
8.)	Discussion, recommendation and action regarding dental participant Peter Smith's request for practice extension to complete service obligation.	For Possible Action
9.	Fiscal Reporting: - CAIS report (Administration Budget) - Aging report - Income Statement - Accounts Receivable report	Information Only
10.	Director's Report: - Status of physician assistant's extension to obtain licensure (ref: July 2013 meeting) - State health care pipeline collaboration - Calendar of activities	Information Only
11.	Discussion, recommendation, and action regarding Graduate Medical Education (GME) and the potential expansion of slots in Nevada.	For Possible Action
12.	Discussion, recommendations, and action regarding 2015-2017 Loan & Stipend (Programs) Budget to determine fields, slots and support fees based on future educational and health care needs of the state.	For Possible Action
13.	Discussion, recommendations, and action regarding the Regional WICHE and Nevada State College collaboration for a proposed on-campus community health center.	For Possible Action
14.	Discussion, recommendations, and action regarding public workshop to solicit comments on proposed regulation language pertaining to Nevada Administrative Code 397.	For Possible Action
15.	Discussion, recommendations, and action regarding whether or not to direct staff to draft a Bill Draft Request for the purpose of addressing programmatic inconsistencies in Nevada Revised Statute 397.	For Possible Action

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16.	New business. - Proposed future meeting dates - Proposed future agenda items	For Possible Action
17.	Public comment*.	Information Only
18.	Adjournment.	For Possible Action

\*Public Comment Note: No vote or action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken (NRS 241.020). Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name. The Commission Chair may elect to allow additional public comment on a specific agenda item when that item is being considered (AB59, effective January 1, 2012).

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education may address agenda items out of sequence to accommodate persons appearing before the Commission or to aid the efficiency or effectiveness of the meeting. The Commission may combine two or more agenda items for consideration; remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time (AB 59); and, convene in closed session to consider the character, alleged misconduct, professional competence or physical or mental health of a person (NRS 241.030).

This agenda has been sent to all interested persons who have requested an agenda from the Commission. Persons who wish to continue to receive an agenda and notice must request so in writing on an annual basis. Anyone desiring additional information regarding the meeting and or supporting documents is invited to contact Dana at the Commission office at (775) 784-4900, or at 2601 Enterprise Rd., Reno, NV 89512. We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. Requests for special arrangements made after this time frame cannot be guaranteed.

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### THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED

#### IN THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

NSHE	NSHE	Office of the Attorney General
2601 Enterprise Road	5550 W. Flamingo Rd. #C-1	5420 Kietzke Lane, Ste 202
Reno, Nevada 89512	Las Vegas, NV 89103	Reno, NV 89511
Washoe County Courthouse	United State Post Office	Grant Sawyer Building
75 Court Street	2000 Vasser Street	555 E. Washington Avenue
Reno, Nevada	Reno, Nevada	Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
	Nevada WICHE www.nevada.edu/wiche	

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> State of Nevada Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Commission Meeting Minutes for February 19, 2014 Disc #2, File #36

In Attendance:

Vic Redding – Executive Commissioner, Nevada WICHE Vance Farrow – Commissioner, Nevada WICHE Joseph Hardy – Commissioner, Nevada WICHE Jeannine Warner – Director, Nevada WICHE Dana Westre – Accountant Technician, Nevada WICHE Carrie Parker – Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General Crystal Abba – Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Brooke Nielsen – Vice Chancellor, Legal Affairs, Nevada System of Higher Education Allison Combs – Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Director of Public Policy Andrea Gregg – Executive Director, University of Nevada School of Medicine, Area Health

Education Center (AHEC)

- Call to order and introduction of guests. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Redding at 3:02 p.m. Crystal Abba, Brooke Nielsen, Allison Combs, and Andrea Gregg introduced themselves and were welcomed to the meeting by the Commission and staff.
- 2. Public comment. There was no public comment.
- 3. Discussion, recommendation and action regarding authorization for Nevada to participate in the Regional WICHE's State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (W-SARA) pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 397.060. Commissioner Redding read the following disclosure: "I will be participating in this discussion as well as voting. The agreement discussed in this item has the potential to impact my employer, the Nevada System for Higher Education (NSHE), if approved. I have discussed this with legal counsel and want to note that I will not receive any direct or indirect benefit from this agreement; nor will I or anyone on my staff be personally impacted should this be approved, no more or less than any other employee of NSHE would be impacted."

Ms. Abba presented information regarding the regional WICHE State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). She began by stating that in October 2010, the U.S. Department of Education issued program integrity rules essentially requiring institutions of higher education to comply with state authorization rules regarding distance education programs. What the federal government was saying to higher education institutions at that time was all institutions of higher education that want to participate in Title IV federal financial aid programs must meet the state authorization requirements in any state where they are serving students. That means, for example, for any institution, if just serving one Page 2 of 16 State of Nevada WICHE Commission Meeting Wednesday, February 19, 2014

student in the state of South Dakota, the institution must be authorized in the state of South Dakota. This is onerous on institutions because the authorization requirements vary significantly, not only in cost but in what regulatory thresholds have to be met by the state. Institutions as large as the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) serving students in many states have a full time position for monitoring authorization requirements in the states in which they are serving students and are paying state authorization fees that exceed \$100,000.00. In 2010, when the U.S. Department of Education issued the program integrity rules, they were actually thrown out. After an appeals court upheld the lower court position to overturn the rule the U.S. Department of Education said it does not matter: as institutions you still have to follow the laws that are in the books in every state in the union. It was at that time, going back to 2010-2011, that WICHE and the other regional compact states began to have discussions about a state reciprocity agreement, which is why NSHE is presenting today.

Information provided to the Commission was reviewed. Ms. Abba continued by directing the Commission to page four; the legislation that was passed in the 2013 session of the Nevada State Legislature that authorized the Nevada WICHE Commission to opt Nevada in to the SARA. She thanked Senator/Commissioner loc Hardy as he was very supportive during this process in the legislative session. Senate Bill 446 provides that the WICHE commission may opt the State of Nevada in to the WICHE SARA, the WICHE SARA then, through a national council will be coordinated with the other regional compacts across the nation, which includes the Midwestern Higher education compact, the New England Compact and the Southern Regional Educational Board, so that if North Dakota as example, could opt in to their regional compact, and once they have opted in gets unified through the national council. Ms. Abba requested that under the authority of SB446, that the Commission opt Nevada in to the regional WICHE SARA; opt then individual institutions will make the determination whether they opt in, and they will pay a fee through WICHE that is based on their relative size. Once an institution opts in for those states that are participating they will no longer have to seek authorization in those states. One of the extreme benefits of the reciprocity agreements is high quality, cost effective and consistently applied standards. WICHE has been very clear in that certain consumer protections have to be in place to protect students. The Board of Regents will be approached in March to take the last step in establishing an appeals process for student complaints. This also involves the Commission on Postsecondary Education (CPE), which is the entity in this state that licenses private institutions, NSHE has had conversations with the CPE throughout this process and they have a stringent student complaint process in place now. NSHE institutions have institution level complaint processes. They are in the process of putting together an appeals process for the system level. One final piece is a portal agency must be identified for Nevada to participate in the WICHE SARA. A portal agency is necessary depending on the state you are in. In Nevada there are 2 entities, the entity for the private institutions and the entity for the public institutions, which is NSHE. but in other states there are multiple agencies that authorize various institutions to participate in distant education programs or in standard face to face programs. WICHE is requesting is that one agency be designated as the portal agency, and as the portal agency students who come to them first will then be referred, should they have a complaint that is not addressed through the institutional complaint process. It would then be referred either

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> to their office for appeal if it is from a public institution or if it is a private institution we would refer it to the CPE. They are in the process of developing a memorandum of understanding with the CPE that provides that any complaint that you would have dealt with otherwise will be dealt with under the reciprocity agreement. It puts that in writing so there is no confusion. The application requires a signature from each of the commissioners. This document is the state application that we will submit to WICHE. Again, this provides for state membership so that Nevada would be opted in to the WICHE SARA and have the benefits of the national agreement through the other agreement compact. We attended a conference in Denver in December that WICHE hosted. There are four states that are ready to opt in now, including Nevada. They anticipate by the end of the year that will be up to cight or nine. In each region it varies, but they hope by the end of the first three years at least two thirds of the United States will be signed on. For institutions like UNLV that are currently actively serving students in over twenty-six states it will significantly alleviate that administrative burden and cost of seeking authorization in every state in which they serve students. Ms. Abba requested of the Nevada WICHE Commission to opt Nevada in to the WICHE SARA and to designate NSHE as the portal agency for the purpose of SARA participation. Commissioner Redding asked if the fees that an institution will pay to participate are paid to Regional WICHE, not Nevada WICHE. Ms. Abba answered correct. Commissioner Redding asked this opens the door for all the institutions in the state, privates as well as NSHE, but the privates would stop first at the Commission for Post-Secondary Education and then come through this process? Ms. Abba answered once we have opted in as state, individual institutions will be able to opt in. Commissioner Farrow asked how long the process takes. Ms. Abba answered a couple of weeks. There will first be a review process and Regional WICHE will check off on the evaluation areas.

> Commissioner Hardy moved to opt in as a state and identify the portal agency as NSHE. Commissioner Farrow seconded. Approved.

- Presentation of Project ECHO and Nevada Health Service Corps Dr. Evan Klass, University of Nevada School of Medicine. Dr. Klass was unable to attend. Agenda item 4 tabled.
- 5. Review and approval of the minutes for July 15, 2013, and October 30, 2013. Ms. Warner stated a correction has been made to the October 30, 2013, meeting minutes. Under item #10, the original number was stated as 90 and has been amended to 60. Commissioner Farrow moved to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Hardy seconded. Approved.
- 6. Discussion, recommendations, and action regarding certification of Fiscal Year 2014 alternate applicant in the field of physician assistant. Ms. Warner stated there is one alternate applicant on the list, and the applicant was notified per Open Meeting Law (OML) requirements. There were no questions. Commissioner Hardy moved to approve the applicant list. Commissioner Farrow seconded. Approved.
- 7. Discussion, recommendations, and action regarding Fiscal Year 2014 graduate nursing; determine number of slots to be funded and amount of funding based on

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8.

applicant pool. Ms. Warner stated the Legislature had approved 3 graduate level nursing slots, 2 at the master's level and 1 at the doctoral level, for the Fiscal Year 2014 disbursement period with a total support fee of \$9,900. However, WICHE received 5 doctoral level applications and 0 master's level applications. The Commission was provided 3 options: Fund 1 doctorate slot at \$5,100, which would result in a reversion of \$4,800; fund 2 doctorate slots at \$4,950 each with no reversion; or, fund 3 doctorate slots at \$3,300 each with no reversion.

Commissioner Redding asked if the Commission is to decide how to allocate those funds. At times, the support fee amounts are not adequate to influence a recipient's behavior. Will \$3,300 be sufficient? Ms. Warner answered if the slots are funded at \$3,300, then all 3 will be filled, and the applicants would most likely be happy to receive this amount rather than receive no funding at all. If an applicant is not interested in the selected amount, alternates can be contacted. Commissioner Hardy asked if it is legal for WICHE to allocate the funds in this manner, according to legislative direction. Ms. Warner stated as long as \$9,900 or 3 slots is not exceeded, there is flexibility to make such an adjustment.

Commissioner Hardy stated he likes the idea of filling all of the slots; otherwise, the impression is they are not needed. Commissioner Farrow agreed. Ms. Warner asked, if the situation occurs where all 5 applicants decline the lower amount, does the Commission have an alternate option? It was decided to fill 2 slots at \$4,950 as an alternate solution. Commissioner Hardy moved to fund 3 doctorate slots at \$3,300 each, with the alternate option of 2 doctorate slots at \$4,950 each. Commissioner Farrow seconded, Approved.

Discussion, recommendations, and action regarding dental participant Peter Smith's request for practice extension to complete service obligation. The participant's request letter was reviewed. Ms. Warner stated the participant has been notified per Open Meeting Law (OML) requirements. She explained that Dr. Smith graduated in 2009 as a specialist in periodontics. He delayed obtaining employment in Nevada and has requested an extension to complete his practice obligation. His proposal is to start a business in Pahrump, as his research revealed there are no periodontists in Pahrump and he would be fulfilling the HCAP underserved requirement.

Commissioner Redding asked what, specifically, is the participant asking the Commission to approve? Ms. Warner answered he was not specific, and she made a recommendation: allow 12 months to obtain licensure, which he is in the process of completing, and allow time to relocate and establish a business. It will then take 2 years to complete his practice obligation. This timeline would begin as of today's date and would allow him 3 years to complete the obligation. Commissioner Hardy stated people in Pahrump will be cestatic to have him there, and people from Las Vegas would go to Pahrump for his services. The Commission agreed that it will take time for licensure and to get a business established.

Commissioner Redding requested Dr. Smith inform staff as he meets each of these timelines. Commissioner Hardy moved for approval of the request with the timeline as follows: obtain licensure by the end of calendar year 2014; establish a full time practice in

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Pahrump in 2015; and, complete his practice obligation in 2017, Commissioner Farrow seconded. Approved.

 Fiscal Reporting: CAIS report (Administration Budget); Aging report; Income Statement; Accounts Receivable report. Commissioner Redding asked Ms. Westre to report on the revenue standings for fiscal year 2014. Ms. Westre stated the Programs budget reflects an anticipated overage due to recent grant conversions to loan status, as well as payoffs and extra payments. The reversion at this time for Fiscal Year 2014 is approximately \$95,000.

Commissioner Redding stated this is a topic the Commission will want to look at in the bill draft request (BDR). The WICHE program has always operated under feast or famine. If a shortage in revenue occurs, there is not sufficient money to fund all the slots. If payoffs or other unexpected windfalls occur, the authority is not there to spend that money beyond the very narrow window for payments received after May 15<sup>th</sup>. Those funds are forwarded to the next fiscal year. He suggested an agenda item for the April commission meeting to discuss additional flexibility needed from the Legislature to avoid reversion of funds one year, which results in a request for additional funds at the next session. It was agreed by the Commission.

10. Director's Report: Status of physician assistant's extension to obtain licensure (ref: July 2013 meeting); state health care pipeline collaboration; calendar of activities. Ms. Warner shared a developing collaboration among three other organizations: Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), the Nevada Health Service Corp (NHSC), and SERV-NV, which is under the State of Nevada Mental Health and Developmental Services. She stated a pipeline for the sustainability of healthcare practitioners in Nevada has emerged.

AHEC educates and promotes K-12 students on health care occupations, so the K-12 population is being reached. After high school, WICHE offers tuition assistance programs for support at the collegiate level. After college and once in the workforce, there is the loan repayment program through both WICHE and the NHSC for practitioners who want to work with the underserved populations. In summary, there is AHEC for K-12, WICHE at the collegiate level, NHSC and WICHE at the post graduate practitioner level and following that, after service is completed, participants can commit to Nevada under the SERV-NV program. Along the entire healthcare employment line, the collaboration offers resources to aid in the recruitment and retention of healthcare practitioners in Nevada.

Ms. Warner introduced Andrea Gregg from AHEC and thanked her for her assistance with the recent Health Care Access Program (HCAP) interviews. Ms. Gregg stated she is the Director of High Sierra AHEC, which is a nationwide organization with the sole intention to prime the healthcare workforce pipeline by peaking interest for healthcare careers. AHEC works predominantly with middle and high school age students, and is ready to expand the reach to the elementary school age students. Children at that grade level start to think about what career they may want to choose. AHEC offers hands on experiences and provides innovative ways to expose the children to healthcare careers. Ms. Gregg added it Page 6 of 16 State of Nevada WICHE Commission Meeting Wednesday, February 19, 2014

is very nice to be a part of WICHE because the collaboration allows direct access to students throughout the state. AHEC predominantly serves the underserved/underrepresented minorities, which is very much in line with WICHE's focus on rural and underserved populations.

AHEC is working on a mapping project to identify all rural Nevada schools, as well as the school counselors and science teachers, to determine what they offer each year from a career exploration standpoint. It may be a career fair or a health fair, and AHEC can be represented as healthcare career access. Presentations for these levels are being drafted for in-classroom use. And with WICHE as that next step in their education and the direct connection with Ms. Warner at WICHE, as Andrea goes out to keep our mission alive of healthcare recruitment at the high school level, she can include WICHE and raise awareness about its programs.

Ms. Gregg continued and stated AHEC has the Healthcare Career Manual, which is a collaboration with Dr. John Packham. The book is updated every other year and is a vital resource. A page can be added about WICHE, NHSC, and some of the other programs which will continue to take students along this workforce path.

Commissioner Redding thanked Ms. Gregg for her time and expertise during the WICHE HCAP interviews. He asked Ms. Gregg if AHEC is statewide. Ms. Gregg answered no, that due to funding cuts about three years ago the center in Las Vegas was closed and despite attempts has not been recovered. There are Elko and Reno locations. Not a lot of focus is placed on Clark County because it is so vast with many services.

Ms. Warner reported back to the Commission on additional information related to the July 2013 commission meeting involving a physician assistant participant who did not pass the boards. Notices were sent to the participant in September 2013 asking for licensure status. No response was received. Per procedure, the stipend has been converted to loan status with payments to begin next month.

Ms. Warner's calendar of activities was presented. There were no questions.

11. Discussion, recommendations, and action regarding Graduate Medical Education (GME) and the potential expansion of slots in Nevada. Commissioner Redding stated this discussion will be the beginning of the biennial budget request, starting with a followup to a discussion from the last meeting involving Graduate Medical Education (GME) and the potential expansion of slots in Nevada.

Ms. Warner stated there is great demand for GMEs in the state, and there is a severe shortage of primary care physicians. She stated a 77% increase in residencies is needed in the state by the year 2030, and the state is attempting to address this issue. Residencies are funded at \$100,000 per year per resident. She would like to discuss allopathic and osteopathic medicine and how WICHE can assist the state in meeting the shortage.

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Commissioner Hardy stated the need is not just for primary care but also for general surgery, internal medicine, and emergency medicine. The problem with general surgery is they go to the specialties. If the Commission were to focus its efforts on the classics in primary care, such as general surgery, internal medicine, family practice, pediatries and obstetrics & gynecology, WICHE may be to get some traction as to what it can do. WICHE wants to recognize that GME is where to train and retain the physicians that are going to 1) replace the retiring physicians, and 2) address the natural growth of the population as well as 3) the impacts of Affordable Care Act. These forces are going to put Nevada in arrears as far as getting doctors into the state. To keep the status quo, there needs to be far more residency slots in Nevada than the state has now. What is it WICHE can do to get these residency slots?

Another aspect of this is the governor's office has also mentioned its desire to incentivize residencies. What WICHE could do is acknowledge that not only does the Commission recognize the need, but it would be willing to use its budget to augment the increase in residency slots. Traditionally, there are allopathic residency slots in the University of Nevada School of Medicine. Allopath or osteopath residents can obtain those slots. The advantage of osteopathic residency slots is something can get going fairly quickly. However, the commission needs to be open-minded, and give a message to the governor through Commissioner Farrow and GOED that WICHE is willing to be a participant or an option for residency slots for consideration, particularly in underserved areas. The language could be, "The Commission would like to explore in what manner WICHE can be involved with rural west, Clark County, and similar areas." This is how to declare that WICHE wants to be part of the solution, and wants to use its budget if that is what it takes to have residency slots expanded and continue mission to serve underserved populations, whether rural or urban facilities taking care of Medicaid people.

Commissioner Redding stated he did not realize there was a difference between osteopathic and allopathic residency slots. Commissioner Hardy stated osteopath programs can only accept osteopaths; however, allopath programs can accept either one. Valley Hospital has a residency program which is all osteopaths, and there are also different fellowships which are osteopathic. In 1997, the number of residency slots was capped and, therefore, the facilities that already had residencies could not increase their numbers unless another state gave theirs up. The total numbers have been capped unless a new program is started. A new program has to go through a Byzantine approval process on the allopathic side, but on the osteopathic side there is a decrease in bureaucratic hoops to go through which makes it a more attractive offer to get residencies more expeditiously.

Commissioner Hardy state what can be done is let it be known WICHE is available and if they want to use WICHE, for instance for a loan repayment program if the participant enters this specific residency in this specific place. Almost every residency programs have been receptive to a loan repayment program if the goal is for doctors to remain in or come to your state. If WICHE had a suggestion for loan repayment or for time served in a needed area, it is in position to do that. Commissioner Redding asked will the loan repayment program be one in which the resident participates after they complete their residency and stay in state, or while they are in their residency? Commissioner Hardy answered both. Page 8 of 16 State of Nevada WICHE Commission Meeting Wednesday, February 19, 2014

Commissioner Farrow stated there are a few ongoing conversations regarding where to identify the supporting funds, and what kind of ideas are out there in terms of loan repayment and running costs to assist the development and expansion of residency programs throughout the state. As those conversations mature, having representation from WICHE commission will be important. Then, to be able to stand up and hold that torch for when those funds are made available, to be the fiduciary agent for satisfying those loan repayment options by utilizing the pool of funds that will be made available would be really good for the Commission to do.

Ms. Warner brought to the Commission's attention that the National Health Service Corp. (NHSC) funds in both osteopathic doctors (ODs) and allopathic doctors (MDs) via loan repayment, and they have a requirement to work in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA). WICHE collaborates with the NHSC but can also fund in areas the NHSC cannot. So, WICHE can collaborate with them but to also be aware there is a program already in place supporting physicians. However, the NHSC assistance is not at the GME level, specifically. Commissioner Redding clarified that the NSHC provides loan repayment to MDs and DOs to practice in underserved areas and HPSAs, which sounds very similar to some of the HCAP programs WICHE runs except not with physicians. Ms. Warner said WICHE matches NHSC funding in three fields, and physicians would be a fourth, and confirmed that support would be for those who have completed their training and are already practicing, Commissioner Redding asked if Ms. Warner has a feel for if the NHSC has more applicants than they have money, and do they have trouble finding places to put all of their money? Ms. Warner answered she was hoping Dr. Klass would be able to answer that, and hopefully he will be at the next meeting. There is the option to support at the GME level by offering funding during their residency; and, when the residency is completed there could be a service commitment to the state to fulfill for retention purposes. Normally, WICHE funds loan repayment recipients as the professional service is being performed. She noted that, by statute, recipients will have to be Nevada residents to receive the funds.

Commissioner Hardy stated, for possible action, the Commission would like to write a letter to the governor's office stating the Commission has discussed and recognized the need for GMEs. Whereas, Nevada has an acute need for primary care physicians and general surgery, as well as psychiatrists/psychologists; and, knowing that the need is going to be exacerbated by baby boomers and increasing Medicaid enrollees, as well as the aging of current practicing physicians, WICHE, with its mission of taking care of the underserved populations and its loan repayment philosophy of underserved commitments, would like to make itself available to fiscally and/or philosophically assist in retaining and obtaining more practitioners in the state of Nevada through its tried and true partnership with the NHSC. This leaves the door open for the governor's office to have a dialogue. Commissioner Redding stated it is probably premature to talk about any specific budget request; however, it can be stated that the Commission is requesting to carry some of that load and at this time is not requesting anything specific.

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Commissioner Hardy added this is the way to go about it. When the governor's office begins penciling out their budget, they will say let's do this through WICHE. Particular consideration is for Nevada residents. Commissioner Farrow agreed. He stated there will be more in depth conversations and budget considerations. The situation is widely recognized; it is just a matter of how much and when. All parties that understand the importance of the issue will be stepping up to the plate to do what they can. Making WICHE available to be included in the solution is responsible on our part. Commissioner Redding asked who the letter would go to. Commissioner Hardy answered to the governor. Commissioner Hardy moved to have staff construct a letter to the governor as proposed above. The letter is to be signed by all three commissioners. Commissioner Redding seconded. Approved.

12. Discussion, recommendations, and action regarding 2015-2017 Loan & Stipend (Programs) Budget to determine fields, slots and support fees based on future educational and health care needs of the state. Information on fields for support consideration was reviewed. Ms. Warner explained the data reflects the fields and amounts currently being funded, as well as fields of interest for possible support. The Commission had previously requested this information to determine if funding should be reallocated, and/or if support amounts should be increased.

Ms. Warner referenced the "Educational Expenses Versus Support Fees" chart to assist the Commission in determining funding. She noted the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) support fees are determined by the Regional WICHE office. She pointed out areas where funding may fall short in the Health Care Access Program (HCAP), as current HCAP support fee amounts may not be incentive enough for students to accept funding. She stated WICHE's dental, mental health and nursing students have, on average, \$200,000, \$40,350 and \$37,250 in school loans versus \$14,400, \$2,000 and \$1,450 given in WICHE support fees, respectively. As shown, the support fee for dentistry is only 7% of the average student loan.

Ms. Warner next reviewed the "State v. National Health Workforce Rankings" chart providing information that contains data to assist the Commission in determining if there is saturation in the fields currently funded. The data depicts dentistry is approximately 90% saturated. However, psychologists are at approximately 46% saturation, which is where the need is. Psychiatrists are at approximately 55% saturation, which is another area of need. Optometry is at 141% saturation. This is an area where there is no longer a need, unless the focus will be on rural areas. Commissioner Farrow stated the mental health need is one that everyone is aware of. He sees the physician primary care field at 56%, and noted there is actually a loss from 2009 to 2012 by 23%. Ms. Warner stated that, further, the data is a bit old as well as understated. With the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the other factors coming in to play, it is important for the Commission to consider that and think about the future needs. Commissioner Redding thanked Ms. Warner and Ms. Westre for the enormous amount of work put in to pulling this information into one place for the Commission to review.

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> Commissioner Redding asked Ms. Warner, of the fields in which WICHE is currently participating, in which does she not see the students' interest or demand? Ms. Warner answered optometry. She acknowledges the fact there is not a school in the state so there is value in supporting the field. However, there are only 8 job openings per year in the state, and WICHE currently funds 2 slots. The profession is saturated in Nevada. This is an area in which she would suggest a reallocation of funds to another field. She added nursing may be eliminated at the associate degree level, as well. Commissioner Redding asked if nursing at the associate level is eliminated, and agreed bachelor level nurses seem to be the way of the future, would the funds from associate degree level go to doubling the support fee at the bachelor level? Ms. Warner answered the nursing pool of funds is the same for bachelor and associate levels; it is all undergraduate funding. That type of change would be at policy level. Last year, the nursing programs graduated around 640 nurses at the bachelors and associates levels, while the job demand for nurses is at 610 per year. The question is, are they staying in the state? That is not known, and that [retention] is where the WICHE program comes in. From the dental school, approximately 1 in 3 students remain in Nevada. There are dentists in the state but are they serving the underserved? No. Are they in the rurals? No. That's not where they are going. This is an area for consideration.

> Commissioner Farrow stated a private grant was awarded to support the RN to BSN program, and there will be major funding through Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to support that effort, as well. Looking at a WICHE shift in the same direction would support that effort. Commissioner Hardy stated if WICHE funds RNs at the bachelor level, students can go on to the graduate nurse program, as the need is for nurse practitioners. If the pool is coalesced to support at the bachelor degree level and the Commission takes a serious look at support for dentists in Nevada's underserved or rural areas, he thinks there are enough dentists, optometrists and associate level nurses, those are the areas the Commission needs to look at. He added there may be other fields, but this is where his concern is.

Commissioner Redding stated he agreed with both Commissioners Farrow and Hardy. He stated his concern is that the dental support fee amount is small with regard to their total debt, and there are many dentists in Nevada. His concern is that WICHE funds, which are scarce, will not incentivized behavior that would not already occur. He added dentistry, optometry, and two year nursing programs would be where he would like to revisit the support levels. Alternatively, where should WICHE support be stronger than it is? Ms. Warner answered mental health. WICHE has not specifically funded psychologists or psychiatrists. It would be beneficial to allocate funds directly to those individuals, whether it is at the tuition assistance level or the loan repayment level.

Commissioner Redding stated, regarding psychiatrists in particular, two of the WICHE PSEP fields Nevada WICHE does not participate in are allopathic and osteopathic medicine. An in-state tuition program is already available for Nevada residents. He asked if there is a way to take advantage of the PSEP slots for psychiatry, or would psychiatry be a better fit in the HCAP Loan Repayment program? Ms. Warner answered under the PSEP program, a disadvantage is the delay. The funding is at tuition levels, so it would be a number of years for students to get through school and begin practicing. It is a long term investment, but a good one. The same can be said with doctors. If doctors were to be Page 11 of 16 State of Nevada WICHE Commission Meeting Wednesday, February 19, 2014

> funded under the PSEP program, there would be an 8 year wait before results are seen; however, it is a good long term solution if that is the pipeline the Commission wants to start. Under the loan repayment program results are obtained right away. However, the support fee would have to be increased.

> Commissioner Hardy stated he likes where this is going. Psychiatry may be WICHE's niche. He hears over and over that Nevada cannot keep a state mental health psychiatrist employed. So, if WICHE has the niche as a mental health option for the governor and for the Legislature, and it can be done very quickly, it makes sense for that to be WICHE's niche. It can be done, and it just feels good. It would fit within the WICHE mission, something could be done sooner than later, and assistance can come from WICHE in mental health in the rural areas and in urban Las Vegas under the loan repayment program. This would be as good a niche as could be proposed.

Ms. Warner stated there is the NHSC match for mental health, as well, so there is collaboration opportunity on that level if applicants qualify. However, if they do not qualify, WICHE could support them in the urban underserved and other needed areas. Commissioner Redding stated that would be great if – and he thinks he is hearing pretty strongly – this would be one of the alternatives the Commission would like Ms. Warner to flush out: where could WICHE be active in the psychologist and psychiatrist fields? What collaborations are out there? He added it sounds like they would most likely fall under the HCAP fields.

Ms. Warner asked the Commission, is their interest strongly towards mental health as HCAP tuition assistance for graduate level support, and then after graduation the participant is required to work with an underserved population? This is like our traditional program of tuition assistance, as opposed to loan repayment. However, support can be offered utilizing both programs. Commissioner Redding stated he likes loan repayment better than tuition assistance because under tuition assistance the benefit is in the future, and under loan repayment participants are already in practice. Both Commissioner Hardy and Commissioner Farrow agreed. Commissioner Farrow stated he thinks it is the immediate need that is appetizing. He added the internship pay for psychologists are extremely low; they receive less than \$20,000 per year. To add reimbursement assistance would help them out and get them interested. Commissioner Hardy stated WICHE could start with the psychology internship and have that in place. He added this is a great idea.

Commissioner Hardy continued, stating after a master's degree, psychologists then enter an internship. But, there are not enough internships for every graduate, so they have to wait out a year and then reapply for another internship. And it is literally servitude. If WICHE did something in the state of Nevada to create internships along with loan repayment, or an ability to augment those salaries, that would create a model that would attract psychologists to Nevada. Commissioner Redding stated he is excited about that. If funding goes through WICHE for internships, then the participants are obligated to HPSA areas, not that there isn't a shortage statewide, but the Commission can be very targeted in the workforce approach on this. It is exciting.

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Commissioner Hardy stated he does not know how long the approval process for a psychology internship is; however, Commissioner Farrow can obtain that information. Commissioner Farrow stated he definitely can. He has the perfect person to ask. His sister went through this very same program and graduated with her doctorate in clinical psychology. She was mandated to do a clinical internship for 1 year. Fortunately, she was able to live back at home because the internship paid only \$18,000, and that was a better paying internship. For those who do not have that kind of support to remain at home, \$18,000 dollars is not sufficient. This is a doctorate level individual who has been through years of schooling, and this is what is done in order to sit for the exam. The Veteran's Administration, where there are a small number of internship programs, as well as Nevada's mental health agency, Richard Whitley and staff, is where to ask what the basis would be for creating internship opportunities, and then create some sort of mechanism that would make it attractive. That would be a recruiting tool in and of itself.

Commissioner Hardy stated he agrees with this approach. Commissioner Redding stated he is also on board. He asked Ms, Warner if the Commission has given her enough to flush out a course of action for the next meeting. Ms. Warner stated she would like to conduct additional research and talk with Commissioner Farrow, as he has the insight to see exactly what is going on and how WICHE should target it. She stated loan repayment would augment the salary; however, the individual must have outstanding student loans because the funds are disbursed directly to the lending institutions. Most of them do, so that's probably not an issue. Commissioner Redding asked if it can be done as loan repayment and stipend. The statute change is only one legislative session away. If that is something Ms. Warner could look at as he would not want to limit it to just loan repayment if both would be more appropriate. Ms. Warner stated loan repayment might be too narrow for the situation, and it should be looked at further. She will work with Ms. Parker and will look at approaches for supporting those internships.

Commissioner Redding stated he does not think that type of statute change would be difficult if there is a good plan behind it. Commissioner Hardy agreed. People will support mental health right now. The problem that will arise is the turf belt between the sociologist professional, the "professional counselors" who believe only they can do something. They will be opposed and WICHE will do it anyway because there is a need for psychologists and psychiatrists. This commission will steam-roll this and get it done. Whatever the plan turns out to be, if it is feasible it will pass.

Commissioner Redding refined the parameters. The Commission has identified funds to be considered that may no longer be priority. Should the Commission assume the budget is essentially cost-neutral, or should something be brought back that can then be scaled back based on an amount that can be realistically requested? Commissioner Hardy stated he thinks there are two options: go in reflecting the savings in the aforementioned fields and to remain revenue neutral, demonstrating those savings would go to support a bill for a psychologist/psychiatrist incentive program; or, knowing that Nevada has a mental health crisis, WICHE could expand on that depending on the growth of the economy. The budget can reflect, for example, 1 slot and X number of dollars and for 10 slots Y number of dollars, and then see how that fits in to the governor's budget. Commissioner Farrow Page 13 of 16 State of Nevada WICHE Commission Meeting Wednesday, February 19, 2014

agreed, Ms. Warner stated what is beneficial about the internship concept is it supports the pipeline process – when a participant has completed the WICHE program, they can transition to the NHSC loan repayment program.

Commissioner Redding stated that would also be an agenda item for the next meeting: what collaborations/partnerships are out there? He asked if Rural Clinics was part of Health and Human Services, as those could be excellent locations for the internships. Commissioner Hardy stated to partner with Nevada Health Centers and Project ECHO would be good, as well. To get on the governor's radar the Commission letter should read: The WICHE Commission recognizes there have been some potential savings, and there is no longer the need to fund in the fields of dentistry and optometry; the need for bachelor degree nurses is higher than the need for associates degree nurses; however, there is a need for mental health professionals, and WICHE is proposing to augment the funds for mental health. Also, add that there is a structure that is working with the rurals and underserved, and the Commission suggests 10 more positions to fund; or, get brave and request 22 more positions recognizing the reality that this would be the incremental slope upon which a certain dollar amount would fund a certain number of slots, and fit that into the budget. This will get WICHE on the radar for the governor's budget.

Commissioner Farrow agreed and moved to make the letter a separate letter to the governor and/or amendment to the first suggested letter. Commissioner Redding suggested two separate letters because what would be proposed with mental health, the reduction in the other slots and the potential increase in mental health, is something to submit very specifically to the budget request. The request is due to the governor by September 1, 2014. Commissioner Redding stated this gives Ms. Warner a chance to bring a specific plan back to the Commission for action at the April meeting.

Commissioner Hardy stated a projected number will be needed from the Commission this next month, before the next meeting, because the governor is building his budget and all of the moving parts will be needed in March. He added he does not care if the numbers are accurate as long as it is an educated guess as to what WICHE is looking to do for a psychologist/psychiatrist. An example is, say, \$5,000 for a psychologist and/or \$10,000 for a psychologist per year with a requirement they serve in the state mental health system. If the Commission wants to do more it can, but offer amounts that would make it attractive for people to participate. Commissioner Hardy commented to go up to whatever number is stated and say that anything less may be an incentive.

Commissioner Redding stated the type of support, either loan repayment or stipend, that would be appropriate for these slots has not yet been discussed. Commissioner Hardy stated the Commission needs to be generous with the proposal and meek and mild with its acceptance of whatever is received. Ms. Warner referred to the "Education Expense vs. Support Fees" handout which lists the tuition expenses at the doctorate level for the University of Nevada Reno (UNR) and the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) to be approximately \$16,000 - \$17,000. However, that is only for their doctoral years, and does not factor in educational expenses for the bachelor's and master's levels. She stated the salary level of a psychologist in Nevada is approximately \$56,600, and a psychiatrist salary

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level is approximately \$165,700. Commissioner Redding suggested, knowing that the goal is to incentivize behavior and target Nevada's workforce needs, 10% of the average salary for each field - \$6,664 for psychologists and \$16,500 for psychiatrists – would be an appropriate support fee amount to get their attention. Commissioners Hardy and Farrow agreed with that.

Commissioner Hardy moved for staff to draft a letter to the governor stating this is manner in which WICHE wants to help and the numbers that will be requested, as well as bring back the support fee figures as an action item to formally become part of the WICHE budget request. Commissioner Farrow seconded. Approved.

13. Discussion, recommendations, and action regarding the Regional WICHE and Nevada State College collaboration for a proposed on-campus community health center. Commissioner Farrow stated a meeting was held that included representatives from WICHE, NSHE, Nevada State College (NSC), Nevada Primary Carc Association (NPCA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for preliminary conversations that would look at creating a health center on the campus of Nevada State College. NSC President Bart Patterson, along with the Provost, expressed the desire to increase their community footprint and create what they feel is a growing need in the community. The discussion that ensued looked at the various resources available to make this happen. Currently, there are funds available through the USDA for the brick and mortar financing, which NSC is very interested in because they have the funds available to contribute for expansion for brick and mortar that can be done on campus. Bart Patterson mentioned the USDA would be willing to finance that expansion at an interest rate of .5%, which is better than can be found anywhere else.

NSC does not have the appetite to do the operational management of a primary care facility or mental health facility, but there are other private institutions that may fill that role. One in particular is Horizon Health, which has a national presence and deals in both primary care and mental health. Not only would this be a treatment center for students and for the community, it would also double as a training facility for an internship in psychology, nursing, or physicians. It could be a beautiful marriage between serving community needs as well as creating a pipeline for students to be trained under the umbrella of NSC, with multiple partners coming to the table to achieve the common goal.

Next steps are a feasibility study will be conducted that will be submitted to Chancellor Dan Klaich for further consideration and ultimately approval to proceed with the build out of the health center. And, a formal partnership with Horizon Health or some other entity can be developed which will serve to provide the operational management of the primary care service provider as well as the mental health service provider. WICHE does not need a budget item for this, as they are seriously considering using their own budget, and the USDA has offered to assist with financing. There are experienced grant writers ready to make all of this happen. Angela Quinn is responsible for achieving the financing for the Boulder City Hospital project, and she will be the point person for putting the deal together for NSC. It is not clear at this time how WICHE can participate in the sustainability of the project, but Commissioner Farrow will bring updates to the Commission and discussion Page 15 of 16 State of Nevada WICHE Commission Meeting Wednesday, February 19, 2014

> can take place about what WICHE's part might be. Commissioner Hardy moved for the Commission to be in support of the Nevada State College on-campus community health center. Commissioner Redding seconded. Approved. Ms. Warner will communicate the support of the project to the Regional WICHE office.

14. Discussion, recommendations, and action regarding public workshop to solicit comments on proposed regulation language pertaining to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 397. Supporting documentation was reviewed. Ms. Parker stated even though it has not done so in a while, the Commission is authorized to adopt regulations. Through discussions between herself and the Chair, it was decided to start this process. This involves holding a public workshop where public comment can be received. Typically, the workshop stage is more conceptual. The next stage is the agency sends draft language to the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), or the agency works on the language with the LCB analyst assigned to WICHE. LCB has thirty days to work on the language. WICHE then posts a public hearing with 30-day notice prior to the hearing. Posting will cause a delay from this meeting to the meeting where the regulations will be adopted. The regulations would then go to the Legislative Commission to determine if there are conflicts with the statutes. The goal is to get this done before the period when regulations become temporary. It is good to get this done before July 1, 2014.

Commissioner Redding asked if there are current practices that, while not contrary to NAC, are not specified or specifically allowed by NAC. The Commission will want to ensure the protection of itself and the staff that behavior is backed by regulation. Ms. Parker answered, in some areas, the statute says the Commission may delegate to the director certain functions, and oftentimes states "delegate by regulation". While there may be procedural delegation to the director to do these things, it was not adopted in a regulation. She stated the regulations would be items the Commission may want to do under the current statutory scheme, as well as submit a possible BDR which would encompass items such as those discussed earlier; for example, will mental health be loan repayment or stipend? Commissioner Redding stated the Commission submits them through the governor's office to become part of his requests.

Ms. Parker added when she met with Ms. Warner, they thought some helpful regulations for the public would be in the definitions area. For example, the definition of "residents" is defined one way for universities, but the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) defines it another way. "Loan", "principal", "support fee", "stipend", "student" and "underserved" are other suggestions to include as draft language for definitions; or, they can be left alone. Commissioner Redding asked legal counsel's advice whether it is better to have more items specifically defined or less. Ms. Parker answered, currently, the director defines some of these through her discretion as the director and some of these terms are used interchangeably in statute, which makes it difficult to understand the statute. For example, "support fee", "stipend", and "loan", tend to be used interchangeably. Perhaps when the statutes were written the meanings were different, and now they are not different any longer. Therefore, some might be better left to a BDR discussion. Page 16 of 16 State of Nevada WICHE Commission Meeting Wednesday, February 19, 2014

> As far as NAC 397.020, Petition to reduce the period of required practice, the first suggested change is to update the statute, and also change to the practice must be as a full time employee of the state in a rural area, or as a full time employee of the state in an urban area with an underserved population. Commissioner Hardy asked to have the Deputy Attorney General work with staff to correct the inconsistencies and report back to the commission the specific suggestions. Commissioner Redding asked if there are more changes other than what is redlined in the handout. Ms. Parker answered, after working with Ms. Warner for regulatory changes, those are her suggestions as provided. She would leave the other possible definitions alond. Also, input from the Commission is needed on the delegation to the director. Ms. Parker continued, stating in subsection 2 the number of days when a recipient is in default needs to be determined by the Commission so the director may coordinate the collection effort, as necessary. Normally, after default a notice is sent at 30, 60, and 90 days; at 120 days, the account is turned over for debt collection. Commissioner Redding asked if 120 days would be consistent with current practices. Ms. Parker yes, because after a couple of notices she is asked to send a letter on Attorney General letterhead which can be more intimidating. Thirty days is given to respond; 120 days would be 30 days after the AG letter is sent.

Commissioner Hardy moved to strike the comment on other possible definitions, and to fill in "120" days in the last paragraph of subsection two. Commissioner Farrow seconded. Motion approved. There was no public comment on the workshop.

- 15. Discussion, recommendations, and action regarding whether or not to direct staff to draft a Bill Draft Request (BDR) for the purpose of addressing programmatic inconsistencies in Nevada revised Statute 397. Ms. Parker stated there is a request from the Commission for a possible BDR to clean up inconsistencies and asked, is there also a request for proposed language related to a loan repayment program or other option related to the mental health field? Commissioner Hardy moved to prepare the BDR, coordinate with the WICHE analyst in the governor's office on the format and timing, and bring back a draft for action at the next commission meeting. This is to include any proposed changes necessary to facilitate any of the discussion that has taken place on the mental health slots, including stipends as a category of payment. Commissioner Farrow seconded. Motion approved.
- New business: Proposed future meeting dates; proposed future agenda items. The next commission meeting was set for April 30, 2014. It was decided that late afternoon will work for everyone.

Evan Klass will discuss Project ECHO including potential collaborations, as well as items on the budget preparation to be brought back for action.

- 17. Public comment. There was no public comment.
- Adjournment. Commissioner Farrow moved for adjournment. Commissioner Redding seconded. Motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Commented [01]:

Dr. Peter Smith 568 E 770 N Orem, Utah 84097

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education 2601 Enterprise Road Reno, Nevada 89512-1666

#### Nevada WICHE Commissioners:

I am writing in regards to a practice extension to allow me the opportunity to return to the state of Nevada and provide two years of service to an underserved population. I feel it necessary to provide a little bit of my history in attempting to find work in treating the underserved needs of Nevada as a Board Certified Periodontist. Upon completion of my 3 year post-doctoral periodontal residency in August of 2009 I began looking for other opportunities. I was immediately drawn to Indian Health Services (IHS). There are several IHS clinics in Nevada.

In September of 2009 I first began talking with them. Realizing that there were no full time opportunities with IHS but the potential for a couple of days a month, I moved to Utah and started a small practice with the intention of traveling to Reno a couple of days a month where there are 3 IHS clinics in the vicinity. These clinics run on annual budgets. I was told that there would possibly be funds in the coming year. As a new year commenced, due to budget cuts etc, there would be no funds. Recently, I indicated that I would come for nothing but travel expenses and still there wasn't a place. Dr. Dan Huber, the IHS Nevada Area dentist indicated in January of this year that if health clinic directors and dental directors did not return phone calls or emails that it was an indication that there wasn't funding for the year and there was nothing more he could do. For the past three years I have been looking for an opportunity with IHS that no longer seems possible.

I have recently become aware of an opportunity in Nye County to work as a periodontist. In Pahrump there are 12 dental offices with 16 general dentists and no dental specialists. To date I have been in contact with most of these offices and they insure me that there is a tremendous need for a periodontist in the area. I have applied for my Nevada State Dental License and I anticipate getting it in March of this year and establishing an office in Pahrump.

I am confident that if given an extension, I will be able to set up a practice and treat patients in Nye County. I thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Kind regards,

Dr. Peter Smith DMD MSD
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# Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

Notice of Public Meeting March 19, 2013 1:30 p.m.

Via Teleconference State of Nevada Legislature 401 N. Carson St., Room #2160 Carson City, Nevada Call in: (775) 684-6505

	AGENDA								
1.	Call to order.	For Possible Action							
2.	Public comment*.	Information Only							
3.	Discussion, recommendations and action regarding: certification of Fiscal Year 2013 HCAP applicants in the fields of nursing and physical therapy.	For Possible Action							
4.	Discussion, recommendations and action regarding: participant John Teepe's request to make principal only payments on his student and stipend grant loans.	For Possible Action							
5.	Discussion, recommendation and action regarding: eliminating the teaching requirement for graduate level nurses.	For Possible Action							
6.	Discussion, recommendations, and action regarding: funding two (2) FY2013-2014 master level nursing students at an adjusted support fee rate.	For Possible Action							

7.	Financial Reporting:	
	- CAIS report (operating budget)	
	- Aging report	
	- Income Statement	Information Only
	FY2013 Accounts Receivable report	internation only
8.	Review and discussion of the Governor's recommended budget for Nevada	
	WICHE's 2013-2015 Biennial Budget, and report on WICHE's March 19, 2013,	
	hearing with Assembly Ways & Means.	Information Only
9.	Discussion, recommendations, and action regarding:	
	Commission's position on Senate Bill 21, authorizing the Controller to	
	maintain a list of professionally licensed persons who owe a debt to the	
	State and requiring licensing boards to not renew or give a new license to	For Possible Action
	any person on that list.	POI POSSIDIE ACTION
10.	Discussion, recommendations, and action regarding:	
	Director's calendar of activities to be submitted bimonthly to Commission	
	beginning April 2013.	For Possible Action
11.	New business.	
	- None.	Information Only
12.	Public comment*.	Information Only
13.	Adjournment.	For Possible Action

\*Public Comment Note: No vote or action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken (NRS 241.020). Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name. The Commission Chair may elect to allow additional public comment on a specific agenda item when that item is being considered (AB59, effective January 1, 2012).

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education may address agenda items out of sequence to accommodate persons appearing before the Commission or to aid the efficiency or effectiveness of the meeting. The Commission may combine two or more agenda items for consideration; remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time (AB 59); and, convene in closed session to consider the character, alleged misconduct, professional competence or physical or mental health of a person (NRS 241.030).

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This agenda has been sent to all interested persons who have requested an agenda from the Commission. Persons who wish to continue to receive an agenda and notice must request so in writing on an annual basis. Anyone desiring additional information regarding the meeting is invited to call the Commission office at (775) 784-4900. We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. Requests for special arrangements made after this time frame cannot be guaranteed.

## THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED

# IN THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

NSHE	NSHE	Office of the Attorney Genera
2601 Enterprise Road	5550 W. Flamingo Rd. #C-1	5420 Kietzke Lane, Ste 202
Reno, Nevada 89512	Las Vegas, NV 89103	Reno, NV 89511
Washoe County Courthouse	United State Post Office	Grant Sawyer Building
75 Court Street	2000 Vasser Street	555 E. Washington Avenue
Reno, Nevada	Reno, Nevada	Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

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> State of Nevada Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Commission Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2013 Disc #2, File #32

In Attendance: Joseph Hardy – Commissioner, Nevada WICHE Vic Redding – Commissioner, Nevada WICHE Carrie Parker – Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General Jeannine Sherrick – Director, Nevada WICHE Dana Westre – Accountant Technician I, Nevada WICHE

- 1. Call to order. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Redding at 1:35 p.m.
- 2. Public comment. There was no public comment.
- 3. Discussion, recommendations and action regarding certification of Fiscal Year 2013 HCAP applicants in the fields of nursing, physical therapy, and pharmacy. The certification list was reviewed. Ms. Sherrick stated for the record all individuals have been notified per Open Meeting Law requirements, and all applicants qualify for certification. Commissioner Redding asked if the low number of pharmacy and physical therapy applicants is indicative of a trend. Ms. Sherrick stated that the pharmacy and physical therapy applicants are alternates, and that the regular list was previously certified. Commissioner Hardy moved for approval to certify the list of applicants. Commissioner Redding seconded. Approved.
- Discussion, recommendations and action regarding participant John Teepe's request to 4. make principal only payments on his student and stipend grant loans. The request letter was reviewed. Ms. Sherrick stated Mr. Teepe was notified according to Open Meeting Law requirements. Ms. Westre stated regular monthly payments are applied first to fees, penalties, costs and interest, then principal. In a previous Commission meeting, it was discussed if Nevada WICHE would allow principal only payments when there are other costs remaining, and it was approved. This is out of the ordinary for student loans but not illegal. The finding by NSHE legal counsel, Brooke Nielsen, is attached in the agenda documentation. The minimum monthly payment is made first and is distributed as stated above. Mr. Teepe is requesting to make an additional payment which would go towards principal only. No interest is waived, and there is no pre-payment penalty. He is simply making an additional payment each month that will apply only to principal. Commissioner Redding stated that this case in particular is fine with him, as the participant has served his country and now has student loans to repay. Commissioner Hardy moved to approve the request for principal only payments. Commissioner Redding seconded. Approved.
- 5. Discussion, recommendations and action regarding eliminating the teaching requirement for graduate level nurses. Ms. Sherrick stated that back in approximately 2005 when the state was experiencing a nursing shortage, the nursing schools doubled and tripled their enrollment. There was an increase in the need for teachers then, and Nevada

WICHE placed a teaching requirement on the funding for graduate level nurses. Now, the teaching requirement is outdated. The few teaching positions are filled, so employment as an instructor is difficult to obtain. Consequently, applicants needing funding have withdrawn, or do not apply at all, because they would not be able to fulfill the teaching requirement.

Currently, trends show there is need for clinical nurse practitioners. Ms. Sherrick's request for the graduate level nurses' service requirement is, beginning with the 2013 funding, to eliminate the teaching requirement so we can increase our clinical nurse practitioners. The standard HCAP requirement will apply upon graduation. Commissioner Hardy moved to approve. Commissioner Redding seconded. Approved.

6. Discussion, recommendations and action regarding funding two (2) FY 2013-2014 master's level nursing students at an adjusted support fee rate. Ms. Sherrick stated two graduate nursing applications were received. While one doctoral level slot and one master's level slot have been approved, the two applications are for the master's level. It is being requested to take the doctoral nursing funds of \$5,100 and the master's level funds at \$2,400, combine the two amounts, and split the funds between the two master's level applicants. In the past this has been done, so there is precedence. The authorized amount of funding is being used for two years of funding in return for two years obligation.

Commissioner Hardy asked what will happen with remaining graduate nursing funds. Ms. Sherrick answered funds will go towards the HCAP Loan Repayment program. He expressed concern that if this higher amount is funded, and then going forward the funding is at the regular amount, the participants might communicate with each other and discover some obtained higher funding than others. It was recommended that the funds be distributed as approved by the Legislature.

Commissioner Redding stated he is more comfortable with a motion for the two master's slots at the existing support fee amount, and the doctoral slot to fund a master's slot. Ms. Sherrick stated that would be \$4,800 total in support fees. Commissioner Hardy moved to keep the funding as approved by the Legislature. Commissioner Redding seconded. Approved.

7. Financial Reporting: CAIS report, Aging report, Income Statement, and Fiscal Year 2013 Accounts Receivable report. Reports were reviewed. Commissioner Redding asked, regarding the participant account in four months delinquency, when does collection happen on this account according to our collection policy. Ms. Westre answered that DAG Carrie Parker just prepared the four months delinquency letter. The next step would be for collection. She added this was the participant's grant conversion loan due to non-fulfillment of the practice obligation.

Ms. Westre stated the monthly revenues are coming in as projected. Commissioner Redding asked that projections for funding the loan repayment program be brought to the April Commission meeting.

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- 8. Review and discussion of the Governor's recommended budget for Nevada WICHE's 2013-2015 Biennial Budget, and report on WICHE's March 19, 2013, hearing with Assembly Ways & Means. Commissioner Redding stated he thought the hearing went very well. He asked to add an agenda item to an upcoming Commission meeting to look at WICHE's interest rate adjustment question that was brought up. There was also concern about the collection balance, which is an issue to remain on top of. As far as the Governor's recommended budget, Commissioner Redding was happy to state that the recommendation was what was requested to keep the agency solvent at the current level for the next couple of years. There seemed to be a warm reception from the Finance Subcommittee, as well. Commissioner Hardy stated the committee had its questions answered, which is key. Ms. Sherrick stated that there may be additional questions coming from LCB.
- 9. Discussion, recommendations and action regarding Commission's position on Senate Bill 21, authorizing the Controller to maintain a list of professionally licensed persons who owe a debt to the State and requiring licensing boards to not renew or give a new license to any person on that list. Ms. Sherrick stated that the bill directly impacts Nevada WICHE in that it will restrict licensure for a professional in Nevada who owes a debt to the State. So, it impacts some of our collection accounts, and can be a new tool to assist with collecting on bad debt. The bill will include those who currently owe debt to the state, also. Commissioner Hardy asked if WICHE is currently using the Controller's office. Ms. Sherrick stated not currently; however, there are a few Nevada accounts that will be going to the Controller shortly for collection attempts.

Commissioner Hardy stated if out-of-state licensed account holders are turned over to the Controller's, and those licenses are removed to practicing in-state, they will have to state that on the national data bank, and they will lose their license everywhere. Additional, strongly worded verbiage added to the Attorney General's letter will be a good idea, stating that if they are derelict in paying a debt to the State of Nevada they will have their license revoked. This means it will have to be reported by the license holder, and then they are at risk of losing their license wherever they are. Losing a license has huge ramifications nationwide. They have to notify within 30 days everywhere that they have lost their Nevada license. Commissioner Redding stated that there have been discussions with the State Controller, and for someone to lose their licensure and their livelihood, there is no remedy for that. All they have to do is pay the debt they owe to this program. There is a fairly detailed appeal process contained in this Bill, so a license would not be pulled by mistake.

Commissioner Redding asked if the Commission would like to take action in support of this Bill because it has strong potential to produce one more tool to collect on past due accounts. Commissioner Hardy moved that the Commission's position be to encourage the consideration of Senate Bill 21 to allow professionally licensed people who owe debt to the State to pay, recognizing the risk is this ramification. He asked staff to make the participants aware that if this Bill passes they would lose their license, and losing a license may have ramifications for a lifetime. Commissioner Redding seconded. Approved.

10. Discussion, recommendations and action regarding Director's calendar of activities to be submitted bimonthly to Commission beginning April 2013. Commissioner Redding

Page 4 of 4 State of Nevada WICHE Commission Meeting Tuesday, March 19, 2013

> stated he requested this item because he is much more engaged in the day-to-day operation of the WICHE program office, and has an advantage over the other Commissioners because he is so close in proximity. In conducting Ms. Sherrick's evaluation and looking at her goals for this year, he thought this would be a good way for the other Commissioners to know what's happening and what the Director does on a frequent basis. Commissioner Hardy asked does Nevada WICHE have a bi-monthly meeting. Ms. Sherrick answered quarterly meetings. He stated that this would be interim information he would receive and could be cumbersome. Commissioner Redding stated it could easily be handled as an agenda item at the quarterly meetings, if that is an easier way to track information. Commissioner Hardy stated if this becomes part of the quarterly Commission meetings it would be a better avenue for information. Ms. Sherrick asked if a written list that includes completed and upcoming projects, meetings attended and meetings not attended would suffice. Commissioner Redding stated yes, and to include detail on the recruitment process: what fields, where, when deadlines are, etc. Commissioner Hardy stated basically a staff report, such as where WICHE has been, what WICHE is doing, and what WICHE did and hopes to do.

11. New business. Commissioner Redding stated the Legislative Advisory Committee nominations were made by this group at the past meeting, and Regional WICHE has not yet received a response from Tom Grady or Senator Smith. Commissioner Hardy received the notification from Regional WICHE, and he suggested Regional give the place and time of the meeting. If the meeting could not be attended by either of these individuals, a substitution with the same qualifications should be suggested. It is not beneficial to have someone accept the position and then not go to the meetings. He suggested Regional contact the two candidates, ask if they can attend on those dates and, if so, give the location. If not, then determine who qualifies with the same credentials. As new business, Commissioner Redding asked staff to update the Commission at the next meeting of the acceptance or delegation. It was agreed to ask Regional WICHE to contact the acting Executive Commissioner of Nevada WICHE.

Commissioner Redding asked when the April meeting will be. It was agreed that later in the month would be best. It will not be a full quarterly meeting. It will contain time sensitive items, and prioritize the loan repayment slots in case of a revenue shortage.

- 12. **Public comment.** There was no comment from the general public. Commissioner Hardy stated that as a member of the public, he would like to see the interest rate added to the next Commission meeting to address the topic in a timely manner.
- 13. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

March 5, 2013

John Teepe 1818 Mountain Star San Antonio, TX 78251 March 5, 2013 IN E C E I V E D MAR 0 7 2013 NEVADA WICHE

State of Nevada Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) 2601 Enterprise Road Reno, NV 89512-1666

Dear Commissioners:

I am requesting permission to make ongoing principle loan payments to my WICHE loans, account numbers 1053-3348-1 and 1053-3348-2.

I am active duty serving in the United States Air Force (USAF). With this being said, I am limited to duty stations as the USAF sees fit. Unfortunately, I am unable to reside and work in Nevada at this time, resulting in the responsibility of paying off these WICHE loans.

My wife and I took a financial class last year by Dave Ramsey, and we're on our way to financial peace. With the above said loan debt being our main focus right now, I'd like to be able to have the option to pay off as much principle as I can, so we can attain financial peace at the pace we're going.

Please consider my request to make ongoing principle payments on my WICHE loans. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

John Téepe

Agenda Item #4

# Nevada System of Higher Education

System Administration 2601 Enterprise Road Reno, NV 89512-1666 Phone: (775) 784-4901 Fax: (775) 784-1127



System Administration 5550 W. Flamingo Rd., Suite C-1 Las Vegas, NV 89103 Phone: (702) 889-8426 Fax: (702) 889-8492

January 21, 2010

ECSI Attn: Tracy Schuman 181 Montour Run Rd. Coraopolis, PA 15108

Dear Ms. Schuman,

I am writing at the request of Nevada WICHE regarding student repayment of principal, interest, penalties and other costs. After review of the applicable regulations in Title 31, Sec. 900 et seq., I have advised the Nevada Commission that, in appropriate cases, it may agree to accept payments to the principal debt owed by a student even though there are outstanding charges for fees, interest, penalties and costs.

As you know, in accordance with Sec. 901.9, subsec. f (copy attached), amounts that are collected on student debts in installment payments must first be applied to contingency fees, penalties, administrative costs, interest and then to principal. It's my understanding that you have indicated that under this regulation no student may request that payments be applied simultaneously to principal and interest. However, in accordance Sec. 901.9(g) (copy attached) an agency is authorized to waive (in whole or in part) the collection of interest, penaltics and costs if it is deemed to be "against equity or good conscience" or not "in the best interest of the United States." Since the regulation allows an agency to decide to forego such charges completely, the agency should be able in appropriate circumstances to alter the repayment schedule by allowing simultaneous partial payment to principal and to interest (or to other charges if applicable). If an agency makes a finding that it would be "against equity or good conscience" to require strict compliance with the payment schedule set forth in Sec. 901.9(f), then a student may be allowed to make payments to principal either simultaneously or in advance of other outstanding charges. In accordance with the exceptions allowed under Sec. 901.9(g), the Nevada Commission has decided that it will consider, on a case-by-case basis, requests from students to make simultaneous payments to principal and interest.

Our research has not revealed any contrary interpretation of Sec. 901.9(f) and (g). However, if you are aware of any such interpretation of these regulations, we would very Ms. Schuman January 21, 2010 p. 2

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much appreciate being provided with a copy or a citation to the opinion. If you have any questions, I would be happy to discuss this with you. Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerety

Brooke A. Nielsen Special Counsel

cc: DAG Henna Rasul Jane Nichols, Vice Chancellor Jeannine Sherrick, Director Nevada WICHE

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Ms. Schuman January 21, 2010 p. 3

# Title 31 CFR, 901.9:

(f) When a debt is paid in partial or installment payments, amounts received by the Government shall be applied first to any contingency fees added to the debt, second to outstanding penalties, third to administrative costs other than contingency fees, fourth to interest, and last to principal. For purposes of this paragraph (f), "contingency fees" are administrative costs resulting from fees paid by a Federal agency to other Federal agencies or private collection contractors for collection services rendered when the fees are paid from the amounts collected from a debtor.

(g) Agencies shall waive the collection of interest and administrative costs imposed pursuant to this section on the portion of the debt that is paid within 30 days after the date on which interest began to accrue. Agencies may extend this 30-day period on a case-bycase basis. In addition, agencies may waive interest, penalties, and administrative costs charged under this section, in whole or in part, without regard to the amount of the debt, either under the criteria set forth in these standards for the compromise of debts, or if the agency determines that collection of these charges is against equity and good conscience or is not in the best interest of the United States.

bruto T.

# **Colleen Lennox**

From: Sent: To: Subject: Attachments: Theodore PARENTO <tparento@doc.nv.gov> Thursday, February 07, 2019 8:11 PM Colleen Lennox Some additional information Acrobat.pdf

# Hi Colleen,

Thank you for the meeting and all the information you provided for my case. Attached is some more information about my on-call status for the department of corrections to show I am regularly on-call nearly 24/7. Below are some more accurate dates that may be helpful also:

12/3/2007 to 08/27/2018: Employed at Lake's Crossing Center (State of Nevada)/ Job Position-Psychiatric Nurse 08/28/2018 to present: State lateral transfer to Employed at Nevada Department of Corrections/ Job Position-Developmental Health Nurse Practitioner (under fill for for Senior Psychiatrict)

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (under-fill for for Senior Psychiatrist)

05/22/2018: Master of Science in Nursing confer date

07/21/2018: Board Certified as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Expires 07/20/2023)

01/26/2007-04/08/2020: Active Nevada RN License #RN54708

07/18/2018-04/08/2020: Active-Prescribing APRN-CNP #811873

And just as a reminder, my application deadline NHSC Loan repayment program is **February 21, 2019**. I will need something in writing from WICHE before February 21,2019 stating that I will be no longer under service obligation by **7/18/2019** before I can submit my application to NHSC. I hope this helps more and again appreciate everyone's help with my situation and hope we may come up with a solution that satisfies all parties involved. I am aware that a near future meeting is still pending. Thank you again

Theodore Parento

Theodore Parento MSN PMHNP-BC Nevada Department of Corrections Email- <u>tparento@doc.nv.gov</u> Phone- 775-887-9341

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NDOC MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE DAY SCHEDULE

09/10/18 to 01/27/19 Final Schedule as of 0

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Becinning Date	End Date	dd	Carson City	Ely/Lovelock	Las Vegas	SOUTH Mental	NORTH Mental
09/10/18	09/16/18	2	Dr. Naughton	Greg Martin	Greg Martin	Greg Martin	Dr. Maughton
09/17/18	09/23/18	5	Dr. Naughton	Dr. Adamson	Dr. Adamson	Dr. Adamson	Dr. Manghtori
09/24/18	81/02/60	8	Dr. Naughton	Greg Martin	Greg Martin	Greg Martin	Dr. Neoghton
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10/08/18	10/14/13	Ø	Greg Martin	Greg Martin	Dr. Sanchez	Dr. Nasighton	T Ramo
10/15/18	10/21/18	σ	Dr. Naughton	Dr. Adamson	Dr. Adamson	Elv. Naugiston	10-11/16 National T Parento 10/18/18- 10/21/18
10/22/18	10/28/18	10	Greg Martin	Greg Martin	Greg Martin	T Parento	T Parento
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Date Printed: 2/7/19

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# NDOC MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE DAY SCHEDULE

01/28/19 to 06/16/19 Final Schedule as of 0

1/28/19

Event	Date Issued	Expiration Date					121	
		1						
Graduation Date:	5/16/2018		uti —					
Initial license RN	12/21/2006	3/21/2007						
Current license RN	1/26/2007	4/8/2020	)					
Advanced Practice license APRN-CNP	7/18/2018	6/20/2023						
Support Fees 2 years of funding for MH APRN	Adv. Date	S.F.	Grant	Loan				
AY15-16	7/31/2015			and the second s	2			
AY15-10 AY16-17	9/12/2015	and the second s		(Provide statements)				
ATTO TA	37 207 2020	\$ 13,570.00			-			
**Estimates Only	Penalty /Principal	Interest	P&I 24 Months	Daily Interest	Monthly Interest	P&I 13 Months	P&I 11 Months	P&I 1 Month
TPP + Interest	\$ 36,639.00	\$ 2,909.52	\$ 39,548.52	\$ 3.99	\$ 121.23	\$ 1,575.99	\$ 1,333.53	\$ 121.23
No Penalty + Interest	\$ 12,213.00	\$ 977.04	\$ 13,190.04	\$ 18.07	\$ 40.71	\$ 529.23	\$ 447.81	\$ 40.71
Principal Only No Penalty No Interest	\$ 12,213.00	а		\$ 0.70		\$ 6,615.38	\$ 5,597.63	\$ 508.88

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