

**Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
(Nevada WICHE Commission) Minutes**

Nevada System of Higher Education
System Administration Building
2601 Enterprise Road
Reno, NV 89512
Room 114

Video or Telephone Conference Connection from the Meeting Site to:

Nevada System of Higher Education
System Administration Building
4300 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89119
Room 105

Wednesday, July 23, 2025, 1:00 pm

Members Present:

Mr. Fred Lokken, Executive Commissioner
Ms. Cathy Dinauer, Commissioner
Ms. Patty Charlton, Commissioner

Others Present:

Ms. Patty Porter, Director, Nevada Office of WICHE
Ms. Carrie Parker, Deputy General Counsel, NSHE
Dr. Shera D. Bradley, Director of Forensic & Civil Psychology Training
Director, Licensed Psychologist II, Division of Public and Behavioral
Health, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
Ms. Donna Healy, Executive Assistant, Department of Academic and
Student Affairs, NSHE

Executive Commissioner Fred Lokken called the meeting to order at 1:12 pm.

1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Commissioner Updates

None of the WICHE Commissioners had updates on their activities as commissioners.

3. Director Updates

Director Porter shared the following updates:

- Regarding the Nevada WICHE/University of Utah (USU) College of Veterinary Medicine Class of 2025-26, Nevada WICHE Executive Commissioner Lokken and Director Porter participated in two TV talk shows to promote the 2025-26 Health Profession Education Program (HPEP) veterinary medicine stipend.
 - The *Nevada Newsmakers* interview included Dr. Dirk Vanderwall, Dean, USU College of Veterinary Medicine.
 - A [link to the interview](#) is posted on an NV WICHE website banner, and the interview was promoted by NSHE on social media sites; this show is broadcast statewide and also on the radio.

- A [second interview](#) took place on *Face the State*, a northern Nevada program produced by 2 News Nevada; it was promoted by NSHE on social media sites and by the Nevada Veterinary Medical Association.
- The [USU College of Veterinary Science Admissions Department](#) is creating a handout on letterhead with application tips; it includes science cumulative grade point average (GPA) information for Nevada residents, which they will provide to Nevada WICHE for distribution to Nevada NSHE schools to forward to students.
- The USU College of Veterinary Medicine Recruiter is working with the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) Pre-Vet program to visit (either in person or virtually) the junior/senior classes and pre-vet club, as well as reach out to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) pre-vet club.
- The deadline to submit applications to the USU College of Veterinary Medicine for fall 2026 is September 15, 2025.
- Regarding the Nevada WICHE/USU College of Veterinary Medicine Class of 2026-27, the USU College of Veterinary Medicine Recruiter and Director Porter will participate in the [Wild West Vet Show](#) in Reno, Nevada, from October 15-18, 2025, as an exhibitor and receive free promotion in the program.
 - In return, Nevada WICHE and USU College of Veterinary Medicine will promote the show.
 - Director Porter will reach out to UNR and Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) to raise awareness of the event and the student discount of \$55/day (including food).
- Director Porter will present this information to the Nevada Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners training, which will be held either prior to or after their Thursday, October 23, 2025, board meeting in Las Vegas.
- This is a means of getting the word out to Nevada veterinarians about the [HPEP](#) Veterinary Stipend and the importance of the cumulative GPA when applying.

Discussion

Commissioner Charlton requested clarification of the dates regarding the upcoming events and whether they applied to the 2025-26 or 2026-27 programs.

- Director Porter shared that the television show interviews, the handout created by USU, and recruiting efforts by USU are all applicable to the 2025-26 program.
- For the current year, Director Porter has created and distributed a flier that includes the deadline and links to the [website](#).
- Some inquiries were received from students after the local television broadcast.

Commissioner Charlton asked about the level of active engagement, especially in the sciences with UNLV, and noted that it may be valuable to share this information with biology or other students in the physical science programs pursuing this interest, with respect to the deadline of September 15, 2025.

- Director Porter had a discussion with USU, noting that any outreach done by USU for 2026 has to be done by the end of August 2025; the USU recruiter is reaching out to both UNR and UNLV students, and holding informational sessions at locations such as the UNLV pre-professional advising center.
 - The Deans of UNLV science programs have been sent information regarding having curriculum available so students can complete the prerequisite course to apply to USU.
 - USU has been encouraged to meet with UNR and UNLV no later than the end of August, due to the [Veterinary Medical College Application Service](#) (VMCAS) deadline coming up soon.

- In June, VMCAS sent an email blast stating to all students who registered on the portal that USU is now a part of their program; that action will likely get a lot of traction from potential veterinary students.
- Director Porter shared that she has been in touch with program directors and advisors at UNLV and Nevada State University (NSU) regarding their contact with students.
 - Commissioner Dinauer recommended making a no-cost public records request via the State Veterinary Board to obtain the [State Veterinary Board](#) listserv.
 - Director Porter stated she would reach out to obtain access to the listserv.
- Director Porter noted that UNR's Dr. Mike Teglas discussed the application process with USU and provided them with advice on how to improve the process.
- Director Porter shared that a big part of the issue is students not meeting the sciences GPA; there is a disconnect between what students think they have and what they actually have for their GPAs.
- Commissioner Charlton noted that she is concerned and that the challenge has been providing information to the right entities.
 - We knew that the timing would be off target for the first year due to the accreditation process.
 - In advance of the upcoming 2027 session and providing a report to the state, we want to make sure that our communications are maximized.
 - Commissioner Dinauer's idea to obtain the veterinary listserv is a good one; it is important to do all that can be done in a short amount of time.
- Commissioner Charlton also stated that since the Roseman University of Health Sciences has expressed its interest in having a veterinary program, we may as well leverage contact with them, as their program is several years down the road.
 - Commissioner Charlton shared that she would reach out to the Roseman University President.
- Director Porter stated that she would send the promotional flier to the Commissioners and work with Commissioner Charlton as promotional opportunities arise in Las Vegas.
- Executive Commissioner Lokken stated that, through the association, we are getting to most of the veterinarians, but that sending out the information is helpful.
 - In terms of the conversations with UNR, the deadline was a short turnaround; now we are at the beginning of the 2026-27 cycle, which will be helpful, and there will likely be more interest.

Director Porter discussed the “big, beautiful bill,” which is also known as the 2025 Reconciliation Bill; it was passed by Congress, and we are waiting to see if there will be an impact on the State of Nevada budget that would necessitate a special session this fall.

- Some changes, such as eliminating the Grad PLUS Loans and loan limits, go into effect July 1, 2026; cuts to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will not happen until January 1, 2028, with a change in work requirements effective January 1, 2027.
 - These items will most likely have a greater impact on the 2027-2029 biennial budget.
- Director Porter expressed concern about the graduate loan limits' impact on the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP).
 - The loan limit for professional programs is \$50,000 a year up to four years, with a maximum amount of \$200,000.
 - One example based on new professional limits to tuition and fees, housing, transportation, food, books, and supplies is that they will be less expensive at an in-state school than at a private school or a public out-of-state school.
 - Professional programs, such as medical, for in-state students will still cost more than \$50,000 a year and might necessitate private lending.

- Director Porter recommended that the Nevada WICHE Commissioners discuss this with Regional WICHE.

Discussion

- Executive Commissioner Lokken noted that the bigger issue now is the possible recession; we have not seen the impact of tariffs, but the possible recession is what legislators will be looking at.
- Commissioner Charlton stated that as we look at the impact on our programs, we need to engage with the legislators prior to the 2027 session.
 - With caps on stipends and tuitions increasing, we will need to address a gap in funding programs of interest.
 - Deputy General Counsel Parker noted that strategies and addressing new items should be discussed as new business items.

Director Porter noted that, in light of the Commissioners attending an upcoming Regional WICHE Commission meeting in November, she wanted to express her concern about the impact of graduate loan limits on the PSEP program and the limitation of \$50K/year up to four years with a maximum loan amount of \$200K.

- Director Porter stated that a physical therapy student shared with her that once the limitation goes into effect, they would consider going to an in-state institution; Director Porter noted that she was concerned about PSEP programs.
 - Going to in-state schools is financially challenging, but it is a much bigger challenge for students to go to private or out-of-state institutions.
 - Director Porter noted that related conversations are ongoing among WICHE Certifying Officials and recommended that the Commissioners think about this topic as they go forward.

4. Consent Items

4a. Minutes

The Nevada WICHE Commission considered approval of the minutes from its May 9, 2025 meeting. ([Ref. 2-WICHE Commission Meeting Minutes, May 9, 2025](#))

Commissioner Dinauer moved for approval of the May 9, 2025 meeting minutes. Commissioner Charlton seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Update on Nevada NV Psychology Internship Consortium (PIC) Program

Dr. Shera D. Bradley, Director of Forensic & Civil Psychology Training, Director, Licensed Psychologist II, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, provided an update on the [NV-PIC program](#).

- Dr. Bradley shared a [presentation](#) regarding the Nevada Psychology Internship Consortium (NV-PIC) program.

Discussion

- Commissioner Charlton referenced AB37 (from the 2023 legislative session), which established a new unit at UNLV, the Behavioral Health Education Retention and Expansion Network ([BEherenv.org](#)); she noted that funding for it was continued in the 2025 legislative session base budget and asked Dr. Bradley if she collaborates with Dr. Sara Hunt, Executive Director of BeHERE.

- Dr. Bradley shared that she does know Dr. Hunt; one of the ways that the network was able to support NV-PIC was in the provision of postdoc licensure expense reimbursement up to \$1,000.
- Commissioner Charlton noted that they were just recently established with the vision to diversify the workforce, particularly in the area of behavioral health.
- Executive Commissioner Lokken noted that the creation of this partnership between NV WICHE and NC-PIC is a major accomplishment in terms of serving mental health needs in Nevada.
 - He also mentioned that former NV WICHE Commissioner, Dale Erquiaga, indicated that he would like to see the Commission do more toward securing more funding.
- Director Porter thanked Dr. Bradley for her presentation and noted that an enhancement was requested for the budget but not granted.
 - This would be a good topic to include in our strategic planning for the next biennium budget.
- Dr. Bradley shared that the new hospital will have a designated training area with hopes to expand the number of trainees/doctors.
- Commissioner Dinauer asked if the new facility would house patients from throughout the state.
 - Dr. Bradley noted that NV-PIC has the ability to select which hospital patients will be sent to and that there are a lot of things in the works to try to expand services statewide, including services within jails.

6. Nevada NV Psychology Internship Consortium (PIC) Interlocal and Consortial Agreement

Director Porter presented the 2025-2027 NV-PIC Interlocal and Consortial Agreement for possible action by the Nevada WICHE Commissioners.

[*\(Ref. 3-NV-PIC Interlocal Contract Between Public Agencies and Consortial Agreement\)*](#)

Discussion

- Director Porter noted that this is a 2-year contract renewal from 2025-27 to match the state budget funding cycle.
- Commissioner Charlton noted that, according to the beginning and end dates, the contract may have lapsed.
 - Director Porter and Deputy General Counsel Parker explained that the timing of the contract was written to become effective upon approval; it is retroactive.

Commissioner Charlton moved approval of the Nevada NV Psychology Internship Consortium (PIC) Interlocal and Consortial Agreement and to give Executive Commissioner Lokken the ability to sign on behalf of NV PIC. Commissioner Dinauer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

7. New Business

- Commissioner Charlton requested a future agenda item to discuss the impact of changes in financial aid programs, particularly the impact on our WICHE-supported programs and our students, and discuss strategies to address some of those impacts.
- Commissioner Charlton also requested an agenda item to discuss the USU program recruitment and other outreach efforts to increase awareness of the program.
 - Director Porter noted that this topic has already been added to the next meeting agenda; the contract requires that the USU representatives attend some NV WICHE Commission meetings.

- Deputy General Counsel Parker noted that the Commission may choose to make this a standing agenda item that can always be pulled if there is nothing to discuss.
- Commissioner Charlton suggested inviting folks to the meeting who can offer their expertise and recommendations.
- Executive Commissioner Lokken noted that including individuals with expertise in the rural connections would be particularly helpful.

8. Public Comment

There was no public comment

Meeting adjourned at 2:24 pm.

Prepared and submitted by:

Patty A. Porter

Director, Nevada Office of WICHE