

## Minutes

### RED TAPE REDUCTION WORKING GROUP (RTRWG)

Monday, October 22, 2018

9:00 A.M.

Room 138

Arkansas State Capitol

Little Rock, Arkansas

#### Committee Members Present

Senator John Cooper, Co-Chair, Representative Bruce Cozart, Co-Chair; Senators Jane English, Bart Hester, Missy Irvin and Trent Garner; Representatives LeAnne Burch, Milton Nicks, Jeff Williams, and Richard Womack; Daryl Basset, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services (ADWS); Brian Bowen, Attorney General's Office; Lula Dixon, Retired Licensed Social Worker (LSW)/Consumer Representative; Bill Gossage, Governor's Office; and Bob Kucheravy, Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC)/Consumer Representative.

Charles Lyford, Arkansas Department of Career Education (ADCE), attended in the absence of Dr. Charisse Childers.

#### Committee Members Absent

Dr. Charisse Childers, Arkansas Department of Career Education

Representative Cozart called the meeting to order

#### Approval of Minutes

A correction to the September 17, 2018, minutes was requested to reflect that Charles Lyford, Arkansas Department of Career Education, attended the meeting in the absence of Dr. Charisse Childers. A motion was made and seconded to accept and approve the September 17, 2018 minutes with the requested correction. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### Arkansas Athletic Trainers Association (Terry DeWitt, Ouachita Baptist University Athletic Trainer; Ron Carroll, Arkansas State University Head Athletic Trainer)

Mr. DeWitt provided an overview of the Athletic Training Practice Act, discussing the need for revision and expressed the need for legislative support in updating the 2001 Act. Discussion followed regarding the fact that athletic trainers are highly trained but current barriers prevent them from doing their job.

### **Foundation for Government Accountability (Jared Meyer)**

Mr. Meyer presented the following.

- FGA is a public policy organization
- FGA President and CEO Tarren Bragdon had a vision for tangible, nationwide change that would free individuals from the trap of government dependence and let them experience the power of work
- According to their report, FGA has helped 4.5 million people in 34 states
- Licensing boards should be specific, timely and clear
- FGA recommends two significant areas to which red tape should be cut:
  - Expanding apprenticeships
  - Growing opportunities for those with criminal records
- FGA recommends only crimes directly related to an occupation should be considered, and those with criminal records should be provided opportunity to a pre-determination

Discussion followed regarding the logistics of a) a predetermination process and b) how the implementation of apprenticeship programs are working in other states.

### **Occupational Licensing Learning Consortium Update** (Iris Hentze, NCSL; John Guerriero, NGA; and Taylor Lansdale, CSG)

Ms. Hentze provided an update on the ongoing multi-state occupational licensing project

- One year into the project, they are looking forward to bringing the consortium states together at the second multi-state meeting next month
- This year, a focus will be placed on cross-state communication and networking, as well as reciprocity agreements
- Due to recent additional funding allocated to the project, the Consortium and technical assistance provided will be extended to July 2021

Discussion followed regarding legislation in other states.

Mr. Guerriero talked about the projects NGA is working on now: ***work organization, dislocated workers, individuals with criminal records, military spouses, etc.***

### **Advisory Group Update (Gary Isom, Chairman)**

Mr. Isom presented OLAGs final report to the RTRWG, with specific focus on the Executive Summary which focuses on the issues at the forefront of the effort and provides a road map going forward.

Items for legislative consideration are:

- Need for a formal process for licensing agencies to submit rule/regulation requests in response to new legislation
- Extension of Act 781 to allow for repeal of rules/regulation subsections
- Provision allowing agencies to consider occupational relevance with regard to criminal background applicants
- Provision for agency discretion in identifying those to which temporary licensure should be issued (other than military)

Items recommended for future study are:

- Centralized licensing informational website
- Implantation of an annual data collection process
- Handling of sealed/expunged records and pardons
- Potential for increased resources for boards to implement digital processes
- Potential for town hall meetings
- Dislocated worker issues
- Review processes and assessments for those with criminal backgrounds
- Processes and conditions for agencies to reduce or waive licensure fees
- Annual reporting needs

#### **Discussion from The Working Group**

The RTRWG will adopt the OLAG report as the foundation for their report due to Governor Hutchinson by November 30, 2018. The RTRWG will meet via conference call on November 8, 2018, to discuss any recommendations for items to be added to or modifications to be made to the report. The RTRWG will hold its final meeting on November 19, 2018 to finalize and approve the report to the governor.

#### **Other Business**

Bill Gossage thanked the RTRWG and OLAG for their work on this initiative given its importance in relation to the governor's ongoing transformation efforts

**With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.**