

State Board of Private Career Education

Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2019 – 1:00 p.m.

Attorney General's Office

323 Center Street, Suite 200, Little Rock, Arkansas

Members Present: Josh Blevins, Alice Obenshain, Brittney Matthews, Danny Knight, Jack Avery

Others Present: Alana Boles, Tracye McKeown, Julie Chavis, Ann Clemmer

Josh Blevins, Chair, called the meeting to order. Alana Boles recommended approval of the minutes from the February 8, 2019 meeting. All were in favor. None opposed.

Current Activities

Josh Blevins asked about follow-up on Lab Four Professional Development Center and Liberty Tax School Sherwood. Tracye McKeown stated that Lab Four Professional Development Center is located in Nashville and Memphis, Tennessee and does not have a school in Arkansas. Ms. McKeown added that the school was recruiting in Arkansas but is not currently recruiting in Arkansas. Alana Boles stated that pending legislation would not require us to monitor out of state schools so we are going to wait to see what happens with pending legislation. Ms. McKeown also stated that she contacted Liberty Tax School Sherwood and the school owner stated he no longer has a tax school.

Report on Pending Legislation

Ann Clemmer reported on a bill that includes not requiring background checks on recruiters that do not have a physical presence in Arkansas. Ms. Clemmer added the reason for this bill is that it was putting private career education schools under rules that are not required of colleges and universities. Ms. Clemmer also provided an update on pending legislation that would move body art schools from the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to the Arkansas Department of Health. Ms. Clemmer read the changes to existing code #20-271501 and asked the board for a letter of support of this bill, and the board agreed to issue a letter of support. Josh Blevins asked if there was any other proposed legislation that affects the board. Ms. Clemmer stated there is a shell bill, HB 1812, that in the title talks about duties and composition of boards and it may be moving to loosen some of the restrictions on some of the boards.

Report of Private Career Education Projects

Alana Boles reported that she is working on seven new applications for new schools. Ms. Boles also stated that at the end of March requests for renewals and fees will be sent to all the schools. Ann Clemmer suggested that even though there is pending legislation regarding body art schools, we move forward with renewing those schools licenses. Ms. Clemmer added that the reason for that would be so if the Department of Health takes over those schools, they would have an updated and valid list. Julie Chavis commented that would help the Department of Health transition into its new role by keeping those schools up-to-date and they would only have to contact schools with expired licenses.

Update on Potential New Board Member

Alana Boles stated that she has identified a person from a school who wants to serve and that person has been recommended to the governor's office.

Disciplinary Hearing

Julie Chavis stated that the person requesting the hearing had a family emergency. The board continued the hearing to April 30, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at the Attorney General's Office, 323 Center Street, Suite 200, in Little Rock.

Meeting Adjourned

Josh Blevins entertained a motion to adjourn. Alice Obenshain made a motion. Jack Avery seconded. All were in favor. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.