



Board and Bureau Relations Department of Consumer Affairs Update

Quarterly Board Meeting August 22, 2024

Budget Letter 24-20 Vacancy Savings and Position Elimination

The Department of Finance (DOF) has issued Budget Letter 24-20, implementing the Governor's proposal to reduce the state workforce by 10,000 positions and \$1.5 billion. DCA's Budget Office is working closely with each board and bureau to identify appropriate reductions while maintaining the mandate for consumer protection. The final budget reduction plan will need to be approved by Agency and ultimately DOF. The budget reduction will be effective starting in 2024–25 and ongoing, while the position elimination will be effective starting in 2025–26 and ongoing. The reductions will impact DCA, boards, and bureaus. DCA will share further information and guidance from the Department of Finance as it becomes available.

Governor's Appointments Office Update

Deputy Appointments Secretary Myri Valdez-Singh was appointed Deputy Commissioner of Legislation at the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation. She worked closely with the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency, DCA, boards, and bureaus on board and advisory committee appointments. Her last day with the Appointments Unit was July 5. Going forward, Deputy Appointments Secretary Curtis Lang will oversee the healing arts boards, and Assistant Deputy Appointments Secretary Aubrey Anthony will oversee the non-healing arts boards. Boards and bureaus should continue working with Board and Bureau Relations on their appointment needs. We wish Myri well in her new role and look forward to working with Curtis and Aubrey!

Updated Workplace Violence Prevention Policy and New Training Requirement

SB 553 is a new law that became effective in January. SB 553 amended the California Labor Code to require California employers to develop and implement a workplace violence prevention plan and train all employees by July 1, 2024.



As a result of this new law, DCA updated its current Workplace Violence Prevention Policy to include all requirements of SB 553. DCA also developed an annual Workplace Violence Prevention Training that is located on DCA's Learning Management System (LMS). The training is mandatory for all DCA employees -- including Board Members. This new training must be completed by **August 30, 2024**. If you have any questions or need assistance accessing LMS, please contact Board and Bureau Relations.

Board Member Orientation Training (BMOT) – October 22, 2024

Board members must complete Board Member Orientation Training, also known as BMOT, within one year of appointment or re-appointment. On October 22, 2024, BMOT will be offered virtually. This will be the last training of the year. Members can register for this training via LMS.

Licensing Resources Webinar for Military Service Members and their Families

On July 31, DCA participated in a virtual military licensing webinar hosted by Navy Region Southwest. The webinar showcased DCA military licensing resources to active-duty military, veterans, and military spouses throughout California and Nevada Navy bases. DCA's Deputy Director of Communications provided an overview of licensing resources and DCA's Deputy Director of Information Services provided a demonstration of the Federal Professional License Portability and State Registration online portal. DCA received positive feedback and looks forward to continuing its partnerships with the military community.

DEI Update

DCA's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Steering Committee met on **July 26, 2024**. The meeting included discussion on DEI training, development of a workforce development survey from a DEI perspective, expanding language access, and DEI activities for inclusion in the DCA Annual Report.

This is the second year the DEI Committee is memorializing the department's DEI activities in the Annual Report, which is provided to the Administration and the Legislature. This year's report will include DCA specific updates on training, outreach, language access, and tools and resources created for staff, and it will also highlight board and bureau accomplishments. I'm pleased to share a few examples of DEI related activities completed by the boards:

- To further expand public input and access, the Acupuncture Board released its strategic planning survey in four languages (English,



Spanish, Chinese, and Korean). 75% of the surveys were completed in a language other than English.

- The California State Athletic Commission extended an existing agreement and executed two new agreements with tribal nations to regulate combat sports on tribal land and ensure participant safety.
- The Medical Board of California administers the Mexico Pilot Program, which allows up to 30 physicians licensed in Mexico who specialize in family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, and obstetrics and gynecology, to practice in California for up to three years. In 2023, 9 additional physicians were licensed under the Mexico Pilot Program, reaching the 30-physician threshold.
- The Contractors State License Board translated 10 examinations commonly taken by candidates into Spanish, including the Law and Business examination that is required of all applicants. For all other trade examinations and languages, accommodations are made for applicants to be joined by an approved translator during the examination.

The Annual Report will be available early next year and will be shared with your Executive Director.

The next DEI Committee meeting is on **October 25, 2024**. If you have ideas, you'd like the Committee to consider, please share them with your Executive Director.

Phishing Alert

As a reminder, Boards are urged to continue to be vigilant and cautious of potential phishing attempts and deceptive emails, texts, and calls to trick individuals into revealing sensitive information or installing malicious software. If you suspect any phishing attempt or encounter a suspicious email, please report it immediately to your Executive Director, or DCA's Office of Information Security (OIS). This helps us take swift action to protect everyone.