



Board and Bureau Relations Department of Consumer Affairs Update

Quarterly Board Meeting November 21, 2024

DEI Update

DCA's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Steering Committee met last month, and we are excited to announce its newly elected leadership. Reji Varghese, the Medical Board of California's Executive Director, will serve as Chair, and Marlon McManus, the Board of Behavioral Sciences' Assistant Executive Officer, will serve as Vice Chair. With Reji and Marlon's years of experience and sincere commitment, we greatly look forward to accomplishing many DEI initiatives under their leadership.

New Unconscious Bias Training for Board Members

I am also excited to share that DCA is updating its current "Unveiling Unconscious Bias" training to specifically focus on board members, your critical roles, and how unconscious bias can affect your decision-making authority. The training will be self-paced and available in DCA's online Learning Management System (LMS). We anticipate launching this new training in early 2025 and Board Members will be required to take it annually.

As a reminder, DCA offers over 20 online DEI training courses in its Learning Management System. While these courses are not mandatory, Board Members and Board leaders are strongly encouraged to take these trainings, as you are instrumental in leading department-wide change.



Military Licensing Resources Webinar

To support and maximize outreach to our military community, DCA is hosting a second live webinar on November 21, 2024, to share information about military licensing resources. During the webinar, attendees will learn about licensing resources available to members of the military and their spouses or domestic partners. The webinar will also feature a demonstration of DCA's Federal Professional License Portal and State Registration process, which was launched last Fall, as well as a Q&A session. Webinar details and information will be available at www.dca.ca.gov/military.

New Business and Travel Expense Reimbursement Program

The State's Department of Human Resources – also known as CalHR -- recently released an updated travel policy to align with the federal policies outlined by the U.S. General Services Administration. Effective October 1, 2024, DCA will use the federal standard meals and incidental expense rates for in-state and out-of-state travel. DCA will also use the federal standard and non-standard reimbursement lodging rates. Information on these changes was shared with Board leaders at the end of September. Board members are encouraged to become familiar with the new travel expense reimbursement program and rates. Please contact Board and Bureau Relations with any questions regarding these changes.

Our Promise Campaign Launch – State Employees Giving at Work Campaign

We are officially in the season of giving and DCA is honored to join in the annual charitable campaign launching this month -- the State's Our Promise Campaign.

Every year through the Our Promise California State Employees Charitable Campaign, State employees – including Board Members, have the opportunity to support the nonprofit causes they are passionate about through payroll giving or one-time donations. These contributions have a positive impact on our



communities and is another way for DCA to show it cares for California. This year's campaign is led by Monica Vargas, Deputy Director of Communications, and Karen Navarro, Assistant Deputy Director of Communications. DCA's campaign officially launches on November 18 and runs through December 31. In the meantime, please contact Board and Bureau Relations with any questions or if you would like information on how you can give.