

Education Quality Team

Staff Report for May 8, 2019

From the Education Quality Division: Patrick Halladay, Director

This meeting finds the Education Quality team deep into renewal season. We had suggested that all educators up for renewal submit their application by 1 April. It seems that they took us seriously! Still, we are successfully keeping up with the demand, processing licenses at a steady rate. We have received some additional support from Walter Earle on a temporary basis. This helps to relieve a bit of the demand.

In mid-April, the FBI fingerprinting unit completed their triennial audit of the State of Vermont's fingerprinting procedures. Their visit to the AOE suggested only very minor changes in procedures, one of which was addressed within 48 hours of their departure. The second awaits input from the AOE general counsel before being incorporated into ALiS. The team of Ron Ryan, Amy Scalabrini, Rebecca Gile, Lisa Pierson, and Clare O'Shaughnessy (from legal) were well prepared for the visit and provided detailed responses to the FBI agent. In particular, Lisa Pierson provided a great deal of institutional knowledge from previous audits in our advance preparation. Thanks to Lisa and all of the team!

The application window has closed for our program technician position, previously held by Hallie Rubalcaba. We received more than 15 applications. We are reviewing applications and hope to begin our interviews next week. This is a very important position, as the person who holds it spends more time interacting directly with the field than anyone else in the agency.

From the In-service Coordinator: Ron Ryan, Education Programs Manager

The renewal volume during the months of March and April were high. Currently we have received 1902 renewal applications approximately 49% of the 3,900 that are expected this year. 1459 of the renewals have paid as of this date, approximately 37% of the total. As a reminder please inform your colleagues to submit as soon as possible to ensure that their license will be renewed prior to expiring on June 30, 2019.

The agency will be conducting 5 Local/Regional Licensing Board trainings around the state this July instead of having them here at Barre City Place. Due to the agencies potential move date, parking issues and other construction factors it was more conducive to move the trainings offsite. Those dates will be July, 11 at Landmark College, July 17 at Castleton University, July 19 at Hampton Inn, Colchester, and July 24 at Lake Morey and July 26 at Eastside in Newport.

On April 25, 2019 Deb met with Caledonia Central and Washington Northeast regarding their “merger” for July 1, 2019.

Local/Regional Standards Boards - Deb Giles reports that calls and individual emails have continued to increase over the last couple of months. She continues to meet with merging boards to set up Local Standards Board protocol. Every L/RSB have been sent their 2019 renewal list (list is only as valid as the employment section of an educator’s profile). All eligible Grant Award Documents have been sent to Finance by the April 15 due date.

Current Work Queue per application type as of 5/1/19: *Applications in the work queue are in various stages of processing from just received to waiting for payment from applicant.*

Application Type	Total
Initial	94
Reinstatement	22
Renewal	436
Retired	10
Temporary	11
1 Yr. Temporary – extenuating circumstance	1
Transcript Review – Initial	41
Transcript Review – Add endorsement	99
Peer Review - Initial	68
Peer Review – Add endorsement	20

From the Pre-service Educator Quality Team: Terry Reilly, Coordinator

The final steps for the new Specialized Literacy Specialist endorsement are being taken. The revision group will meet one more time to finish the work. This endorsement reflects the current practice of Reading/English Language Arts Specialists and Reading English/Language Arts Coordinators that finds much of their work either overlapping or being defined by unique socioeconomic conditions required of the job in varying regions. The beginning stages of forming one revision group for the Early Childhood Education and the Early Childhood Special Education endorsements underway. The one revision group comprised of both ECE and ECE Sped. stakeholders will meet on two occasions.

As it looks more and more like the Act 173 Advisory Group will not make Rule changes effecting Special Education endorsements, the Office will begin discussions about revising the Sped. Ed. endorsements.

Nearly all Title II reporting programs have completed the Institutional Program Report Card. Lastly, a review of national organizations that recognize accrediting bodies is underway.

ROPA

During the busy renewal season the ROPA Coordinator has responsibilities pertaining to license renewals in addition to ongoing Transcript Review work which is also busy at this time of year.

The Board will see in the May agenda recent ROPA work has been concentrated on VSBPE Policy N17, clarification of the substantive change process, a new program request from Castleton University and a new program request from Southern New Hampshire University. The ROPA Coordinator continues planning and preparation work pertain the ROPA standards redesign project.

PEER REVIEW

The Peer Review Coordinator, with assistance from the Agency's business office, will be issuing new contracts for Peer Review Panelists. The contract will be slightly modified to add a deliverable requiring a Panelist training. Previously the training was not a contract deliverable. This enabled Peer Review to bolster the Panelist training.

The Peer Review Advisory Committee met in May. Agenda items included; the mentoring handbook, professional attributes, field experience mentoring documentation. The PRAC again brought up the topic of Peer Review possibly devising a second track for candidates who do not enter the program with strong field experience.

Each PRAC meeting is intended to generate input that can be used to compile the Two Year ROPA Report. The Two Year ROPA Report is intended to be the final document leading to Peer Reviews full approval status. The PRAC meetings have been very productive generating a great deal of valuable advice.

- The PR Coordinator has 13 interviews scheduled for May and is currently scheduling for June.

- There are ten candidates on interview waitlist. Five of them are 5 ECE candidates.