

**DRAFT MINUTES
STATE OF NEVADA
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**

NEVADA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION MINUTES

THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE AND IN PERSON

The public may observe this meeting and provide public comment during the public comment section on Zoom or in person at:

Live Meeting:

DETR –Stan Jones Building
Conference Room C
2800 E. St. Louis Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89104

Live Meeting:

EmployNV – Reno Town Mall
4001 S. Virginia Street
Reno, NV 89502

Zoom Meeting:

Topic: CPE Quarterly Commission Meeting
Time: February 4, 2026, 9:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Zoom Meeting:

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<https://nvdestr-org.zoom.us/j/84955841194?pwd=hxwaAIP3BPiq5T82azQuyEkWiPXWHn.1>

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Staff Present During Video Conference

Kelly Wuest, CPE Administrator
Maricris Wu, CPE Education Specialist
Susan Beckett, CPE Compliance Investigator I
Devon Kajatt, CPE Administrative Assistant III

Commissioners Present During Video Conference Meeting

Dr. Thomas Kenny, Chair
Sharon Frederick, Vice Chair
Kara Abe
Dr. Randall Kirner
Peter Mikhail
Jon Ponder
Jessica Todtman

Commissioners Absent During Video Conference Meeting

Sherida Devine (excused)

Members of the Public, Educational Institutions, and Other Agencies Present

Mary Olson, Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
Arlo Thompson, Las Vegas Bartending School
Charles Mgrdichian, Director of Operations, National Polytechnic College
Sylvia Espin, Regional Campus Director, National Polytechnic College
Matt Pfau, Owner, Paralegal Institute
Amanda Roswell, Paralegal Institute
Alejandro Dawson, Owner, Sound Connect
Steve Sebree, Owner, Unity Dental Assisting
John Pinnington, Owner, Vegas Print School
Jeremiah Sawyer, Hands On HVAC School
Fede Inchauspe, Owner/Operator, Reno Medical Assistant School
Haylee Stephens, Compliance Manager, Reno Medical Assistant School
Jie Laing, Owner, Stone Sports Swim School and Scuba Dive Center
Robert Laing, Course Director, Stone Sports Swim School and Scuba Dive Center
Qi "Lilly" Fang, Owner, BlueJay Education, LLC
Sandy Anderson, former Executive Director, Nevada State Board of Massage Therapy
Tina Mark, Consultant, BlueJay Education, LLC
Leigha Bentz, Director of Regulatory Affairs, Ember
Susan Drossulis, Dean of Nursing, Carrington College Reno
Deborah Payne, Assistant Dean of Nursing, Carrington College Reno

STATE OF NEVADA
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
MINUTES

February 4, 2026 – 9:00 AM PDT

Call to Order

The meeting was held via Video Conference; via Zoom; and in person, DETR – Stan Jones Building, 2800 E. St. Louis Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89104; and EmployNV – Reno Town Mall, 4001 S. Virginia Street, Reno, Nevada, 89502. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Thomas Kenny at approximately 9:03 AM.

Public Comment Phone Option Instructions

For members of the public please note the options for attending this zoom meeting are via web and phone:

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Public Comments

Devon Kajatt confirmed no one was physically present in the conference room, in the Zoom meeting, or via the phone for public comment.

Written Comments

Devon Kajatt confirmed that no written comments were received.

Confirmation of Posting

Devon Kajatt confirmed that notice was provided for this meeting pursuant to Nevada's Open Meeting Law, NRS 241.020, and confirmation of posting was received. The Commission was in compliance with Nevada's Open Meeting Law.

Roll Call

- Commissioner Chair Kenny – Present
- Commissioner Vice-Chair Frederick – Present
- Commissioner Abe – Present
- Commissioner Kirner – Present
- Commissioner Mikhail – Present
- Commissioner Ponder – Present
- Commissioner Todtman – Present
- Commissioner Devine- Absent (excused)

Administrator Kelly Wuest took roll verbally. Quorum was confirmed.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Commissioner Kenny – motion to approve adoption of Agenda for February 4, 2026.

Second: Commissioner Mikhail.

Discussion: None.

Results: The agenda was adopted. (Commissioners Kirner, and Todtman were absent for the vote.)

Approval of November 5, 2025, Minutes

Motion: Commissioner Kenny– Motion to approve the minutes for the November 5, 2025, meeting.
Second: Commissioner Mikhail.
Discussion: None.
Results: The motion carried. (Commissioners Kirner and Todtman were absent for the vote.)

Administrator's Report

Administrator Wuest gave the Administrator's Report as submitted. The biggest change for staff in the last quarter was that CPE moved from its location at 3405 S. Maryland Parkway to the Stan Jones Building on East St. Louis Avenue.

Regarding CPE's Veterans Affairs (VA) Cooperative Agreement, CPE received a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in early January, for an additional \$5,467. The agency is on track, so far, for FY26, as the COLA amount received returned CPE to where it had been at the end of last fiscal year. CPE is planning a School Certifying Official (SCO) conference scheduled to be held in June 2026. Finally, CPE's VA Education Specialist will attend the national conference in Washington, D.C., beginning this weekend.

The only school closure affecting CPE last quarter was Assist to Succeed Northern Nevada. This closure was discussed during the Commission's last meeting on November 5, 2025. The institution submitted all required records, and CPE has totally closed out the institution.

Twenty-six institutions still have not submitted Q4 Quarterly Reports. CPE shows 7,909 new students for the quarter. As of our meeting last quarter, CPE counted about 10,000 students, but the final tally was 12,631 students, the highest fall enrollment in CPE history.

The agency received and processed several student complaints last quarter, partially due to recent downsizing at the U.S. Department of Education. CPE received numerous calls about federal financial aid, including several calls from students attending Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) schools. Student complaints related to financial aid seem to be an indicator of a changing economy. Staff have noted that when the economy starts to downturn, students begin complaining more. In addition to complaints about money and financial aid CPE also received one complaint related to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), for a total of four student complaints. Three of the complaints have already been closed; the other is scheduled for a hearing later in the meeting.

Applicants for Consideration of Full-Term Licensure

Las Vegas Bartending School

Testified: Arlo Thompson, CFO, Las Vegas Bartending School, testified that he was excited and ready to move forward in the licensing process.
Discussion: None.
Motion: Commissioner Kenny –Las Vegas Bartending be granted a full-term license.
Second: Commissioner Mikhail.
Results: The motion carried. (Commissioners Kirner and Todtman were absent for the vote.)

National Polytechnic College

Testified: Charles Mgrdichian, Director of Operations, and Sylvia Espin, Regional Campus Director. Sylvia Espin testified that they are thankful to be operating in Henderson, Nevada.
Discussion: None.
Motion: Commissioner Kenny – The provisional license for National Polytechnic College be extended for an additional 12 months.
Second: Commissioner Mikhail.
Results: The motion carried. (Commissioners Kirner and Todtman were absent for the vote.)

Paralegal Institute

Testified: Matt Pfau, Owner, Paralegal Institute; and Amanda Roswell. Mr. Pfau testified that it was a great first year and that he was looking forward to full-term licensure, if approved.

Discussion: Commissioners Mikhail and Kenny shared their concerns about Paralegal Institute's application, including a typo in the school's course catalog, program length and curriculum, student graduation and placement rates, and website verbiage and source citation.

Commissioner Mikhail noted an issue on Page 4 of the institution's course catalog. This portion of the catalog explains Paralegal Institute's refund policy yet states, "the student may opt to withdraw from the program and receive refund in accordance with National Technical Institute's (NTI's) refund policy." The school agreed to make the correction to replace this reference to NTI with Paralegal Institute's attendance policy.

Commissioner Mikhail questioned the institution's claims on its website that its 15-week, 90-hour program is not merely comparable to, but actually better than, the training and education obtained through two-year Associates programs. He wanted to know how the institution is able to take students with no previous legal experience and no academic degrees and turn them into qualified paralegals in 90 hours of instruction. Mr. Pfau agreed with Commissioner Mikhail's assertion that comparing the two programs is like comparing apples to oranges but argued that this difference is the point of his program. He said he could have developed a program more similar to existing two-year programs, but that would require unnecessary time, effort, and expense for students, and students would not gain any additional valuable or useful education from the extension. Conversely, he argued that Paralegal Institute's program focuses solely on the knowledge, information, and skills necessary for students to become successful paralegals. Mr. Pfau stated that two-year programs are not all they are cracked up to be, and that might be one reason why their graduation rates are much lower than those of Paralegal Institute.

Commissioner Mikhail wanted to discuss Paralegal Institute's use of graduation rates to gauge student success against competitors and whether or not graduation rates are a reasonably fair or accurate measure of success. The school's website compared an 83 percent graduation rate from Paralegal Institute against an average graduation rate of 34 percent at two-year programs. Amanda Roswell testified that one reason for Paralegal Institute's high graduation rate is that the institution vets applicants before they are admitted, leading to greater student success and better graduation rates at the school. Commissioner Mikhail countered that, given the vast differences between Paralegal Institute and its competitors' programs, this still seemed to be an unfair comparison. Commissioner Mikhail suggested that job placement rates, not graduation rates, provide a better measurement of student success for postsecondary educational institutions.

Commissioner Mikhail wanted to know how Paralegal Institute tracks and measures enrollment and student placement. He also wanted to know whether student success is measured against Paralegal Institute's current standards or the program's standards when it was housed under UNLV's Continuing Education program. Additionally, Commissioner Mikhail suggested graduates' job placement rates versus competitors would be a better comparison than graduation rates alone, because job placement rates would give prospective students a better idea of their odds of success post-graduation. It appears Paralegal Institute has great placement rates, but Commissioner Mikhail wanted to see the school include both metrics on the website.

The next major topic of discussion was Paralegal Institute's website and some of the verbiage and claims appearing on it. Commissioner Mikhail questioned the use of phrases like "proven curriculum" and "expert instructors" as being too vague to accurately describe the program and its instructors and stated that it would be possible for two institutions could use the exact same curriculum, but experience very different outcomes. Matt Pfau stated that "proven curriculum" was used because the curriculum used by Paralegal Institute is the same curriculum he developed, years ago, for the University of Nevada,

Las Vegas's (UNLV's) continuing education program, and that it was also widely successful at UNLV. He argued the website verbiage should stand because it is the same curriculum – albeit with adaptations to make the program more rounded and comprehensive – used by UNLV. Mr. Pfau stated the curriculum is proven because it has been used for years, and because the law firms who used to hire paralegals from UNLV's program are now hiring paralegals from Paralegal Institute. Mr. Pfau believes this evidence is enough to say Paralegal Institute's curriculum is "proven."

Paralegal Institute's website also uses the phrase "expert instructors," which Commissioner Mikhail also found problematic. There is no way of quantifying what counts as expertise and the institution should use "experienced instructors" instead. Mr. Pfau countered that he did not want to seem like he was gloating or aggrandizing himself, but that he could not think of anyone with more expertise to teach than himself and that is why he used "expert" on the website. Commissioner Mikhail said he was not questioning Mr. Pfau's background, but that the term "expert" is too vague to be useful and, without independent, third-party consensus, Paralegal Institute cannot make claims of expertise on its website.

Usage of the phrase "nationally recognized paralegal certificate" also raised concerns. Commissioner Mikhail asked which organization recognized Paralegal Institute's certificate. Mr. Pfau admitted there is no nationally recognized paralegal certificate and said he used the phrase because his curriculum covers everything related to national law and paralegals. Commissioner Mikhail directed the school to remove the language. Students would be unaware that no national certification exists and would, therefore, the statement is misleading.

Commissioners Kenny and Mikhail voiced concerns about website claims suggesting Paralegal Institute has been operating for years and has graduated hundreds of students. Mr. Pfau believed this statement to be true, given that his curriculum was used by UNLV for years and that hundreds of students from that program had been placed in the Las Vegas valley. Commissioner Kenny stated that Paralegal Institute cannot take the shine of its previous experience at UNLV and apply it to the new institution because the two are not the same.

Administrator Wuest was brought in at the end of the discussion to explain what the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 394.590(1)(g), (h), and (i) says about prohibitions in advertising for postsecondary institutions. Paragraph G prohibits an institution from using quantitative superlatives, such as "biggest, largest, or highest placement rate" in advertising, unless the terms are qualified in the advertisement itself and the institution has, in its possession, evidence to support its claim. Paragraph H prohibits an institution from misrepresenting the nature or effectiveness of any course, equipment, or methods of training. Paragraph I bars the misrepresentation of qualifications, training, or experience among an institution's faculty and personnel. In this way, Paralegal Institute must be able to provide direct evidence to prove any claim made on its website.

On top of the Commission's concerns about website language, Commissioner Kenny also noted a general lack of source citation on the website claims. Commissioner Kenny directed the school to cite sources for all statistical claims on the website and to review all verbiage from the perspective of somebody who knows nothing about the legal industry or about education. Paralegal Institute must ensure its website claims are clear, verifiable, and something that an individual without a legal or educational background could still understand.

Motion: Commissioner Kenny –Paralegal Institute be granted a full-term license, contingent upon compliance with revisions to their website to demonstrate compliance with NAC 394.590, regarding prohibitions on advertising.

Second: Commissioner Mikhail.

Results: The motion carried. (Commissioner Kirner abstained from the vote. Commissioners Todtman was absent for the vote.)

Sound Connect

Testified: Alejandro Dawson, Owner, Sound Connect, testified he has two prospective students who hope to start by the end of the month.
Discussion: None.
Motion: Commissioner Kenny – The provisional license for Sound Connect be extended for an additional nine months.
Second: Commissioner Ponder.
Results: The motion carried. (Commissioners Todtman was absent for the vote.)

Unity Dental Assisting

Testified: Steve Sebree, Owner, Unity Dental Assisting
Discussion: None.
Motion: Commissioner Kenny –Unity Dental Assisting be granted a full-term license.
Second: Commissioner Frederick seconded the motion.
Results: The motion carried.

Vegas Print School

Testified: John Pinnington, Owner, Vegas Print School, testified that continuing the institution's business operations has become more challenging, due to Mr. Pinnington's recent health condition and the slowing of the local economy.

Discussion: Mr. Pinnington testified that recent changes to the local economy have forced several local printing companies to close their doors or otherwise not hire new workers. Mr. Pinnington said that, while he had six prospective students contact him recently, he does not feel comfortable taking their money when he is not confident they will be able to find jobs upon graduation. He also stated that he does not want to continue the business for another year while he waits for economic conditions to improve in the Las Vegas area. Mr. Pinnington stated he does not want to get student complaints that the school is just taking students' money but not helping them.

Commissioner Kenny and Administrator Wuest discussed the options available to Mr. Pinnington and Vegas Print School at this time. Commissioner Kenny asked whether Vegas Print School could withdraw their application for licensure and then come back at a future date, because he could not recall a provisional license having been extended for more than 12 months. Administrator Wuest confirmed that the Commission usually does not extend provisional licenses more than 12 months to simply revisit tabled items, but that Nevada's statutes allow any kind of license to be issued for up to 24 months. Therefore, Vegas Print School has two options it can pursue: the Commission could extend the provisional license for another period of time in the hope that economic conditions will change; or the school could relinquish its license at any time, requiring the school to start over should it seek licensure in the future. After discussion, Mr. Pinnington requested additional time before relinquishing his license to see if his health and economic conditions improve.

Motion: Commissioner Kenny –The provisional license for Vegas Print School be extended for 12 months.
Second: Commissioner Frederick.
Results: The motion carried.

Applicants for Consideration of Initial Provisional Licensure

Hands On HVAC School

Testified: Jeremiah Sawyer testified Nevada is the fifth state in which the institution will be operating. Everyone on the Hands On HVAC team has been thankful for how coordinated and responsive CPE staff has been throughout the process.

Discussion: Commissioner Ponder inquired as to what other states the school operates in and was told that the institution also operates in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, and Arizona. The institution tries to target localities with hot, extreme weather and dense populations for better job placement. Commissioner Ponder asked what the institution is doing to place students post-graduation. Mr. Sawyer responded that, because Hands On HVAC operates in multiple states, there are some states which have more stringent placement guidelines than others and, because of this, the school applies the strictest guidelines across the board to every school in every state.

Mr. Sawyer discussed earnings and potential salary outcomes for graduates, which he stated can vary based on the type of work being done. Because of this variation, Hands On HVAC refers to Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) averages due to the variation in wages, as some companies offer hourly rates, some offer hourly rates plus commissions, and some companies are commission-only. Rate of pay depends on whether the work performed is in a residential capacity, a commercial capacity, or maintenance.

Commissioner Kirner asked if Hands on HVAC had any statistics related to student placement. Mr. Sawyer replied that Texas is the only state to require a minimum job placement of 60 percent, and that the institution recently achieved 62 percent. Mr. Sawyer further stated that the numbers reported by the institution are likely much lower than the actual placement rates, as students frequently stop communicating with the school after graduation. While the institution believes its placement numbers are 10 to 15 percent higher than what it reports, the institution can verify the 62 percent placement rate. Mr. Sawyer stated he did not have evidence to prove placement rates in the other states but believed the rates to be similar to Texas.

Commissioner Frederick asked if Hands On HVAC has any services geared towards military veterans. Mr. Sawyer testified that while the school does not have any services or programs that specifically target veterans it does accept and serve military personnel. In Texas, Hands On HVAC routinely trains groups of personnel enrolled by their military departments.

Motion: Commissioner Ponder – A 12-month provisional license be granted to Hands On HVAC School to offer a heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration HVACR program contingent upon receipt of a surety bond in the amount of \$83,000, facility, and personnel information.

Second: Commissioner Frederick.

Results: The motion carried. (Commissioner Mikhail abstained from the vote.)

Reno Medical Assistant School

Testified: Fede Inchauspe, Owner/Operator; and Haylee Stephens, Compliance Manager.

Discussion: Commissioner Todtman inquired about how student externships work at the institution. Mr. Inchauspe replied that the institution attempts to contact local medical offices to ensure externship placements before students ever enroll, to help guarantee that graduates will be able to find jobs once they complete the program.

Commissioner Mikhail wondered about competing schools in the area and how Reno Medical Assistant School will compete with them to get its students placed. He wanted to know who is responsible for supervising the placement process. To help ensure success, said Mr. Inchauspe, the institution has a robust operations department that places daily calls to local medical offices to ensure externship placements.

The institution also employs academic advisors who meet and follow up with students throughout the course of the program. Students are generally ready to be placed into an externship by Week 8 of the 18-week program.

Commissioners Kenny and Kirner asked about student placement rates. Mr. Inchauspe testified that in Texas, where the institution must report placement rates, it has a better than 50 percent rate of placement for students. When asked specifically about Nevada, Mr. Inchauspe stated a similar placement rate of about 50 percent. Commissioner Mikhail noted the 50 percent placement rate in Texas and wanted to know how many students this included. Mr. Inchauspe replied that more than 2,000 students in Texas were placed in externships in a single year. Haylee Stephens clarified that the school operates 93 locations in Texas, which might explain seemingly high student placement numbers.

Motion: Commissioner Todtman – A 12-month provisional license be granted to Reno Medical Assistant School to offer a medical assistant program contingent upon receipt of surety bond in the amount of \$41,000, facility approval, curriculum review and personnel information.

Second: Commissioner Kirner.

Results: The motion carried.

Stone Sports Swim School and Scuba Dive Center

Testified: Jie Laing, Owner; and Robert Laing, Course Director, testified they are excited to take their business to the next level.

Discussion: Commissioner Mikhail spoke about a dive school in Florida that recently had a drowning incident. He wanted to know what Stone Sports will do to keep students safe and mitigate similar tragedies at the institution. Robert Laing stated that the institution meets or exceeds safety guidelines put forth by the National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI). NAUI requires dive schools to maintain a ten-to-one instructor to student ratio, but because of the low temperatures and visibility present in Lake Mead, the school has opted to enact a lower instructor to student ratio of six-to-one. Mr. Laing acknowledged that while this decision lowered the business' earning potential, the increase in student safety made the decision worthwhile. The school also employs a variety of safety measures such as descent lines and platforms to keep students from becoming separated from the group during training.

Motion: Commissioner Kenny – A 12-month provisional license be granted to Stone Sports Swim School and Scuba Dive Center to offer five programs under the National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI) to include: assistant instructor, divemaster, scuba instructor, scuba instructor trainer, and scuba course director; and two programs under the Scuba Schools International (SSI) to include the instructor program and the lifeguard program; contingent upon receipt of surety bond in the amount of \$10,000, facility information, and personnel information.

Second: Commissioner Mikhail.

Results: The motion carried.

BlueJay Education, LLC

Testified: Qi "Lilly" Fang, Owner, BlueJay Education, LLC; Tina Mark, Consultant, BlueJay Education, LLC; and Sandy Anderson, former Executive Director, Nevada State Board of Massage Therapy and program evaluator.

Discussion: Vice Chair Frederick took over the meeting from Chair Kenny due to an emergency. Commissioner Mikhail questioned Lilly Fang's motivation for opening a massage school, since she is a civil engineer by trade and does not hold a Nevada massage therapy license. This seemed like a curious career move to the Commissioner. Lilly Fang explained that she became an engineer because her father and grandfather had also been engineers. Ms. Fang added that her mother worked in the medical profession, so she believed this created a history of medical practice in her family. She believed massage therapy to be a great way to help others achieve health and personal wellness and wanted to get involved. Tina Mark added that Ms. Fang seemed to have good intentions for wanting to open the school, and Ms. Mark wanted to help Ms. Fang navigate through the massage industry.

Commissioner Todtman raised several concerns with BlueJay Education's application and CPE staff's response to it. In her experience on the Commission, Todtman had never seen CPE staff express such heightened concern about moving forward with a license application. Commissioner wondered what it would take for the Commission to say "no." Administrator Wuest explained that CPE staff become concerned whenever the agency receives an application for an unaccredited massage school, and that there is always a level of concern when the owners of massage schools have no background in massage therapy. Funding sources quickly become opaque in situations like this one and CPE has had issues with human trafficking when the source of financial backing cannot be adequately determined.

Administrator Wuest introduced Sandy Anderson, former Executive Director of the Nevada State Board of Massage Therapy, who also assists CPE as a subject matter expert regarding massage schools. Ms. Anderson testified that, in addition to assisting CPE with massage school curriculum review and serving as the past Executive Director with the Nevada's Massage Board, she was also a member of the Human Trafficking Task Forces for the Mayors of Las Vegas and Reno, and that she participated in an event called the National Convening: Human Trafficking in Illicit Massage Establishments, in 2025. Ms. Anderson has served as the Treasurer and Vice President of the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards, which is responsible for creating the Massage & Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx) for massage therapy students in 44 states.

Ms. Anderson completed an initial review of BlueJay Education, LLC's proposed curriculum, and found that the curriculum itself looks good. Ms. Anderson's concerns with the use of the word "bluejay" in the school's name because, according to Ms. Anderson, "bluejay" is a slang term for a prostitute or a woman with immoral compass. Ms. Anderson found the name particularly disturbing, as Nevada ranks sixth in the nation for human trafficking. The choice of name, combined with its murky funding and Ms. Fang's lack of experience in the field made it impossible for Ms. Anderson to determine whether BlueJay Education is attempting to get trafficked women out of their abusive environments and into legitimate jobs, or if the school is instead attempting to train prostitutes. Ms. Anderson further stated she believed Ms. Fang was also unable to answer that question. Sandy Anderson went on to state that if the Commission's sole concern was with BlueJay's proposed curriculum she could comfortably sign off on it, but she did not believe that to be the case and was uncomfortable with both the school's name and the owner's intentions.

Tina Mark explained that Lilly Fang chose "BlueJay" because she had purchased a house on a street with the same name in Irvine, California. According to Ms. Mark, Lilly Fang liked the street name so much she chose to name her school after it. Ms. Fang produced her driver's license to demonstrate that she does live on "BlueJay" in Irvine, California. Both Tina Mark and Lilly Fang testified they were unaware of the slang meaning for "bluejay" prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Todtman stated that solid curriculum alone was not enough for her to move forward with licensure. The Commissioner wondered, given the stated concerns, whether there is enough demand in Las Vegas to support another massage school. Sandy Anderson responded that she believes there is: that Nevada currently has around 988 spas and private massage practices operating in the state. She added that spas on the Las Vegas Strip are always looking to bring on additional practitioners. While it is true that spas and salons in Las Vegas are always looking for help, Ms. Anderson cautioned that there is great disparity in earnings potential for massage therapists in Las Vegas, based on spa location. Practitioners at spas on the Strip can easily earn about \$100,000 per year, but individuals working off-Strip at locations such as Massage Envy can only expect to make about \$15 per hour with tips.

Commissioner Mikhail wanted to know if BlueJay Education plans to recruit locally or seek out international students. Tina Mark responded that the school is currently only looking at local recruits.

In response to Commissioner Todtman's question about demand for massage therapists in Las Vegas, Ms. Mark stated she personally found it difficult to find a quality massage therapist in town. Ms. Mark stated she is aware that massage students in her home state of Arkansas often struggle to pass the MBLEx but that they had otherwise decent hands-on skills. The massage therapists Mark encountered in Las Vegas, however, had very poor hands-on skills, performed services that were sometimes contraindicated, and never presented her with a medical intake form upon check-in. Ms. Mark found this shocking and decided to assist Lilly Fang in opening her school. Tina Mark believed Ms. Fang had the right want, need, and desire to educate people to help others.

Tina Mark went on to express the importance of hiring qualified instructors. Schools cannot hire a minimal number of instructors and expect them to excel at teaching every course included in a program because most instructors are not experts in every topic. Schools must be open to the idea of bringing in the right people to teach certain subjects.

Commissioner Mikhail asked what would happen once BlueJay Education opens its doors and Ms. Mark returns to Arkansas. His concern was who would be available to guide Ms. Fang through staffing and other critical business decisions since she has no background in massage. Ms. Mark answered that she was considering relocating to Las Vegas in order to continue to assist the school. Ms. Mark stated she is committed to assisting Ms. Fang with her project.

Before the Commission moved to vote on licensure, Tina Mark stated she thought it would be in everybody's best interests for BlueJay Education to change its name to something else. Administrator Wuest confirmed that the Commission could require the school to change its name as part of its motion.

Commissioner Frederick, who had previously assumed the Chair, moved that a 12-month provisional license be granted to BlueJay Education, LLC, to offer a massage program contingent upon receipt of a \$342,000 surety bond; as well as a review of the facility, curriculum and personnel, and that the school name must be changed from BlueJay Education, LLC. Commissioner Mikhail seconded the motion, but the motion failed when Commissioners Kirner, Ponder, and Todtman voted no (Commissioner Kenny abstained from the vote because he was not present for the discussion).

Discussion ensued about how to proceed after the failed motion. Several options were discussed, including tabling the motion until a future meeting or attempting to come to a consensus that would allow the Commission to move forward with licensure. The Commission decided that the name "BlueJay" was an unfortunate coincidence and, given this seemed to be the biggest obstacle to licensure, determined that the body could

move forward with provisional licensure once the name has been changed. A second motion was called, and it passed the second time around.

- Motion: Commissioner Frederick – A 12-month provisional license be granted to BlueJay Education, LLC, to offer a massage program contingent upon receipt of surety bond in the amount of \$342,000, facility, curriculum review and personnel information, and that the name of the school will be changed.
- Second: Commissioner Mikhail.
- Results: The motion carried. (Commissioner Todtman voted no. Commissioner Kenny abstained from the vote.)

Applicants for Consideration of an Added Program

Northwest Career College

- Testified: Thomas Kenny, Chief Information Officer and Dental Assisting Program Director. The institution is excited to expand into new areas outside of healthcare, business, information technology and legal studies with its new HVAC program. The school has already hired a wonderful program chair who is a seasoned operator and has been working in the field for years.
- Discussion: None.
- Motion: Commissioner Ponder –Northwest Career College be granted approval to offer the HVAC Technician program contingent upon securing surety in the amount of \$64,000, facility approval and personnel information.
- Second: Commissioner Frederick.
- Results: The motion carried. (Commissioners Kenny and Commissioner Mikhail abstained from the vote.)

Student Hearing

Addie Johnson vs. Carrington College Reno

- Testified: Leigha Bentz, Director of Regulatory Affairs, Ember; Susan Drossulis, Dean of Nursing, Carrington College Reno; and Deborah Payne, Assistant Dean of Nursing, Carrington College Reno.
- Discussion: Chair Kenny resumed the role of chair. The Commission was notified that Addie Johnson, who requested the hearing, was not present in person, via the phone, or on Zoom. Administrator Wuest asked for confirmation from the DAG on how to proceed, since the requesting party normally presents its argument to the Commission first. Mary Olson, Deputy Attorney General, confirmed this was true, but since Ms. Johnson was not present there was no case to be presented. The burden of proof rests with the person bringing the claim. Carrington College could still be permitted to make remarks but reminded the panel to remember where the burden of proof lies, especially in the absence of any evidence or testimony.

Commissioner Todtman inquired how the parties were notified of the hearing. CPE staff sent Addie Johnson a certified letter notifying her of the hearing date, but staff had also been in contact with Ms. Addison via email. Ms. Johnson had been asking questions and responding to CPE staff. Administrator Wuest asked her how she would be attending the hearing but Ms. Addison never responded to the request regarding her attendance at the meeting. Carrington College Reno received all notifications and materials via email, and Carrington College Reno responded to CPE requests immediately.

Commissioner Kenny wondered what would happen if the Commission made a determination in Ms. Johnson's absence. Would it be possible to defer the complaint to a later meeting? He asked whether the student would be able to file the same complaint at a later date, or if the Commission's vote was final. Administrator Wuest clarified that Ms. Johnson is challenging the Administrator's decision, and that Nevada's laws are very clear

that a student hearing must occur at the Commission's next scheduled meeting. There is no option for deferment in this case unless the DAG knows of another law that permits a deferment. Mary Olson stated that she was not aware of any other law on that point. Typically, commissioners have the discretion to defer or continue over.

Commissioner Kenny read the following findings of fact for this matter. Carrington College, respondent, is licensed by the Nevada Commission on Postsecondary Education (CPE) as a private postsecondary institution to offer an Associate of Science in Nursing, certificate in Medical Assisting, and diploma in Phlebotomy Technician. Addie Johnson, appellant, is a student currently enrolled in Carrington College's Associate of Science in Nursing program at the Reno campus.

Exhibit 1 is the verified student complaint sent via CPE portal on November 11, 2025, with the following allegations. Appellant's allegations number one and two, unfair and unjust treatment, clinical failure despite the retakes and appearance, passing grades, and failure to follow policies in the Welcome Letter, handbook, or catalog. Appellant's allegation number three, the student was never approached by an instructor about a possible failure and was provided positive feedback each week on assignments. Appellant's allegation number four, student's report of instructor misconduct involving inappropriate physical contact with another student that led to retaliation against the student.

Exhibit 2 is the unduplicated support documentation provided by the student to CPE.

Exhibit 3 is the response from Carrington College to include the student record for Addie Johnson, the institutional catalog in student handbooks applicable to the student.

Exhibit 4 is the formal determination issued by CPE to the student.

Exhibit 5 is the letter from Addie Johnson requesting the hearing.

Conclusions of Law: the Commission on Postsecondary Education has jurisdiction over an institution that violates provisions in NRS 394.383 to 394.560, inclusive, or NAC 394.300 to 394.685.

Motion: Commissioner Kenny – The institution provided the contracted education as outlined in the institutional catalog and student handbooks. No violations of NRS 394.383 to 394.560, inclusive, or NAC 394.300 to NAC 394.685 were found. The Administrator's determination that the allegations were unsubstantiated is upheld.

Second: Commissioner Frederick.

Results: The motion carried.

Public Comments

Commissioner Kenny confirmed no one was physically present in the Zoom meeting, or on the phone for public comment.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Kenny at 11:31 a.m.