



IDFPR

Illinois Department of
Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Professional Regulation

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JB PRITZKER
Governor

MARIO TRETO, JR.
Secretary

CAMILE LINDSAY
Director

The Task Force on Internationally-Licensed Health Care Professionals Meeting Minutes

Date: August 14, 2025

I. Call to Order

Ericka Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Location: 555 West Monroe Street 5th Floor, Conference Room C1

Chicago, IL 60661

320 West Washington Street, 2nd Floor, Conference Room 258

Springfield, IL 62786

The locations were connected by interactive video conferencing.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

A quorum of members were present:

IDFPR Secretary or Designee: **Ericka Johnson**

Speaker of the House of Representatives Appointment: **Theresa Mah**

Minority Leader of the House of Representatives Appointment: **Erin O'Brien**

President of the Senate Appointment: **Suzy Glowiak Hilton**

Minority Leader of the Senate Appointment: **David Porter**

DPR Director or designee: **Lauren McGinn**

Chief Medical Coordinator of the Division of DPR: **Dr. Shami Goyal**

Representatives of an organization that seek to eliminate employment barriers and advance the skills for immigrant professionals: **Tamar Frolichstein-Appel;**
Bethany Atkins

A representative of an organization that recruits immigrants and foreign students to work in health related areas; focusing on raising the awareness of social, political, and economic issues faced related to immigrant health: **Fatima Sans proxy for Mike Zimmer**

A representative of an organization that seeks to increase the number of internationally educated medical professionals for practice within diverse communities: **Óscar Iván Zambrano**

Each member introduced themselves and shared their connection to the task force.

Guest(s) Present: State Representative Bill Hauter and Fatima Sans - World Education Services (WES)

Mario Treto Jr., Secretary of the Department of Financial and Professional regulation was present and provided comments to the task force members. Secretary Treto discussed the Department's new licensing system CORE (Comprehensive Online Regulatory Environment) that will streamline processes, reduce obstacles and ensure that everything runs more efficiently. Secretary Treto acknowledged subject matter experts in the legislature and expressed his gratitude to State Representative Bill Hauter, who provides his medical expertise and has been a champion. The Secretary stated that he is excited to work alongside every task force member and participant. He also stated that IDFPR will be hosting the upcoming Midwest Occupational Licensing Summit, and IMGs will be a topic of discussion.

Secretary Treto stated that on a personal note, he has so much gratitude for the legislators and industry partners that have helped us get to us to where we're going. The Secretary thanked members for advocating for us so that we can better serve constituents.

III. New Business

Presentation by IDFPR

Miss Johnson provided a power point presentation that explained the background, purpose, and duties of the task force. She stated that IDFPR was designated as the agency where this task force would live and that the members of this task force are varied in backgrounds and experiences. Miss Johnson stated that she believes it will be important over the next year to share our stories and experiences as this group has a wide range of knowledge to tap into.

Miss Johnson covered the requirements of the task force report that will be due to the Governor and General Assembly one year from August 14, 2025.

Associate General Counsel, Lauren McGinn provided an update on the rulemaking status for the International Medical Graduates. Mrs. McGinn stated that she and Dr. Goyal recently traveled to Springfield to attend the August Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) meeting and the rules passed with no objection. She stated that the rules will thereafter go on

to the adoption phase. Mrs. McGinn stated that more updates will come and that we will share the final language and answer any questions at that time. Miss Johnson asked Mrs. McGinn how long it would be before the rules are adopted. Mrs. McGinn stated that she spoke with the Department rules coordinator who said that he thought the adoption would take place at the end of this month (August).

Secretary Treto commended Lauren McGinn, Dr. Goyal, and others who have worked on the rules process as it has been a long journey. He explained that after the first notice, there is a minimum of 45 days to receive feedback. He noted that we received comments after the 45 days and wanted to make sure that everyone had a voice and seat at the table. He stated that in return, we provided thoughtful responses to all comments received. Secretary Treto stated that we appreciate the conversations we have had with members of this task force. He noted that when trying to craft rules that make sense for us, we want to make sure that we are thinking ahead of any potential issues, operational issues, looking at the new system, and making sure it integrates well. The Secretary emphasized that the agency aims to complete this by month's end, given its priority status. Typically, when we have rules we move into the implementation process, creating the application etc. He noted that the IMG application is finalized and ready.

Miss Johnson stated that Helena Buckner will be the liaison for the task force and will provide updates as well as scheduling.

Miss Johnson went on to discuss the timeline and report building process for the task force. She stated that over the next few meetings we will determine our aims, goals, and the timeline of the report building process. Miss Johnson stated that the final report is due in August and that she would like to have a final draft prepared by June of 2025 which would give the task force two months to circulate the report for edits. She stated that IDFP will assemble the report for final submission. She noted that this would give the task force about eight months. Miss Johnson stated that task force members and participants can email her between meetings if there are any thoughts on the report.

State Representative Theresa Mah stated that she is pleased that we have begun meeting as a task force. She highlighted that the work of establishing the application process and licensure for IMG's has already begun and has been concurrent with the establishment of this task force. She stated that it would be good to have an initial evaluation of the implementation as part of the report and this would also be an opportunity for us to truly adhere to the goals of this task force which is not just to look at IMGs and medical professionals but opportunities to see whether there are other health care provider categories that we could make some headway with. Representative Mah stated that she is open to suggestions about future legislation related to other health care provider categories.

Miss Johnson shared that the statute requires the task force to meet every other month indefinitely until this group votes to dissolve.

Secretary Treto stated that it would be helpful to highlight the work that has been done since the passing of the bill. He stated that with the implementation of CORE the Department has been evaluating all applications to streamline and make them more efficient by removing unnecessary information. Secretary Treto stated that having a timeline would increase transparency by outlining each step in the process and clarifying the reasons for delays in certain parts of the implementation. This would help shed light on the challenges the Department has been working through. He noted that metrics are critical and proposed that the Department conduct reviews monthly for the next 12 months following the application's launch and share the results. He also suggested including real-life stories of international medical graduates within the report.

Erin O'Brien stated that she and David Porter have been contacted by numerous physicians who have already identified needs. She said there is an OB ward at Ingalls that is in desperate need of an OBGYN. This particular facility found another OB currently practicing in Argentina who wants to come here and practice. Ms. O'Brien stated that highlighting some of these success stories will be fantastic.

Tamar Frolichstein-Appel stated that they have been working with a lot of individuals who are very excited, ready, and many of whom are already in the state. She said that when they started, they spoke with nursing groups and professionals in all areas. Mrs. Frolichstein-Appel stated that some areas do not have the same number of doctors as they do, and she would be happy to be a part of that conversation.

Secretary Treto stated that to start the healthcare license component, we could give task force members a comprehensive list of all of the licenses that we have that touch on health care such as respiratory care therapists, all of the RNs, physicians, and physician assistants.

Dr. Goyal mentioned chiropractors and dentists to add to the list of health care professionals. She stated that dental would be an awesome addition as a lot of dentists come trained from overseas and have barriers starting as a dentist in the country.

Óscar Iván Zambrano commented on behavioral and public health professions. He supported Representative Mah's remarks about expanding to other fields. Mr. Zambrano stated that we might have enough dentists, we just don't have them where they need to be in underserved communities. He noted that there are about 250 IMGs nationally, most of whom are based in Illinois and working in roles like medical assistants and technicians but not fully to their training

Secretary Treto suggested that we could launch an education and outreach campaign for individuals and engage various industry groups to encourage application.

Tamar Frolichstein-Appel stated that it would be important to bring the employers, hospitals, and FQHCs to the table as an application cannot be submitted without an employer. She stated that it would be essential to open the conversation to the employers.

Miss Johnson mentioned that her team has discussed looking at other states including Virginia which was mentioned by Tamar Frolichstein-Appel.

Ms. Frolichstein-Appel stated that a conversation is happening nationally and that her colleague, Fatima did a presentation which can be shared with this group. She stated that Massachusetts, Virginia, and Wisconsin have bills. She also stated that they are engaged with the coalition in Virginia and that WES is monitoring the conversation at the Federation of State Medical Boards to see what national conversations are happening.

Miss Johnson stated that the task force can bring someone in from another state to share their experiences, what works, what hasn't been working, and successful results.

Ms. Frolichstein-Appel stated that Washington state was one the first that has worked on this, and they have an organized community that they can connect Miss. Johnson with.

IV. Open Discussion

Miss Johnson asked if there were any comments for open discussion.

Secretary Treto stated that the Midwest Occupational Licensing Consortium will be in October, and he is considering organizing a meeting with all regulators to discuss key topics, such as IMGs. The Secretary stated that the information from the meeting could be reported back to this group.

V. Public Comment

There were no public comments. Miss Johnson asked IDFP staff members from the Division of Professional Regulation to introduce themselves and inform the group of their work related to the task force and International Medical Graduates. Present were Nicole Whiteurst, International Licensing Liaison; Katie Workman, Deputy Director of Licensing and Testing; Dan Lewis, Director of Legislative Affairs; Helena Buckner, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs.

2025 Meeting Schedule

Miss Buckner provided the 2025 and 2026 meeting schedule for the task force. Miss Johnson stated that Helena will email the list, and the calendar invites for members and guests.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Lauren McGinn and Óscar Iván Zambrano, and seconded by Tamar Frolichstein-Appel at 10:51 a.m., and the motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 10 a.m. in the Chicago and Springfield meeting rooms.