

Executive Director Report



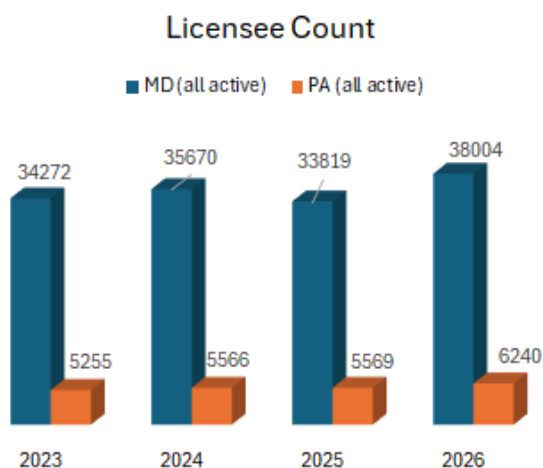
WASHINGTON
**Medical
Commission**
Licensing. Accountability. Leadership.

For Your Consideration

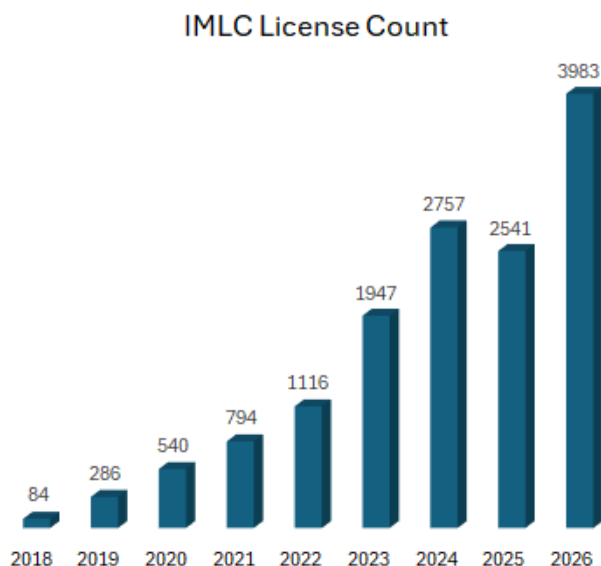
Kyle Karinen, J.D., LL.M

Several items for your collective consideration this quarter.

First, a quick check of the Commission's licensing numbers.



One trend that I think is indisputable is the increasing use of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) by physicians.



When the IMLC was being formed well over a decade ago, the extent of use was absolutely hypothetical. For the Commission, it's been six years and the numbers continue to grow.

Second, the DOH (Department) has initiated rulemaking over fees for the licensees under the Commission's legislative mandate. For those new to this process, I'll offer a brief primer. By statute, authority over fees for all healthcare licensees is vested by statute with the Secretary of Health. State law mandates that each profession charge a fee for that profession to support their licensing, regulation, and rulemaking. On an on-going basis, the Department analyzes those expenses and outlays while also factoring in larger demographic changes and other risks. Last November, the Commission sent a letter to the Department recommending a reduction in renewal fees for physician and physician assistant credentials (The Commission subsequently recommended the changes also apply to certified anesthesiologist assistants). There are several unknowns with the regulatory landscape that made the Commission conservative in its recommendations and that landscape has, of course, evolved in the past ten months. With that in mind, the Department opened the rulemaking process this past summer and is working toward a time in the next few months for public engagement.

Demographics Dashboard

After much effort and work, the Commission has brought online a [new demographics dashboard](#). The demographics survey included as part of the renewal process for physicians and physician assistants has been compiled for review. I encourage you all to take a moment and dive in. Many thanks to the Commission staff members, Nick Morris and Sherrise Martin, who marshaled this process of revamping the demographic data.

Passing of Maryella Jansen

Finally, I am going to end on a somber note this quarter. There are vast number of individuals who work for the Commission and have worked for the Commission in its current iteration. Behind the scenes of the Commission's operations in all forms are a group of dedicated civil servants executing the Commission's mandate of promoting the delivery of quality healthcare to residents of the State of Washington. Maryella Jansen was one of those individuals who not only shaped the Commission but also contributed mightily to the quality healthcare mission. Maryella passed away in August. A couple of long-time Commission staffers, Mike Farrell and Sherrise Martin, were kind enough to share their memories and thoughts of Maryella and I am sharing them with all of you:

"Former WMC Executive Director Maryella Jansen passed away last Friday after an illness. Maryella began her work with the Commission in the early 1990s as a compliance officer, was promoted to disciplinary manager, then deputy executive director. In 2013, the Commission convinced her to become the Executive Director because they knew that Maryella was the best person to lead the Commission staff through the pilot project because she had developed strong relationships with people across DOH. Simply put, people trusted Maryella. Maryella guided the Commission and Commission staff with dignity, wisdom, and compassion for each staff member. We owe a debt of gratitude to Maryella for creating the structure we all enjoy today. Maryella had a wicked sense of humor, laughed easily, and with a wink and smile, let you know that she didn't take the daily absurdities of work too seriously. She truly found joy in her work and in life. She will be missed by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing her."

Mike Farrell

"There are some people who come into our lives as coworkers or leaders, but leave behind a much greater impact. Maryella was one of those people. As the Executive Director, I had the privilege of working closely with her as her Administrative Assistant, as well as supporting the Deputy Director. From the very beginning, Maryella was someone who made you feel seen, heard, and valued. She always had an open ear and, more importantly, a genuine heart for every member of her staff. One of the things I will always remember was her morning walk-throughs. She would make her way around the office, stopping to say good morning and asking about our families. Those moments may have seemed small, but they meant so much. She truly cared about the people she worked with, not just the work we did. Maryella also knew how to bring fun and laughter into the workplace. She absolutely loved Halloween, and I will never forget her dressing up for our Halloween staff meeting and potluck. She had a wonderful way of reminding us that even in a demanding work environment, there was always room for a little laughter and joy. The beginning of the pilot project that eventually became the WMC was challenging. It was fast-paced, stressful, and, at times, overwhelming. But Maryella had a special way of making even the hardest days feel manageable. She could bring a sense of calm to the chaos and somehow find a way to make the work fun. Her leadership made a difference, not only in what we accomplished, but in how we experienced the journey along the way. Maryella truly loved her job and, even more so, she loved her staff. She believed in the people around her and encouraged us to learn, grow, and become the best we could be. I will always be grateful to Maryella for the guidance, encouragement, and knowledge she shared with me. She helped me learn so much and gave me the confidence to continue growing and becoming successful in my work. She was not only a wonderful leader and mentor, but a truly beautiful person. Her kindness, laughter, compassion, and genuine care for others are things I will carry with me. I feel incredibly fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with her and to have learned from her. You will always be remembered with love, gratitude, and great admiration."

Sherrise Martin