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Advisory Board of Plumbers

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scheduling@capitolpacificreporting.com

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES
STATE OF WASHINGTON

Advisory Board of Plumbers

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**CERTIFIED
TRANSCRIPT**

VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS BEFORE
MR. TODD ALLRED, CHAIRPERSON
April 18, 2023
9:30 a.m., Tuesday
Reported via Videoconference
Page 1 to 111

Taken Before:
JILLIAN H. KIRCHNER, CCR #22030062, RMR
Registered Merit Reporter
of
Capitol Pacific Reporting, Inc.

www.capitolpacificreporting.com
scheduling@capitolpacificreporting.com

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P R O C E E D I N G S

9:30 a.m., Tuesday

--ooOoo--

MR. TODD ALLRED: All right. Good morning everybody. We're going to call the meeting to order.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good morning.

MR. TODD ALLRED: Good morning. Thank you.

We do have a quorum this morning. I believe we have all the members of the Board here. Now, it's going to be --

(Audio distortion.)

THE REPORTER: Sir, excuse me. This is the court reporter. Your audio just cut out.

(Cross-talk.)

MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: If we can have you put your phones on mute, please. Thank you.

MR. TODD ALLRED: Okay. A couple of things before we get to the agenda, as far as approving minutes and all of that stuff.

I wanted to take a minute to explain the changes that we're going to see moving forward from now on. At the last meeting in January, the industry showed up in a big way. This room was probably half again as full as it is now, contractors that had something to



1 say, plumbers, apprentices, people that wanted to talk
2 to the regulatory agency.

3 That caused some concern for the department, and
4 we have -- I want to introduce an attorney. Ben
5 Blohowiak is here. He is the attorney that's assigned
6 to the Plumbing Advisory Board as well as other boards
7 in the state, including Electrical and Boiler and
8 stuff.

9 But, Ben, do you want to say a few things?

10 MR. BEN BLOHOWIAK: Yeah. Good morning.
11 This is my first Plumber's Board meeting I've attended
12 in person. And I am -- as Todd said, I'm counsel for
13 the Board, all the statewide trades boards. Most of my
14 work is with the Electrical Board.

15 But I'm glad to be here today, and I'm excited to
16 be here. I've worked a lot with Todd leading up to
17 this meeting.

18 And I'm here as a resource for the Board to make
19 sure that they're complying with the Open Public
20 Meetings Act, the Administrative Procedures Act, and
21 their own bylaws and rules they've adopted. And so I'm
22 here as a resource for the Board and to help where I
23 can. And, yeah, I'm just here to observe and help as
24 much as I can this morning. Thank you.

25 MR. TODD ALLRED: Yes. Thank you. Thank you



1 for being here, Ben. We appreciate it.

2 There's a couple of other changes. We have -- I'm
3 sorry. What is our court reporter's name?

4 MS. ALISHA WELLS: Her name is Jillian
5 Kirchner.

6 MR. TODD ALLRED: Jillian is here. She's a
7 court reporter. She is working virtually today. I
8 think normally the intention is for us to have the
9 court reporter here. But she's going to be recording
10 every word that's said so that we have a record of
11 everything said.

12 So if -- the way that I'm going to operate this is
13 any specific agenda item -- if you as the public want
14 to have public comment on an agenda item, I would just
15 invite you to stand between the two tables up here, and
16 then I'll recognize you, and you'll have up to two
17 minutes to communicate what you have for that agenda
18 item. Okay? Does that work for everybody?

19 (No audible response.)

20 Thumbs up. All right.

21 And, of course, you heard Ben talk about the
22 Open Public Meetings Act and some other rules and
23 bylaws. It turned out there was a bunch of rules that
24 I didn't know existed and I think some of us didn't
25 know existed until now. So we're going to try to shift



1 this meeting around to operate more correctly. And
2 what that's going to look like is the Board is going to
3 be handling the agenda items. We'll be discussing the
4 agenda items. It's not going to be a conversation with
5 the industry any longer except through the public
6 comment period.

7 Under new -- and then when we get to new
8 business, there will also be -- it's not on the agenda
9 now, but there will be a time for public comment for
10 any new business that are items that you might want to
11 approach the Board about that are not on the agenda.

12 Okay? Any questions on any of that?

13 (No audible response.)

14 Nothing from the Board? Okay.

15 I'd also like to take the time to introduce
16 two new board members. We have Brad Moore over here,
17 who is now sitting in a journey-level plumber's seat,
18 who has been attending these meetings for -- 20 years?

19 MR. BRAD MOORE: At least.

20 MR. TODD ALLRED: And he's now been appointed
21 to the Board.

22 And then we have Antonio Cruz over here who is
23 also in a journey-level plumber's seat.

24 And, welcome to the Board, you guys. That's
25 fantastic.



1 I also want you to know that there is still one
2 seat that's unfilled that's for a PL02 or PL03
3 specialty plumber, okay? So we still have one seat
4 that needs to be filled. So if anybody's interested,
5 just submit a letter of intent to Labor and Industries
6 and go through the process to get appointed.

7 So with that, we'll move -- any questions from the
8 Board?

9 Okay. We'll move on to next thing on the agenda,
10 which is our approval of our minutes.

11 MR. SCOTT FOWLER: I make a motion to approve
12 the minutes as written.

13 MR. ANTONIO CRUZ: Second.

14 MR. TODD ALLRED: Antonio seconded? Okay.

15 Any discussion? Corrections?

16 All in favor?

17 (Chorus of ayes.)

18 Opposed? Abstentions?

19 (No audible response.)

20 Okay. The motion passes. Thank you.

21 Melissa, you're up for Board seats. Did I just
22 steal your thunder?

23 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: You did.

24 MR. TODD ALLRED: Sorry.

25 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: That's okay. That's



1 okay.

2 Just to reiterate, we've got that specialty
3 plumber position vacant, waiting for somebody to go
4 ahead and apply for that. Along with a letter of
5 intent, we'd also like your resume. And we can -- I'll
6 leave out my email address for anybody who's interested
7 and able to fill that spot to send that to us.

8 That's it.

9 MR. TODD ALLRED: Yeah. Next -- well, I want
10 to give any opportunity for public comment on the Board
11 seats.

12 All right. You're next with your budget.

13 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Alisha, are you able to
14 share your screen to display the budget?

15 MS. ALISHA WELLS: I don't know if it can.

16 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: The intent was to have
17 the screens display the material.

18 MS. ALISHA WELLS: Yeah. When we hit the
19 "Share Content," it puts the video on hold, so I don't
20 know if I can.

21 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Okay. So we've got the
22 Plumber Fund Balance here. As you know, it's been
23 growing. It's been health. We've had those vacant
24 positions, which -- we just filled one. We have the
25 technical specialist positions that came with the



1 passage of 6170. And that's technical specialists that
2 are going to be working on audits.

3 We've just filled one with Dale Partin. And Dale
4 came from -- he was a construction compliance inspector
5 for about 20 years; and then the South Compliance Team,
6 he was a supervisor of that; and then most recently is
7 the chief of FAS. And he's actually leaving being the
8 chief of FAS now, the Factory Assembled Structures
9 program, to join us as one of our new plumbing
10 technical specialists. So he just started yesterday.

11 And then we just finished interviews last week on
12 the second position. So we'll start to see some of
13 this fund being used now because those positions have
14 been held vacant for so long. So we are glad to have
15 them on board.

16 MR. TODD ALLRED: Very good. So this 6/23,
17 that's projected, right?

18 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: That's projected, yeah,
19 through the biennium, based on current revenue trends.

20 MR. TODD ALLRED: So currently we have
21 1.678 million in the Plumber Fund?

22 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yes.

23 Sorry. I had to think of what month we were in,
24 what year.

25 MR. TODD ALLRED: Yeah. Okay. And then the



1 idea is to use some of that monies to have -- appoint a
2 technical specialist hired on.

3 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yes.

4 MR. TODD ALLRED: And these people are
5 responsible for...

6 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Audits.

7 MR. TODD ALLRED: Audits.

8 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Audits.

9 MR. TODD ALLRED: Or affidavits?

10 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Affidavits. The
11 quarterly reporting matching with the annual reports.
12 Anytime there's any kind of discrepancy in affidavits
13 or concern of work not being supervised, it goes to
14 audit.

15 Right now we only have one position that's
16 responsible for that and two additional other
17 positions -- or other responsibilities. So these two
18 new positions will be solely focused on audits, getting
19 kind of standard work done on that, what's the trigger
20 to send something to audit, what's the criteria. We're
21 working on providing information on the website as far
22 as what is required with an audit, the paperwork that
23 we need, what the time card would look like. So that's
24 primarily what these positions will do. There will
25 also be some enforcement, maybe some sweeps, some



1 education and outreach going on with that.

2 MR. TODD ALLRED: Okay. So did I hear you
3 say that the documents -- examples of what an audit
4 look like -- some of those examples of those documents
5 will be available online so you can see them?

6 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: You did. But we're
7 just starting to think with the Board on that. Yes.

8 MR. TODD ALLRED: Perfect.

9 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: So that is the goal, to
10 have more information online to help guide everybody
11 through the processes.

12 MR. TODD ALLRED: And the idea behind this is
13 to speed up the process?

14 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Speed up the process,
15 help the industry out, not knowing what to give us, not
16 knowing what triggers it. So just along with speeding
17 up the process, have more resources toward it, have a
18 standard process toward it, and help educate why it
19 goes to audit and what we need to help it through the
20 audit process.

21 There's a whole lot with this position. And,
22 again, they're brand new. We're just creating it. So
23 we're going to build the program and see how it goes
24 for this whole audit component, which is a result of
25 the quarterly deploying.



1 MR. TODD ALLRED: Okay. And we'll have more
2 information at the next meeting.

3 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Oh, yeah. For sure.

4 MR. TODD ALLRED: Is there any questions?
5 Anybody got any questions for Melissa on that? Any
6 public comment? Questions?

7 (No audible response.)

8 Quiet room this morning.

9 All right, Melissa, I think that you have
10 also plumbing compliance to talk about.

11 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Okay. So typically we
12 have the handout, which is in here under Plumbing
13 Infractions. And typically it's just the printout of
14 all the companies that were cited for the last quarter.

15 MR. TODD ALLRED: Do we have that document to
16 get up on the screen for --

17 (Audio cut out.)

18 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: I'll keep going while
19 she works on displaying that.

20 Typically, it's just a list of the quarter of the
21 all the infractions that were issued, all the plumbing
22 infractions, the status, you know.

23 If you're familiar with seeing this chart, what
24 we've done in addition is kind of done high-level
25 dashboard to show you the trends on the compliance



1 checks, how many plumbers we've checked, how many
2 trainees we've checked, in what area they were
3 checked -- and that's from being on the job site with
4 our compliance inspectors -- and then also the plumbing
5 infractions that were issued for the month. We went
6 back to July 1, which was the beginning of the fiscal
7 year, so we can kind of see what that trend looks like.

8 What my IT system is not doing right now is -- you
9 do see here that the infractions are broke down by RCW
10 type. So under 18.106, there are several different
11 types of violation that happen under 18.106. So the
12 system is not breaking that down for me properly right
13 now, so I can't tell you unsupervised -- I can't drill
14 down. So that's -- my IT contact, she already knows
15 that she needs to get that information to me for the
16 next meeting so we'll be able to drill down even
17 further and explain exactly what infractions occurred.

18 MR. TODD ALLRED: Okay. Yeah, that would be
19 good to know.

20 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yeah, that was the goal
21 for this meeting, but our IT system that was not
22 cooperating.

23 MR. TODD ALLRED: Were we able to get this
24 document up for this public to see?

25 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: No.



1 MR. TODD ALLRED: No?

2 MS. ALISHA WELLS: No.

3 (Discussion off the stenographic record.)

4 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: What happens when you
5 screen share? It just doesn't allow it?

6 MS. ALISHA WELLS: No, I can't. I'm having
7 problems even attaching documents right now. It's
8 not --

9 MR. TODD ALLRED: I think this is a --

10 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: May I step away for a
11 moment?

12 MR. TODD ALLRED: Yes.

13 I think we should take a break for a second to get
14 that fixed. This is important information for the
15 industry to see.

16 (Audio cut out.)

17 While we're waiting, can you tell us -- can I ask
18 you a couple questions? I'd like to know where these
19 areas are. So you have regions on this infraction
20 report.

21 MR. JESSE JAMESON: Okay.

22 MR. TODD ALLRED: 1 through -- it looks like
23 up through 6.

24 MR. JESSE JAMESON: What? Where's Region 6?

25 MR. TODD ALLRED: Well, where are all the



1 regions?

2 MR. JESSE JAMESON: Okay. So I'm Jesse
3 Jameson. I'm the technical specialist for contractor
4 compliance at L&I, and I oversee or, I should say,
5 support the construction compliance inspectors in the
6 field. And I oversee many, and I provide the technical
7 certifications and guidance on how to enforce the
8 statutes.

9 So the question is about the various regions
10 around the state.

11 So Region 1, from the Canadian border to -- I'm
12 thinking it's probably right there on the King County,
13 Snohomish County line would be Region 1.

14 Region 2 would be the Snohomish County to the
15 Pierce County line and heading east up until about
16 Snoqualmie Pass, would be Region 2.

17 Region 3 would be the Tacoma area from the Pierce
18 County line to -- I think it's just probably around
19 Tumwater, Olympia.

20 Actually, it's Region 4 -- this is where I get
21 confused. Region 4, I think, is from Tumwater to the
22 Oregon border, to Vancouver.

23 And then Region 5 is on the east of the mountain
24 in the north section, probably down to -- I'm not sure
25 where that cutoff line is.



1 Melissa, do you know?

2 And Region 6 is in the southeastern part of the
3 state.

4 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yes. Correct. And so
5 how I have this is as the teams. And so the chart I
6 was working on that broke everything down actually has
7 a map breaking it down so you can see it by team.

8 MR. TODD ALLRED: Oh, okay.

9 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: But, yes, you are
10 correct. North is going to be Bellevue to Tukwila.

11 MR. JESSE JAMESON: Okay. So then if we're
12 going to -- so then also we can branch it down to
13 North, South, and East teams. Then that's exactly
14 correct.

15 The North team is from the Canadian border to the
16 Pierce County line. South team is from Pierce County
17 to the Oregon border. And then the East side, of
18 course, is the entire east side of the state, and the
19 line is probably Snoqualmie Pass. Everything east of
20 that is the East side.

21 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yes. And the South
22 also includes the peninsula.

23 MR. JESSE JAMESON: And the peninsula.
24 That's right.

25 And the North includes, of course, Whidbey Island



1 and some of that area as well. So if you took a look
2 and drew a line across the Snoqualmie/King County line,
3 everything, including the islands, would fall under the
4 North team.

5 MR. TODD ALLRED: Okay. Thank you, Jesse.

6 So this chart, this document that we have up,
7 North is not -- it doesn't coincide with the map of the
8 regions that are in the infractions, correct?

9 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: 1 and 2. So the North
10 is Regions 1 and 2.

11 MR. TODD ALLRED: 1 and 2. Okay.

12 MR. JESSE JAMESON: Yeah.

13 MR. TODD ALLRED: All right. Very good. I
14 just wanted to clarify that.

15 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yeah. East is 5 and 6.

16 MR. TODD ALLRED: That's why we don't have a
17 West on here.

18 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Right.

19 MR. JESSE JAMESON: So the South would be
20 Regions 3 and 4, and then the East would be Regions 5
21 and 6.

22 The North is 1 and 2, the South is 3 and 4, and
23 then the East is 5 and 6.

24 MR. TODD ALLRED: (Discussion off the
25 stenographic record.)



1 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: And then last, DTU is
2 centralized, and they do statewide activity, but
3 there's not on-site. It's from advertising or
4 referrals, so they're not actually visiting those job
5 sites.

6 MR. TODD ALLRED: Oh, okay. What does DTU
7 stand for?

8 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Detection Tracking
9 Unit.

10 MR. TODD ALLRED: Okay.

11 Does anybody have any questions for Melissa on
12 this document? Anything from the public?

13 (No audible response.)

14 So what I'm seeing here, if I'm reading this
15 correctly, is that the top half of this is just the
16 checks, and then the bottom part is the infractions
17 that were issued. So on average, if I'm looking at
18 North, I'm seeing that on average there's two
19 infractions per visit, per check, on average. And
20 you've got about 40 visits.

21 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yes.

22 MR. TODD ALLRED: And you got 65 infractions.

23 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Right, right. And this
24 is, yes, per month, and then the baseline. So, yes,
25 correct.



1 MR. TODD ALLRED: Okay.

2 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: And then there are
3 also -- there are also other violations that occur,
4 right? There's the contractors one, electrical
5 referrals, other things. So this just focused on what
6 resulted from those plumbing checks.

7 MR. TODD ALLRED: Plumbing checks only?

8 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yes.

9 MR. TODD ALLRED: Okay. Yeah, so plumbing
10 only. Very good.

11 Does anybody else have any questions on that?

12 (No audible response.)

13 Okay. I want to talk to the folks that are --
14 have joined us online. The court reporter is only
15 recording audible voice, so if you've typed something
16 in the chat, we can't see that. If you would raise
17 your hand online to ask your question during public
18 comment, that would be helpful. So that way we can
19 hear your comment, it gets recorded, and we can answer
20 it. Thank you.

21 Okay. Next you've got your plumbing -- are you
22 finished up with your plumbing compliance?

23 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Uh-huh.

24 MR. TODD ALLRED: Okay. All right. Then
25 next on the agenda is our supervision and ratios,



1 in-person versus remote. I believe this will be
2 probably a team effort between Melissa and I.

3 You know, in January, a lot of you showed -- I see
4 a lot of the same faces here that we saw in January,
5 and I see some new faces too. The issue in January was
6 around affidavits and supervision and ratios and things
7 like that. And that conversation in January caused the
8 industry and L&I to come together and have a
9 conversation outside of the Plumbing Advisory Board to
10 get some questions answered and try to figure out where
11 we have a disconnect, et cetera. And we came to some
12 conclusions on a few things.

13 We learned that -- let me get to Melissa and L&I.
14 Melissa went through a great deal of effort to come up
15 with some answers for some questions. And the first
16 thing that I wanted to tell you guys about -- L&I had
17 been -- this is -- I'm just going to read this from
18 this email, okay? This was our first question. L&I
19 had been interpreting the in-person and remote
20 supervision as required together, instead of being
21 alternatives. This has been corrected, okay?

22 Basically, I'm not sure the process you went to --
23 can you tell the process, how you arrived at that -- of
24 your answer?

25 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yes. We consulted our



1 AAG, Angela. And in reading the statute and -- we
2 realized it was -- by reading the actual language that
3 we were not interpreting that correctly, so we just
4 made that change after relooking at it.

5 MR. TODD ALLRED: Nice. And so the response
6 is --

7 I don't remember if you guys all remember, but we
8 had identified in the law, we have supervision, and
9 then you have two types. It said i, you can supervise
10 75 percent in person, within sight and sound. And then
11 you have two little ii's, and that said or --
12 basically, that means or -- remote supervision. The
13 supervising plumber has to be within 40 miles; the
14 trainee has to have a minimum of 2,000 hours; it has to
15 be in a residential service plumbing application.

16 So they had been saying -- we had -- the industry
17 had understood it to be 75 percent and. So if you're
18 doing remote, you still had to do 75 percent. That's
19 not what we attended, so they went back, checked on it,
20 and that's what she's telling us. They're agreeing
21 with us now, and they're seeing what our intent was.
22 And so you can supervise in person, or you can
23 supervise remotely. Okay?

24 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Correct. We were not
25 seeing that as an either/or. And so after our



1 conversation in the last board meeting, we went back,
2 and it is an either/or. We are in agreement with that.

3 I know there's been concern about people being
4 issued infractions incorrectly because of that, so I've
5 asked for examples, and we'll go back and look at that.
6 I did get one example sent to me, but there were some
7 other things that played into it, not just the remote
8 supervision. So if there was something we need to take
9 a look at, a second look at that, we're happy to that.

10 MR. TODD ALLRED: Yeah. So that's important
11 for the industry to know too, is that if there's
12 examples that you're aware of and they want to stick
13 their head up and have Melissa look at it, to submit
14 the paperwork and have her take a peek at it and go
15 from there.

16 Okay? Any questions? Any questions from online
17 or anything?

18 (No audible response.)

19 No? Okay.

20 The second thing that we asked was if we had
21 examples -- basically, if you had all other conditions
22 met of being -- the trainee has 2,000 hours, the
23 supervisor is no more than 40 miles away, and it's in a
24 residential -- service plumbing in a residential
25 structure. Our question was who denied -- if you have



1 examples -- L&I believes the three-to-one trainee
2 supervision ratio only applies to in-person supervision
3 and not remote supervision. So that's the problem. So
4 we have --

5 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: We didn't even go back
6 and revisit that. That was our answer from the
7 beginning was, no, we don't want that.

8 MR. TODD ALLRED: Yeah.

9 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: So I don't know where
10 that question came from. There was some confusion
11 somewhere, but we never -- that was not correct, so we
12 just re-clarified that as not our (cross-talk).

13 MR. TODD ALLRED: Right, right. So what we
14 had intended was that we would have three-to-one
15 supervision through remote supervision, okay? And we
16 didn't write the RCW correctly. Whoever was in charge
17 of that missed it. It was me and several other people.
18 We needed to add an "s". Or she's actually suggested a
19 couple of other things that could --

20 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: I think that's a
21 different one, though.

22 MR. TODD ALLRED: That's a different one?

23 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yeah. Yeah.

24 MR. TODD ALLRED: You sure?

25 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Uh-huh. That was



1 Number 3.

2 So on Number 2, there was the assumption that we
3 believe the trainee ratio only applied to in-person
4 supervision, not remote supervision. We do believe it
5 applies to in-person and remote, but it has to meet the
6 conditions of 3.

7 MR. TODD ALLRED: Yes.

8 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: So there's where 3
9 comes into play. Did that make sense?

10 MR. TODD ALLRED: You mean Question 3?

11 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yes, yes, yes. So we
12 were good on 2. We always -- we did always understand
13 that it could be an either/or.

14 MR. TODD ALLRED: Does the board have this
15 email? Do you guys have this email?

16 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: I don't believe so.

17 MR. TODD ALLRED: I should have got this to
18 you guys.

19 All right. So the next question -- well, the
20 third question, why don't -- you seem to have a better
21 handle on it. Why don't you -- you're the one who's
22 researched it.

23 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Throw this one at me.

24 So this -- the next question was, would the three
25 trainees to be remotely supervised on the same job site



1 or three separate job sites? So that's where we're
2 interpreting it, and as the law states, it is on the
3 same job site. So those three trainees do have to be
4 supervised remotely on the same job site.

5 Whereas the intent, is what Todd is saying, was
6 not that. So if the industry wants to go out and
7 change that, it would have to go through some statutory
8 changes, and there's some suggestions how to accomplish
9 that. But the way that the law is written is those
10 three remote trainees have to be supervised on the same
11 job site, meeting the other criteria and conditions of
12 the statute.

13 MR. TODD ALLRED: Yeah. And I believe that
14 she's absolutely -- that L&I absolutely interpreted
15 that correctly. That was a mistake that we made. We
16 have to go back to the statute.

17 She's actually suggested a couple of different
18 ways for us to fix it. We'll have to -- you know,
19 we'll have to address those things on another agenda
20 item here, when we're to talk about the stakeholder
21 group and convening a subgroup that we have to do.

22 Is there any questions? I know that was very
23 confusing. Is there any questions on any of that from
24 the Board or the public?

25 (No audible response.)



1 Okay. Very good. Just know we're going to
2 be working to correct that stuff.

3 All right. We'll move on. Affidavits.

4 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yep. So this is not a
5 handout. This is just my talking points to talk about
6 the affidavits that came in from the last quarter since
7 our last board meeting.

8 And we received -- there was processed -- there
9 was 1,172 affidavits.

10 Of that, 7 percent were denied for one reason or
11 another, and those -- partially denied was 155. So
12 that was either there was excessive hours, the time
13 frame lapsed where the trainee wasn't active while they
14 recorded those hours, or some of those hours were too
15 old.

16 99 of those 151 can be resubmitted. There were
17 other things that happened like alterations, it was
18 incomplete. So when there's things like that, a
19 photocopy, the supervisor of plumbing of missing off
20 the form -- so if it's just not a complete affidavit,
21 we do deny it.

22 We send out a letter. I know there was some
23 concerns about the communication on our end, so the
24 staff has gotten more detailed, explaining exactly what
25 the denial is for, not "the certification was lapsed,"



1 which is how it typically was sent. But now it's "the
2 certification lapsed from this time to this time" so
3 they know specifically what reason.

4 And those letters of denial go to the trainee.
5 It's their certification. It's their renewal or their
6 hours. So all of our communication goes directly to
7 them. I know there was some concern that we're not
8 communicating back to the industry, but we don't -- we
9 communicate it to the trainee, to the address on
10 record.

11 So those 99 can be resubmitted.

12 There was 50 that were referred to audit. No, I'm
13 sorry. 50 have been denied because they could not be
14 credited, so they've gone for further review. 32 were
15 referred to audit. And 18 of those, there was no
16 plumbing contractor.

17 So, I mean, overall, the accepted rate on the
18 affidavits when they come in first time is 92 percent.
19 93 percent. So I just wanted to talk about that.

20 The communication that the staff is sending out --
21 we actually have a new staff also who started -- last
22 month? Month before?

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: March 1st.

24 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: March 1st.

25 And the plumbing staff is caught up. There's no



1 backlog on affidavits, no plumbing contractor. Current
2 on emails, voice mails. It's been a year-and-a-half
3 battle, but that third person coming in has really made
4 a difference. So that's been a relief, and I'm just --
5 I'm grateful for them and the work they've been doing.
6 They're changing the communication, like I said, being
7 more explanation in those letters of denial.

8 We're also going to be working on education on our
9 website on common reasons why affidavits get denied,
10 things to avoid, how to correct that in the future,
11 responsibility of the trainee to when they're out
12 there, making sure they're supervised correctly. So
13 just some tips to help that. We're going to look at
14 doing in brochure form and then also video form, so
15 different formats where that kind of communication and
16 education -- to help with requirement of affidavits.

17 Even though the denial rate was 7 percent, you
18 know, we would like that to be even lower.

19 MR. TODD ALLRED: That's great news. Good
20 job. Good job.

21 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Thank you.

22 MR. TODD ALLRED: Question for you.

23 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yes.

24 MR. TODD ALLRED: Are you -- when you do your
25 audits and you make sure that there's a proper ratio of



1 certifieds to trainees, are you using a spreadsheet for
2 that? Do you have a tool that you -- are you using
3 some sort of a software tool that you can share with
4 the industry so they can do it in their own companies
5 to make sure that it's right on their end?

6 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: So that's part of what
7 we're coming up with to kind of show -- yes, we're
8 working on that. We don't have anything right now.

9 When it actually goes through the audit, it is
10 done manually through a spreadsheet, and then using
11 other systems like employee systems, we can get into
12 ESD and see how many employees or trainees are with the
13 company. So those are some other tools we use.

14 But a spreadsheet to help log those hours and
15 report those hours when submitting affidavits is
16 something, yes, that we'll be displaying as well to
17 help with that.

18 MR. TODD ALLRED: Yeah. Because I have come
19 across information from the industry that we have folks
20 that didn't understand that, the ratio. Like, you have
21 a journeyman, and if you're giving hours -- if you're
22 supervising a PL02, it needs to be a trainee. And then
23 those hours are one to one, so he can't give those
24 other hours to residential and other projects -- or,
25 you know, whenever those guys are all on the same job.



1 And then people turning around and submitting
2 those hours and then getting denied, and they get an
3 audit. And we all love audits, right? I mean, that's
4 fun. So it definitely is a pain on the hind end.

5 So if we had a tool for that, that would be
6 fantastic.

7 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yeah. I think what we
8 can do, just based off of that, too, is -- it's listed
9 in the statute, which can be challenging to read and
10 understand. So we can kind of do some plain talk, too,
11 around what those requirements are to help with that.

12 MR. TODD ALLRED: Great. That's fantastic.

13 Anybody have any questions for Melissa on that?
14 Okay.

15 Oh, we have public -- yes. I need you to step up
16 to the front here, in the middle. You can adjust the
17 owl [phonetic].

18 MR. DENNIS HAMON: Do you know who I am?

19 MR. TODD ALLRED: I do.

20 MR. DENNIS HAMON: Dennis Hamon, owner of
21 Gene Johnson Plumbing.

22 So we had an apprentice who's got one year. He
23 got his trainee card the day he started. So we're a
24 service company, so every quarter we've had him work
25 with different people. So every quarter, the new



1 regulation is we have to turn in hours every quarter,
2 correct?

3 So he's got an affidavit with one plumber,
4 affidavit with another plumber, affidavit with another
5 plumber, affidavit with another plumber. Four
6 quarters. All approved.

7 Now we also have to send in a one year, right?

8 MR. TODD ALLRED: The trainee does, correct?

9 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Correct.

10 MR. TODD ALLRED: The trainee does.

11 MR. DENNIS HAMON: So the affidavit has a
12 line for one plumber, but he's worked with four
13 plumbers this year. So we filled in -- we sent in
14 copies of everything. I'm not sure I'm not the only
15 one in this situation. So what -- we wrote all four
16 plumbers and license numbers on the one annual
17 affidavit, but what's the correct -- how do you want us
18 to submit that? Do you know what I'm saying?

19 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: I do.

20 MR. DENNIS HAMON: We've got four -- you've
21 already approved the hours. You've approved three
22 quarters, and now we're turning in the fourth quarter,
23 but now we have to turn the annual within 30 days of
24 his renewal of his trainee card.

25 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yes.



1 MR. DENNIS HAMON: So that affidavit has got
2 chicken scratch, you know, four different plumbers and
3 licenses. And so what do you actually want us to do?

4 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: I think I know the
5 answer, but I need to go back and read the statute to
6 make sure I'm directing you correctly.

7 MR. DENNIS HAMON: What do you think the
8 answer is?

9 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: I'm going to go back
10 and read the statute before I give an answer.

11 MR. DENNIS HAMON: So we just made copies and
12 sent it all in.

13 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yeah.

14 MR. DENNIS HAMON: But that's -- we've got to
15 figure that out, right?

16 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yeah. Absolutely.
17 Absolutely.

18 MR. DENNIS HAMON: Cool. Thank you.

19 MR. TODD ALLRED: Good point. Thank you.

20 Yes, sir?

21 MR. BOB LARSON: Bob with Bob Larson
22 Plumbing.

23 Well, I've got two things. One is I just found
24 out recently that there's a new form, a new affidavit
25 form, for residential service. So when are we supposed



1 to use that form as opposed to just the regular
2 residential?

3 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: When they're doing
4 residential service work, you use the residential
5 service form. When it's regular residential, you use
6 the regular residential. I don't know if "regular
7 residential" is the correct term. But depending on the
8 type of work that they're doing.

9 MR. BOB LARSON: And if they're doing both?

10 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Then it would be two
11 forms, because you'd be reporting that hours
12 separately.

13 MR. BOB LARSON: All right. And the other
14 question I had related to that was is it now not
15 possible -- so historically I've always had a person
16 come in in the summer to audit all my HR stuff, and she
17 does all of the hours and allocating of the hours and
18 everything. I'm hearing now that that's no longer
19 possible, that we have to send in an affidavit for each
20 individual at different times throughout the year.

21 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: The statute requires
22 that they be submitted annually upon renewal.

23 MR. BOB LARSON: But within a certain time
24 frame?

25 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: There's -- in WAC, it



1 defines 30 days.

2 MR. BOB LARSON: So since all my employees
3 have different renewal dates, I can no longer send all
4 of my affidavits in at one time?

5 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Right. So that's
6 what's happening with people losing hours is because
7 the affidavits have to be submitted annually. So if
8 somebody renews -- and jump in here anybody if I'm
9 saying this wrong. But if somebody renews in July and
10 we don't get their affidavit until December, they're
11 losing those hours because it has to be annually. So
12 that's how people are getting their hours lost is
13 because it's no longer -- it's not annually.

14 MR. BOB LARSON: So is it possible to just
15 have all of my employees renewing in July every year?

16 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: I will have to read the
17 statute. In contractor registration statute, you can
18 request -- no, because it's on their birthday.

19 MR. TODD ALLRED: You mean renewal?

20 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yeah.

21 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: So it's on their
22 affidavits. So yes. If you wanted to have everybody
23 do it, that means you have everybody apply on July 1st,
24 because that's what you're looking at. But then they
25 can't work until they get that trainee card. The order



1 for trainees is based off of their -- the day they
2 apply for it. It goes to here from there.

3 Plumbers is on their birthday.

4 MR. BOB LARSON: So you understand, I hope,
5 how complicated it is for 25 trainees to stay on top of
6 all this stuff. I'd like to think that there might a
7 better way to do that.

8 MR. TODD ALLRED: Thank you, Bob.

9 Yes, sir?

10 MR. MICHAEL YOUNGBLOOD: I just have two
11 quick ones. From what I understand, we do have to
12 submit quarterly for their hours and then once year as
13 well. Is that what I'm understanding correctly?

14 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Correct.

15 MR. MICHAEL YOUNGBLOOD: Okay. So when we
16 submit for that once a year, we can take those
17 quarterly affidavits and just kind of lump them
18 together into one new one? Or is there a whole new
19 form I'm missing?

20 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: It would be submitted
21 on a new form. It would be submitted annually. And,
22 yes, I would assume so. I'm assuming that each of the
23 hours throughout the quarter were reported correctly,
24 so then you would just add them together and submit
25 them for the annual.



1 MR. MICHAEL YOUNGBLOOD: Okay. I just wanted
2 to make sure I wasn't missing that.

3 And then the other issue I had is I submitted two
4 affidavits for two of my guys. I drove all the way out
5 to Tumwater to do it. The issue I ran in -- one was
6 approved, one was not. There's a spot on the affidavit
7 that lists "Training Program Director" or something
8 along those lines. My company's plumbing license is
9 completely through me. I run the plumbing department.
10 And yet one was denied, one was not, because I wasn't
11 on some additional form. Is there some --

12 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Just let me know who
13 both of them are, and I'll take a look at them to see
14 what happened.

15 MR. MICHAEL YOUNGBLOOD: Okay.

16 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yeah. I mean, just in
17 situations like this, I need to look and see the
18 specifics before I can answer.

19 MR. MICHAEL YOUNGBLOOD: Yeah. Of course, of
20 course. You want their names now or...

21 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yeah, you can.

22 MR. MICHAEL YOUNGBLOOD: Justen, J-u-s-t-e-n,
23 Holten.

24 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Holten with an H?

25 MR. MICHAEL YOUNGBLOOD: Holten, H-o-l-t-e-n.



1 And then Andrew Olson.

2 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Okay. Let me take a
3 look at both of those affidavits, see what happened.

4 MR. TODD ALLRED: Is Olson o-n or e-n?

5 MR. MICHAEL YOUNGBLOOD: O-n.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Also, we need your
7 name for the record.

8 MR. MICHAEL YOUNGBLOOD: Michael Youngblood.

9 MS. ALISHA WELLS: Anyone who comes to speak,
10 please make sure you state your name before you talk,
11 for the record.

12 MR. MICHAEL YOUNGBLOOD: Thank you so much.

13 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Thank you.

14 MR. TODD ALLRED: Hold on one second.

15 (Discussion off the stenographic record.)

16 Point of order for the -- or point of
17 clarification for the public. When you step up to
18 speak, you are not required by law to or any other rule
19 to state who you are. If you want to say who you are
20 and introduce yourself, great. If you don't, then you
21 don't have to.

22 Yes, sir?

23 MR. ALEX TIKHONOV: Hi. Alex Tikhonov. I
24 work for Manzco. I'm an apprentice.

25 This is probably kind of an old question. I sent



1 in an affidavit during COVID, and it did not make it to
2 L&I, I guess, or something like that. So by the time I
3 figured out or I got in contact with L&I, they told me
4 it didn't get there, so I sent out a new one. By the
5 time the new one showed up, I was told that it was too
6 late.

7 And I recently found out about this board meeting,
8 so I'm trying to get some information. Maybe I can get
9 those hours, get that affidavit approved maybe. If
10 that goes through, I can probably do my test closer to
11 this year.

12 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: That was Michael?

13 MR. ALEX TIKHONOV: Alex.

14 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: I don't know why I said
15 Michael. I'm so sorry. Alex, what's your last name?

16 MR. ALEX TIKHONOV: Tikhonov,
17 T-i-k-h-o-n-o-v.

18 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Okay. I'll go back and
19 take a look and see what's going on with it.

20 MR. ALEX TIKHONOV: Thank you.

21 MR. TODD ALLRED: Yes, sir.

22 MR. CHRIS ALLEN: Chris Allen, Bulldog Rooter
23 of Spokane.

24 So question on the quarterly and annual renewal.
25 The annual renewal is on the expiration date of their



1 certificate, correct?

2 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Correct.

3 MR. CHRIS ALLEN: So if I have a trainee that
4 expires in February -- the first quarter I renew for
5 his annual, or he renews for his annual, and then I
6 submit his quarterly at the end of March, do I do it
7 for the full quarter even though part of that quarter
8 was in his annual?

9 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: That's a really good
10 question.

11 MR. CHRIS ALLEN: That's why I haven't gotten
12 an answer from you on my --

13 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: You asked me?

14 MR. CHRIS ALLEN: I did. And that's okay.

15 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Things are -- oh, I'm
16 sorry.

17 MR. CHRIS ALLEN: I did ask. But, no, and I
18 worded it weird. And that's one of the things I really
19 want to clarify here, because now they're overlapping.

20 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yeah. Right, right,
21 right. Okay. So we're still learning the rules on the
22 quarterly. I don't have an answer. But I really
23 thought I'd --

24 MR. CHRIS ALLEN: You're fine.

25 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: I didn't know I left



1 you hanging on anything.

2 MR. CHRIS ALLEN: No, you're fine.

3 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: So I didn't answer you
4 because I didn't know.

5 I'm going to ask Bruce if he --

6 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: We're going to be
7 looking at the affidavit coming from the trainee.

8 MR. CHRIS ALLEN: Yeah, annually.

9 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: Yeah. Because we're not
10 going to look at (cross-talk) --

11 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yes.

12 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: -- because we're not
13 there yet. With trainees, the affidavit is going to be
14 more important than anything you've got going on. So
15 as long as you get it there, he can get his hours for
16 that time for the year from when he has it. And then
17 you'll pick him up again when he starts getting to the
18 next year. So that's what we're looking for right now.

19 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: And would we not use
20 the quarterly reporting? We would want that for the
21 full quarter because it's a quarterly reporting, right?
22 We would not put that against the trainee's hours?

23 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: Correct.

24 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Okay.

25 MR. CHRIS ALLEN: Okay.



1 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: And we'll get that
2 clarified as well.

3 MR. CHRIS ALLEN: Thank you.

4 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: You're welcome.

5 And if I have anything else I left you hanging on,
6 please let me know.

7 MR. CHRIS ALLEN: Yeah, it was an odd
8 question, and I probably worded it very under-detailed,
9 so I'll let it slide.

10 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Okay, thank you. I
11 appreciate that.

12 MR. TODD ALLRED: Yes?

13 MS. KATHY THAUT: Hi. Kathy Thaut with At
14 Your Service Plumbing.

15 And I have a couple of statements and one
16 question, one being to his question. I sent a letter
17 with the annual renewal for the trainees, because it
18 was confusing to me how you were going to audit that.
19 Maybe this new position's going to do that. Because I
20 was doing it calendar quarters, and now their
21 renewals -- I did it for the year of their renewals,
22 but I didn't know how you were going to figure it out.
23 That's number one.

24 Number two, we made a stupid mistake for our
25 fourth quarter because -- and I know why. I passed it



1 off to a team member. They didn't get the trainees to
2 sign the affidavits that I had got notarized. My
3 trainees never got a letter. So I just wanted to let
4 you know. So either all those got lost in the mail, or
5 they were denied because the hours haven't showed up,
6 but they never got up a letter, so -- because I asked
7 all of them, "Did you get a letter about that?" So I
8 just wanted to let you know.

9 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: I'll need all their
10 names. I want to verify --

11 MS. KATHY THAUT: Yeah, I'll email you.

12 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Okay. Perfect.

13 MS. KATHY THAUT: No problem.

14 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Okay. Thank you very
15 much.

16 MS. KATHY THAUT: You do not have to write
17 them down.

18 My question is, do we have any plans in the budget
19 to create an online system of doing the quarterly
20 reporting?

21 MR. TODD ALLRED: Good question.

22 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: What was your question?

23 MS. KATHY THAUT: So, you know, obviously
24 under penalty of perjury or something, because we
25 always have to have the affidavits notarized -- which



1 would still happen. As long as the annual thing is in
2 the law, we will have to do those. But is there any
3 plans to look at doing the quarterly reporting online?

4 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: The desire to do it and
5 the plans to do it are not weighing out. We have had
6 those discussions, what does that look like, could the
7 annual ones even be submitted online, could we get all
8 affidavits online.

9 Right now our current challenges are the
10 resources, the IT costs of implementing it, and the
11 staff to develop it. So it's not anything that's in
12 the works right now, but it's definitely something that
13 we want to move towards if we have those resources to
14 do so.

15 MS. KATHY THAUT: So what I hear you saying
16 is the Department has the desire to get something set
17 up in that direction.

18 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: We've had those
19 discussions. Yes.

20 MS. KATHY THAUT: But we need to figure out
21 the resources.

22 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: The resources, yes.
23 And then work around any of the legal challenges.

24 MS. KATHY THAUT: My company would say the
25 industry would want to help with that if there's some



1 way to do that. I don't know. But look at that.

2 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yeah. And the only
3 other thing that I want to say with that too is we also
4 need to go through the legal process and make sure that
5 that can be done legally. But, yes, it is something
6 that would --

7 MS. KATHY THAUT: Well, correct. You'd have
8 to sign that where -- you're signing it online, right?

9 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yes. Right, right.

10 MS. KATHY THAUT: Which can be done in
11 today's world.

12 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yeah. So I would say
13 there's the legal review and then the resource piece
14 that we are facing right now.

15 MS. KATHY THAUT: Okay. Well, let us know
16 how we can help in the future.

17 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: All right. Thank you
18 very much.

19 MR. DENNIS HAMON: Can I go twice?

20 MR. TODD ALLRED: Yes.

21 MR. DENNIS HAMON: So what I heard clarified
22 is that the annual is still the primary recording
23 device of hours, the annual affidavit; is that right?

24 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Correct.

25 MR. DENNIS HAMON: Okay. So the intent in



1 the law, one thing was the quarterly is actually for
2 the protection of the apprentice. Because I even hear
3 plumbers -- apprentices all the time that have worked
4 for a year and then found out their hours weren't
5 being -- weren't legit because there wasn't a plumber
6 and appropriate plumbing supervision. So they worked
7 for a year and lost their hours.

8 So I think it's great to know that the one year is
9 important. But for protection of apprentices and
10 future legitimate labor force, we've got to get that
11 quarterly. We have to be on top of that because
12 otherwise we're going to do this again. The law is not
13 having the effect that we wanted it to, which is
14 protecting apprentices from working that whole year,
15 and that whole year was wasted because that company
16 didn't have legit supervision.

17 Does that make sense?

18 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: It does. It does. And
19 right now they're both in law, so they're both required
20 so we have one to fall back on. So if that situation
21 arose, then we do have these quarterly reportings as
22 well so the trainee is not out with no records. It's
23 got double records, you know, at best.

24 MR. DENNIS HAMON: Right. And there any
25 communication going to contractors in general about all



1 this? Like, I'm hearing about companies that just do
2 commuter service rinses, drain cleaning, that are
3 not -- it seems like there's no communication by the
4 industry about how this new stuff is working. Is there
5 any -- is there any budget or intent on communicating
6 with the contractors in general about these new rules?

7 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Is that for the
8 Department or...

9 MR. DENNIS HAMON: Well, yeah. Like the
10 way -- like what you just told me. Do we have to come
11 to these meetings to find that out, or is this kind of
12 information going to be listed out to contractors that
13 might not have anything to do with plumbing?

14 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: So we did a lot of
15 information when the law came in, right. We had our
16 communication plan. We worked that way.

17 We don't continuously blast out that same
18 information. But we are, as we discussed, working on
19 some education on some things that have been challenges
20 that we're going to be displaying on the website.

21 MR. DENNIS HAMON: Okay. I've been hearing
22 from roofer companies that are just completely
23 blindsided by all this stuff. So it sounds like if we
24 want to communicate that with them privately, we have
25 to do that ourselves rather than relying on L&I to do



1 that. Is that -- just to help our fellow contractors,
2 right? Like, who --

3 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: If you guys have
4 communication plans that you use or avenues, sure. I
5 just -- when the law went into effect, you know, we put
6 that out there. We had FAQs and fact sheets and
7 brochures and all kinds of media outlets and
8 everything. So we can go back and visit things that we
9 know are a challenge for people like what you're
10 mentioning.

11 But just as routine business, we don't keep
12 sending out the same information month after month
13 after month, right? Once it goes into law, we do that
14 communication plan. But if there's issues that still
15 need attention --

16 MR. DENNIS HAMON: Well, I just heard this
17 week -- I heard this month several different companies
18 that just do drain cleaner are getting in trouble.
19 They had no idea about this stuff, right? And so it's
20 like somehow communication was lost. I think it's
21 L&I's responsibility.

22 But if they're not -- because you guys -- L&I has
23 all the mailing lists of every contractor in Washington
24 and every licensed and unlicensed person in Washington,
25 right? And so that would be --



1 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: No. We do not have a
2 mailing list of every unlicensed person in Washington.

3 MR. DENNIS HAMON: Well, licensed person,
4 right?

5 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Oh, okay. Right.
6 Correct.

7 MR. DENNIS HAMON: Correct? It seems like
8 that would be --

9 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: And we did --

10 MR. DENNIS HAMON: I don't have it, and I
11 have no way of getting it. So I would have to --

12 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Right. And we did do
13 that. We did. And there was heavy industry
14 involvement with all the stakeholdering process through
15 the legislative writing. There was public testimony.
16 We did do all that, yes. We did.

17 I don't know that it's realistic to expect the
18 Department to continuously reiterate laws on all the
19 different things that we regulate. We wouldn't able to
20 process any of your paperwork if we were continuously
21 repeating the same information over and over and over
22 again.

23 MR. DENNIS HAMON: Do you know -- did these
24 go out to plumbing contractors or general contractors?
25 Like, it seems like we missed -- we as an industry



1 missed some --

2 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: Let me answer that
3 question. We got a problem trying to (audio
4 distortion) -- the bill is so viewed, and then they --

5 MR. TODD ALLRED: Bruce, can you step over
6 here to the owl [phonetic], please?

7 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: I can.

8 The biggest piece to that new bill was a
9 contractor piece and, of course, that's one of the
10 pieces we had put out there. We did not -- we had
11 general contractors that were doing plumbing and
12 general contractors that didn't have plumbers. So did
13 we know who was out there? No.

14 We're now starting build that piece up, and we've
15 got all their -- you would know who's doing plumbing in
16 most cases. But there's still people out there that we
17 haven't been able to get to. We don't know their
18 email. Does that help? Yeah, so we're working on it.

19 MR. DENNIS HAMON: So plumbing contractors
20 were communicated with, right, for sure?

21 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: We did a lot of
22 communication. We did it through insurances and
23 everything else, anything we could do to try to get it
24 out there.

25 MR. DENNIS HAMON: I'm just trying to help



1 with -- I'm trying to figure out what group -- it seems
2 like some group was missed.

3 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Okay. If you want to
4 let us know the groups that you feel were missed, we
5 can go back and look and see what our communication
6 with those specific --

7 MR. DENNIS HAMON: Drain cleaning companies.

8 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: That's it? Drain
9 cleaning companies?

10 MR. DENNIS HAMON: Yeah. That's the feedback
11 I'm getting, is drain cleaning companies.

12 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yeah, we'll go back and
13 look, because we have our distribution lists, and we
14 have, you know --

15 MR. DENNIS HAMON: Because if we know that,
16 we can help with that, right? We can see if we can
17 help communicate that information for these people who
18 have been blindsided.

19 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yeah, we'll go back and
20 look.

21 MR. DENNIS HAMON: Awesome. Thank you.

22 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Okay. Thank you.

23 MR. TODD ALLRED: Yes, sir?

24 MR. TIM HERBERT: Tim Herbert.

25 So first of all, I want to thank everybody, one,



1 for the commitment and the time that you all put in on
2 some challenging subjects. So as someone who was
3 involved in the stakeholdering process for a piece of
4 legislation that took over three years, and it was the
5 first real and substantial changes to plumbing law that
6 was much needed, I want to let everybody know that part
7 of those conversations -- in the process of those, we
8 knew there were not going to be a seamless solution to
9 everything that happened.

10 And I know that coming up shortly, Todd is going
11 to talking about reconvening that committee and what we
12 already have on the docket. And it is important that
13 all of us continue to voice things in a meaningful way
14 to where we can make the additional changes that are
15 going to better the industry.

16 And all of that being said, I feel the passion. I
17 feel everything in the room. I just wanted to stop for
18 a moment and say thank you all for the work that you're
19 doing and going through the process. And,
20 collectively, everybody in this room and the
21 stakeholdering should come up with some solutions that
22 will better the process. And it is going to be a
23 process.

24 So while we're going through that process, I
25 wanted to, again, thank you guys for the work that you



1 do, patience. I know that everybody at Labor and
2 Industries is enforcing what the legislation says, that
3 it is not perfect. But the process that we're involved
4 in is one that will get us to a place where the
5 industry is all better for it. So thank you.

6 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Thank you.

7 MR. TODD ALLRED: Thank you.

8 Yes, sir?

9 MR. BOB LARSON: Bob Larson again.

10 I just want to the second what he said, and I'm
11 appreciative for everything that you guys do.

12 Dennis brought up drain cleaning. I know of a guy
13 that was in my class. I teach continuing ed classes.
14 And he has a friend that runs a drain cleaning company
15 in Lynden that was put out of business because it seems
16 like, historically, drain cleaning was classified as
17 not plumbing, where you didn't have to be a licensed
18 plumber to do it.

19 And now it has been classified as plumbing, and
20 you have to not only have a licensed plumber do it, but
21 you also have to have a plumbing contractor's license,
22 which requires a licensed plumber as a -- as the
23 special -- as the designated plumber for the business.

24 And a lot of the drain cleaning, historically, I
25 think -- I thought that it was not considered plumbing,



1 but now it is. And so they don't have any licensed
2 plumbers in their business, and they don't have a
3 licensed designated plumber qualified to be a plumbing
4 contractor. So, like I said, I know of one guy that is
5 out of business because of that.

6 So is it true -- my question is is it true that
7 plumbing -- or that drain cleaning was not considered
8 plumbing before but now it is?

9 MR. TODD ALLRED: Well, it is -- in the RCW
10 now, it's considered to be plumbing.

11 But I would like to ask Bruce Springer to comment
12 on this, if you could, Bruce. Was it -- before this
13 RCW, was drain cleaning considered plumbing and we just
14 didn't pay attention to it, or...

15 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: I mean, it was. If you
16 read the statute, it talks about repairs and all that
17 who'd -- plumbing. So it's -- if the drains are not
18 working, then you would probably be -- technically, you
19 know, you were doing plumbing.

20 We'd allow them to open up a cleanout and go
21 through it. But, you know, if clean out -- there's a
22 reason why -- why is there a plugged drain? It could
23 be any reason. It could be a bow in the pipe. It
24 could be, you know, something else going on. It would
25 be, you know -- maybe something separated. So that



1 becomes plumbing.

2 The biggest thing you've got going on is we never
3 allowed them, drain cleaners, to pull toilets or pull
4 traps. And a lot of times, that's what they were
5 doing. So if you're asking me the question, "Is it
6 plumbing," it always has been.

7 We've already told them that. We've already told
8 them they could not pull a trap. They could not pull a
9 toilet. They cannot do anything other than --

10 MR. TODD ALLRED: Cleanout plug?

11 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: A lot of them do the
12 cleanout plug, because we kind of stopped that because
13 that just -- I mean, where are they going to do it? I
14 mean, there's not that many cleanout plugs. So a lot
15 of these guys who were doing -- pulling toilets to get
16 there.

17 Some guys tried to tell me they were going to
18 snake through. They run a cable through a toilet to
19 get to it. That's not necessarily -- I can tell you
20 right now, I've done enough toilets and enough drain
21 cleaner in my lifetime as a plumber. There's no way
22 you're running a cable through toilet. Auger maybe,
23 but not a full cable that's going to go through the
24 lines.

25 But yes, we already told them they couldn't do it.



1 "You cannot pull toilets."

2 MR. TODD ALLRED: I would like to -- we need
3 to get back to our agenda. Hang tight one second.
4 Does your question have to do with affidavits? No?

5 You have an affidavit question?

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

7 MR. TODD ALLRED: Okay. Can we wait until
8 new business to talk about what you want to talk about?
9 I'd like to revisit this topic of drain cleaning under
10 new business, and we can pick it from there.

11 Are you done with affidavits?

12 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: We have a question on
13 affidavits.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi, how's it going?
15 So here's actually an affidavit. On the back of
16 it. And my friend Tom Lorezca, he died last year on
17 May 23rd, and he was my journeyman plumber for two and
18 a half years when I was working at Beacon Plumbing,
19 right?

20 MR. TODD ALLRED: Is that the gentleman that
21 was murdered?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. So what are we
23 going to do about those lost year and a half of hours
24 that I should have had signed?

25 MR. TODD ALLRED: That's a great question.



1 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yes. Obviously, very
2 unique situation with this. I would say that we would
3 go back and look at the records. Was that individual
4 employed during that time frame, and then a copy of the
5 death certificate, and we can have that --

6 I mean, that's a unique situation that we can have
7 those discussions on. I don't think there's a blanket
8 answer for that for a standard thing. But definitely
9 let's have that conversation and look at what needs to
10 be looked at.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. So you're
12 saying there's a chance.

13 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Well, there's always a
14 chance, but it depends on what year it was.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

16 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: Who did you work for?

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Beacon.

18 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: Then how come Beacon
19 didn't submit the hours to us?

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, he died.

21 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: Who died?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Tom Lorezca, the
23 journeyman plumber.

24 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: Would have had people to
25 sign off on it for Beacon.



1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He would have signed
2 probably if he was still alive.

3 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: But he's not just the --
4 he's not the owner of Beacon.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

6 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: So if there's owners of
7 Beacon, they can sign for those hours.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So he can sign off on
9 behalf of him after he died?

10 MR. TODD ALLRED: The journeyman plumber has
11 to sign the affidavit.

12 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: No, he doesn't.

13 MR. TODD ALLRED: No?

14 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: No. You just have to
15 listen. So they would sign it.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. So I can just
17 walk in there and say, "Hey, sign my hours"?

18 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: Yes. They're the ones
19 that's got the records. We're going to go back -- I'm
20 going to go back up here. Beacon Plumbing is the one
21 that is -- the owners of Beacon or one of their
22 designees can sign off on those hours. They're the
23 ones that are supposed to. All they have to do is list
24 the plumber.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. But I'm pretty



1 sure they need their signature.

2 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: They need whose
3 signature?

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They need the
5 supervising plumber's name.

6 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: Yeah. Which they can
7 do.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And then they need
9 their signature.

10 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: The signature is yours.
11 And then it would be the owner's signature or the
12 designee. They can have a designee. We allowed to
13 have designees because a lot of times the owner is
14 living in California or someplace else, so they have a
15 designee. So they can sign off.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

17 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: So that's an even
18 easier answer than where I was going.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. Sweet. All
20 right.

21 A few things here. So the trainee certificate,
22 right, it says it costs \$56.40. That's what you pay
23 annually, right?

24 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: If that's a current --
25 yes, if that's a current affidavit.



1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So why should we have
2 to pay for that? I think a lot of the guys in this
3 room probably have a normal life, and they're not
4 focused on going to check online for their CEs.
5 They're not going online to go check up on their cards.
6 And that's probably why a lot of them don't have all
7 their hours and their certificates and all the things
8 that they need, right?

9 So I have thought of this idea that could possibly
10 work, and it would be to eliminate that \$56 and put
11 that towards the price of a test. This way when you're
12 ready to test, and I say, "Hey, Bob, I'm ready to test
13 out. It's been three years now, right. I've been
14 working for you. Here's my W-2. It shows all my
15 hours. It shows all my hours, it shows that I've paid
16 my taxes, and it shows how much money I've made."

17 So it's not like I'm someone who's worked in an
18 office making, you know, \$30,000 or \$40,000 a year.
19 You can clearly see that I'm making, you know, 70,
20 \$80,000 a year, right. So we know that, okay, he's a
21 plumber. He's going to sign off on a letter and
22 everything. And so I'd say eliminate that and put that
23 right towards the test.

24 Another thing was -- under the question it says,
25 "Are you educated -- are there any educational



1 requirements to renew?" And then at the bottom, I
2 highlighted -- it says, "If you take more than eight
3 credits per year, it will not carry over to the next
4 renewal cycle."

5 So even -- for me, that's caused me not to get my
6 license as well because, like I said, I have a life.
7 I'm not sitting there on the computer for eight hours.
8 I'm not taking the time out of my day because I'm doing
9 other things. I'm spending time with my family and
10 everything like that.

11 So why not put those eight hours towards the time
12 that you're ready to test? And you say, "Hey, look,
13 I'm going to take a whole week off. I'm going to study
14 for 40 hours. I'm going to get all my credits put
15 together. And then at the end of that, I'm going to
16 start my test."

17 This way it's all -- it's all recorded. The guy's
18 got everything fresh in his brain, not 60 percent of
19 people are failing tests. You can have more of a
20 closure rate on that, and you can have about 80 to
21 90 percent of plumbers, because now they'll have
22 everything fresh in their brain instead of that's
23 something that they studied four years ago.

24 And then the affidavit should be required to be
25 turned in annually. Another thing, I just think that's



1 ridiculous because, you know -- unless it's done by the
2 employer, you know, that's one thing. But if someone
3 like myself and probably another hundred to two hundred
4 guys that are doing the same thing as me, they're not
5 turning this in, and that's where we're losing.

6 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Right.

7 MR. TODD ALLRED: So we appreciate the
8 comments and the suggestions, but that's not anything
9 that L&I -- that the Department or the Board can answer
10 for you or give you direction on. What I will say
11 about all of that is that in order to change those
12 things, if we were to take your suggestions and
13 implement them, the process would be this:

14 The stakeholder group that you heard mentioned by
15 Tim Herbert a few minutes ago would have to convene.
16 Everybody would have to agree across the industry to
17 make those changes. Then we would have to go down and
18 lobby in Olympia too, and we'd have to get the
19 regulatory department or on board with it as well,
20 because there would be a fiscal cost.

21 Then we'd have to go to Olympia, lobby, try to get
22 a bill passed. It's going to take ten years because it
23 doesn't -- generally in Olympia it's five to ten years
24 to get a bill passed. We hope to not have that process
25 with our update.



1 But you're talking about major changes. That's a
2 major investment from the people that are involved to
3 go down there, be lobbying on behalf of that. It's a
4 tall order that you're asking for.

5 So my response to you would be we've heard you.
6 We listen to your suggestions. They're good
7 suggestions. There's nothing wrong with any of them.
8 It's just the process to implement them would be
9 climbing Mount Everest at this point.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

11 MR. TODD ALLRED: But thank you for caring
12 enough to communicate those things.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

14 MR. TODD ALLRED: Does anybody have any
15 questions or comments on that?

16 Yes, sir. Bob.

17 MR. BOB LARSON: Related to affidavits.

18 MR. TODD ALLRED: Good, good.

19 MR. BOB LARSON: So we have a denial, and
20 it's asking for an audit. I'm not exactly sure what it
21 is that you're asking for.

22 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: It should say on there
23 time cards, records. It doesn't explain that? I can
24 have a conversation with you or show to you what that
25 is.



1 MR. BOB LARSON: Time cards and/or journals
2 or invoice that links the plumbing hours worked to the
3 supervising plumber.

4 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yep. So there was --
5 typically when that's sent, there's a question of a
6 supervision issue where -- whether it was overlapped or
7 the supervising plumber also signed on multiple, and so
8 it becomes a ratio issue. So that's where we're asking
9 for time cards that can link the trainee's hours
10 supervised with the supervising plumber.

11 Now, one thing that I've been discussing with a
12 couple of you that you may be unaware is -- and I don't
13 know if you'd be in this situation. As an owner of a
14 company and the supervising plumber, maybe you weren't
15 keeping time on yourself because you're the owner. But
16 if that owner of a company is supervising a trainee,
17 then those hours have to be kept and reported to prove
18 that that trainee was being supervised during that
19 time.

20 So any kind of time cards, whatever records you
21 have to show that that trainee in question was being
22 properly supervised and those records can be matched
23 together hour to hour, that what we're asking for,
24 whether it's in the time cards, invoices.

25 And then that's where I was discussing earlier



1 we're looking at providing samples on our website to
2 kind of help with that information.

3 MR. BOB LARSON: That would be helpful.

4 So I've been doing this for 30 years, as I
5 mentioned earlier, and I've never heard of a business
6 software that's going to track every day with a
7 different plumber supervising. And I don't know of any
8 such thing that even exists.

9 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yeah, I don't know it
10 it's a software. But, I mean, if anybody here has
11 examples of how they record their trainee supervision
12 with a journey level --

13 MR. BOB LARSON: That would be good to know.

14 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: I mean, I don't know.
15 If it's in a time card, I think -- how do you do it?

16 MR. TODD ALLRED: I don't. My office manager
17 does it.

18 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Oh, that's legit.
19 Okay.

20 MR. TODD ALLRED: And she's in the room.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER A: So the way I do it
22 is I always match the time that each employee is --
23 their hours are recorded with L&I for their -- with the
24 L&I hours. It's still regular hours.

25 Yeah, in plumbing securities. So whatever hours



1 for payroll shows the hours they worked, and they
2 match. Does that make sense? We have their paycheck.
3 You get L&I hours coming out. But they have to pay for
4 it. And that's what we base it off because that comes
5 off their time sheet, it goes off the GPS of their rig,
6 which goes off of their -- that's how we track it.

7 Now, quarterly, I had a report from my payroll
8 department. Each technician for the quarter recorded
9 how many hours were recorded at L&I, not affidavit-type
10 hours but the payroll hours. And then I'd use that to
11 transfer over to their affidavits and submit it.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER B: And you've used that
13 as an audit, a proven audit?

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER A: But I have a
15 tracking record of it, and that's what she's asking
16 for. What that letter is asking for is proof. Well, I
17 have proof that my employee paid X dollars for so many
18 hours because that's the hours they worked. Here's my
19 proof. But we don't necessarily have time cards per se
20 as well. Some guys do. Some don't. And they're not
21 actually 100 percent accurate, if I'm being honest.

22 MR. TODD ALLRED: I don't think anybody can
23 ever be 100 percent accurate.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER A: Right. So I just go
25 off of what my payroll department reports to L&I.



1 That's a track record that L&I has and my payroll
2 department has. I know my guys worked those hours
3 because they paid out of their time card, out of their
4 paycheck. And then I'd use those with what we have --

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER B: So if you would have
6 been audited, how would you prove that the supervising
7 plumber was with that trainee through that -- what
8 you're talking about right now on the same job site?

9 MR. TODD ALLRED: Good question.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER B: How would you prove
11 that?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER A: You can't. But they
13 don't have to be.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER B: But if you're
15 audited, they do.

16 MS. KATHY THAUT: That's the point they're
17 making is that they want to prove --

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER B: They want the proof.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER A: There's no way.
20 Nobody will ever be able to prove that. It will never
21 happen.

22 (Cross-talk.)

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER A: And you can't
24 disapprove it either.

25 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: As stated earlier,



1 we're working on examples to help people through that
2 process.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER A: But I do make sure
4 whoever my signing PL01 is for my three apprentices has
5 the hours to cover. That is what I'm recording. But
6 whether I was (cross-talk) or not, there's no way to --

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER B: Right. And we do it
8 the exact same way, except now we're being asked to
9 prove it.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER A: Yeah. That's the
11 reality. That's how I draw up our hours.

12 MR. TODD ALLRED: I would say that we wait
13 until Labor & Industries provides us with some examples
14 of what they want to see, and then we try to accomplish
15 complying with that, would be my suggestion. It is a
16 tall order. We can have a discussion.

17 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yeah. I'll have to go
18 back again, look at the statute, see what the
19 requirements are once something's been referred to
20 audit. And I'll go through too and look at, you
21 know -- we've had successful audits where the hours are
22 credited because -- so we'll look through that.

23 MR. TODD ALLRED: Good. Good.
24 Are we done with audits?

25 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: You tell me.



1 MR. TODD ALLRED: No one's in line? We're
2 done with audits. All right. Very good. We're going
3 to move on.

4 Are there any questions online from our moderator?
5 (No audible response.)

6 No? Thank you.

7 All right. So we're going to move on to Advisory
8 Board of Plumbers subgroup for sunset ratio. Let me
9 give the history on this a little bit so everybody
10 understands what we're talking about here on the Board.
11 I want to read from you the second of RCW that applies
12 to the situation that we're talking about. It's
13 actually two portions. I'm going to read this one here
14 first.

15 This says: "The Advisory Board shall carry out
16 the functions -- carry out all the functions and duties
17 enumerated in this chapter as well as generally advise
18 the Department on all matters relative to the
19 enforcement of this chapter, including plumbing
20 industry promotion, standards of plumbing
21 installations, consumer protection, and standards for
22 the protection of public health."

23 That's the purpose of this board, okay? And
24 there's procedures for all of that and how that
25 happens. In the RCW when Senate Bill 6170, when that



1 passed in March of 2020, this portion was added here:

2 "The Department shall instruct the Advisory Board
3 of Plumbers to convene a subgroup that includes the
4 statewide association representing plumbing, heating,
5 and cooling contractors," that's going to be PHCC of
6 Washington; "the union representing plumbers and
7 pipefitters," that's the Washington State Association
8 of Plumber and Pipefitters; "the association
9 representing plumbing contractors who employ union
10 plumbers and pipefitters," that's the Mechanical
11 Contractors Association; "and other directly affected
12 stakeholders after the completion of the 2023
13 legislative session, the 2024 legislative session, and
14 every three years thereafter."

15 We're very close to the end of the 2023 session.
16 Does anybody -- Tim, do you know what day it ends? Is
17 it next week? This Friday?

18 MR. TIM HERBERT: Friday.

19 MR. TODD ALLRED: This Friday. The session
20 ends this Friday.

21 B, "The work group shall evaluate the effects the
22 trainee ratio changes have had on the industry,
23 including public safety and industry response to public
24 demand for you may plumbing services. The work group
25 shall determine a sustainable plan for maintaining



1 sufficient numbers of plumbers and trainees within the
2 plumbing workforce to safely meet the needs of the
3 public. The report is due to the standing labor
4 committees of the legislature before December 1st of
5 each year that the work group convenes. The work group
6 shall conclude on receipt of the report by the
7 legislature. Within current funding appropriate" --
8 this talks about if you're involved, then you can be
9 reimbursed for your travel, et cetera.

10 So the 2023 session is coming to an end, and the
11 sunset on the ratio changes of three to one on
12 residential, that will sunset in 2025. So the
13 subgroup -- I'm going to -- as the chair of the Board,
14 I'm going to convene a subgroup during this meeting
15 with you guys, and I'm going to make some nominations
16 for the subgroup, and then we'll talk about -- well,
17 here's -- let me tell you the details on how it will
18 go.

19 So as Tim Herbert mentioned from the WSA, the
20 stakeholders group has already been planning to meet.
21 We knew that we needed to do this because there's many
22 things in the RCW that we need to -- we have to go to
23 the statute and get it changed in the legislature --
24 sorry for the language -- to force Labor & Industries
25 to interpret it the way we originally meant it, okay?



1 So there's some of that.

2 Then there's some other things that we want to
3 address in the RCW coming from --

4 Did I offend you?

5 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: No. It didn't offend
6 me, but I don't believe that that's accurate. It's not
7 to force us. It's to make the language match what you
8 want.

9 MR. TODD ALLRED: Yes. Exactly.

10 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: We're going to do what
11 the statute says regardless of what people want, right?

12 MR. TODD ALLRED: Yes, yes. Right. And
13 we're going to fix that. Or at least we're going to
14 intend to.

15 So the way that this will operate is that we want
16 to keep the original stakeholder group for the most
17 part together for -- that was originally involved in
18 the bill because of the history and the relationships.
19 Because, folks, we are in -- the UA and the open-shop
20 contractors in this state are plowing ground. What I
21 mean by that is in other states, they can't open shop,
22 and you can't even be in the same room together.
23 Things are different in our state here. We're working
24 towards some unity and some camaraderie together to
25 make our industry stronger.



1 So we want to keep those relationships. Those
2 relationships have remained solid. There's been a few
3 ripples here and there, but the relationships are
4 solid, and we want to maintain the original stakeholder
5 groups as much as possible.

6 In the process -- in an effort to be efficient
7 with the process, we would like to have this subgroup
8 that we're going to convene here today be -- it will be
9 a smaller group that will be part of the larger group.
10 And then when they handle the business of specifically
11 addressing the ratio changes and, essentially, the
12 manning of our industry to protect public health and
13 make sure that everybody's -- we want to keep the
14 ratios -- or we want to adjust the ratios as needed
15 depending on those things, okay? So that would be the
16 subgroup's responsibility, to evaluate all of that.

17 Does anybody have any questions on that?

18 (No audible response.)

19 All right. Good. I think that we all get that.
20 So here's what I intend to happen. On May 26th at
21 11:00 a.m. -- it was originally put out at 9:00 a.m.,
22 but WSA has a conflict and needs to move it to
23 11:00 a.m. that day -- we'll meet at the WSA offices
24 located at 7030 Tacoma Mall Boulevard in Tacoma,
25 Washington, 98409.



1 This will be a four-hour meeting is what we've
2 been scheduling, but I don't know how long the work
3 group will take -- the subgroup will take to accomplish
4 the mandate in the RCW here. Maybe it's going to be
5 30 minutes. It might be two hours. I don't know.

6 But at this point in time, I would like to convene
7 that subgroup by making some nominations.

8 I'm going to -- I would like to nominate Tim
9 Herbert of the WSA to the subgroup.

10 I would like to nominate Brad Moore of WSA to the
11 subgroup.

12 Antonio Cruz as a new member of the subgroup
13 because of his involvement in the industry.

14 Scott Middleton, who is not present today. He's
15 with the Mechanical Contractors --

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It should be Corey
17 Wilker.

18 MR. TODD ALLRED: My bad. How did that
19 happen? Sorry, Antonio. Corey Wilker is in the room,
20 I believe. Yes, there's Corey. I must have transposed
21 information incorrectly. I apologize for that.

22 Scott Middleton is with the Mechanical Contractors
23 Association. He is not currently here, but he has
24 responded in email to accept the nomination.

25 Kathy Thaut with At Your Service Plumbing and PHCC



1 is nominated.

2 Dusty Hoerler with Craftsman Plumbing, PHCC.

3 I'm nominating Tom Bozeman with the PHCC.

4 You guys all have the right to accept or deny the
5 nomination. It's up to you. And then I'm also -- I
6 also want to be a part of this group as well to make
7 sure that we keep the consistency of what we intended
8 originally.

9 So anyway, you guys, I'm nominating those eight
10 people.

11 MR. SCOTT FOWLER: I'll entertain to accept
12 the nominations.

13 MR. TODD ALLRED: Say again?

14 MR. SCOTT FOWLER: I'll entertain the
15 nominations and the motion to move forward.

16 MR. BRAD MOORE: Second.

17 MR. TODD ALLRED: Second from Brad.

18 All right. Any discussion, fellas? Ladies,
19 fellas?

20 (No audible response.)

21 That was pretty easy. All right.

22 MR. BRAD MOORE: Can I ask a question?

23 MR. TODD ALLRED: Yeah.

24 MR. BRAD MOORE: Does that eight include you?

25 MR. TODD ALLRED: I don't know if that's --



1 is that a legal thing? Can I do that?

2 MR. BEN BLOHOWIAK: I think so.

3 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: I do have a question.

4 MR. TODD ALLRED: Yes, yes.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He did make the
6 motion, so he's covered.

7 MR. TODD ALLRED: We have a motion and it's
8 seconded, so we're having discussion.

9 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yes. And for the
10 report to the legislature, the Department can provide
11 that report? Or are you going to have somebody write
12 the report and submit it?

13 MR. TODD ALLRED: I think what we'll do is
14 the subgroup will write a report to the board, to this
15 board, and then this board will vote and discuss,
16 amend, change, et cetera, whatever needs to happen from
17 the Board. And then we'll submit that to the
18 Department to get to the legislature.

19 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Fantastic.

20 MR. TODD ALLRED: Is that good?

21 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Perfect, yes.

22 MR. TODD ALLRED: You good with that, Ben?

23 MR. BOB LARSON: Yes.

24 MR. TODD ALLRED: All right. Perfect.

25 MR. BEN BLOHOWIAK: That's the process.



1 MR. TODD ALLRED: Who wants to do the
2 writing? That's the question.

3 Wait. That's what they have ChatGPT for. The
4 young people are snickering. I love it.

5 All right. If there's no more discussion, I'll
6 call for a vote. All in favor?

7 (Chorus of ayes.)

8 Opposed? Abstention?

9 (No audible response.)

10 The motion carries. Thank you very much.

11 So we'll be getting some communication to the
12 subgroup for this meeting. That will conclude that
13 portion of our --

14 Jed, you're up for an IAPMO update.

15 MR. JED SCHEUERMANN: Good morning, everyone.
16 I'm Jed Scheuermann with IAPMO.

17 Mark your calendars for the 24th to the 28th of
18 September, San Antonio, Texas, at the Hyatt. That is
19 where our annual conference will be.

20 Given where we are in the code adoption or code
21 development cycle, there's -- it's not really a voting
22 year, but there will be loads of great plumbing
23 education, continuing education at this conference and
24 lots of opportunities to network with your industry
25 peers.



1 Today, as we meet here, the Technical Committee is
2 meeting to deliberate the final monograph for the 2024
3 UPC, and tomorrow the meetings are on for the 2024 UMC;
4 so it's probably too late to go to those, I'm guessing.

5 Our Legionella Task Group continues to lead -- I
6 don't know if -- how many of you all get news feeds
7 from whatever your source is that talks about
8 Legionella? I get literally every single day reports
9 of new cases of Legionella. Our Legionella Task Group
10 is open and ongoing. And if you want to participate in
11 those meetings, you can do that live or do that online
12 by Zoom. Just check our website for how to do that.

13 It's something that if you haven't dealt with,
14 that you probably will because the amount of Legionella
15 out there is pretty staggering. So we continue to
16 forge ahead with that.

17 IAPMO chapters -- I want to encourage you to be
18 involved in your local IAPMO chapter, wherever you're
19 at. I think there are almost -- Washington state has
20 more IAPMO chapters than every state except California.
21 We've got one out in the Spokane area; here in the
22 Greater Seattle area; Rainier/Olympic, which we're
23 hoping to get kicked back up and starting and going
24 again. We chartered a new chapter up in Sequim. And
25 so there's lots of opportunities for you to engage with



1 your industry through IAPMO chapter meetings.

2 And then finally our foundation IWSH, which I'm a
3 part of as well. We continue to do projects. We just
4 wrapped one up at Bacone College, which is a Native
5 American college in the Creek Nation in Oklahoma, where
6 we built a laundry for the students there. They never
7 had a laundry on-site, so now they can do their laundry
8 on-site at the university.

9 And on in two weeks I'm set to go back to Alabama
10 for our next community plumbing challenge there to make
11 plumbing improvements for one of the poorest counties
12 in America. And so anyone that wants more information
13 on what we're doing with IWSH, I would love to chat
14 more with you about that.

15 That concludes my report.

16 MR. TODD ALLRED: Thank you, Jed. Thank you
17 very much for that.

18 On the Legionella thing, I have a question. Where
19 are you seeing the sources of Legionella for the most
20 part?

21 MR. JED SCHEUERMANN: A lot of it is
22 happening in domestic potable water systems. The three
23 main things are domestic potable systems in
24 multi-family-type residential; the other is in
25 hospitals; and the third is in cooling towers. Those



1 are the three primary points of exposure.

2 And a lot of that has to do with buildings that
3 are underused or unused, because as water -- as water
4 ages, cold water in a building gets warmer, and warm
5 water gets colder, and it puts it right into that sweet
6 spot for Legionella propagation, and there's where your
7 real issues are. So those three sources.

8 MR. TODD ALLRED: Thank you for that. Any
9 other questions for Jed?

10 (No audible response.)

11 All right. Very good. We're going to move on to
12 old business and new business. I think maybe you have
13 some old business.

14 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: I do have some old
15 business. At the last meeting there was a question
16 about moving the meetings back to the Department. And,
17 yes, the Department agrees those meetings should be
18 held at the Department again.

19 Thank you to Local 32 for allowing this space
20 during the -- yes -- during a time when we weren't
21 otherwise able to meet in person, offering this space.
22 We really appreciate it. Now that we've moved past
23 that, our offices are back open again, so we can
24 continue or convene having the meetings back at Labor
25 and Industries.



1 Historically, they've always been held at the
2 Tukwila office. So I know we need to fill some
3 paperwork or do some notification for the Public Open
4 Meeting Act in order to make this change, so we're
5 prepared to do that. We've got time to get that done
6 before the next Board meeting.

7 Tukwila is the place where historically we've
8 always had the meetings when they were held at the
9 Department. There is a space issue, though. The
10 office in Tukwila has a capacity of 30 people. So
11 Board with staff takes up about 15, plus legal counsel,
12 plus the court reporter; so that's going to leave about
13 15 people for audience.

14 So we can do remote and do it that way. We also
15 have the Tumwater office, where we have rooms in the
16 Tumwater office that fit up to 100, 70 to 100 people.
17 So I don't know if we want to have a discussion on that
18 or...

19 MR. TODD ALLRED: I mean, I don't know how to
20 tell who's going to show up and who isn't, so -- how
21 many people.

22 MR. JED SCHEUERMANN: I would suggest a room
23 that can house the obviously interested audience to not
24 have to pick and choose on who can and can't come. I
25 think the facility needs to be large enough to



1 accommodate anyone and everybody who has passion about
2 our industry.

3 MR. TODD ALLRED: Can you step up to the owl
4 [phonetic], please, sir.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. We travel from
6 the east side of the state to attend these meetings,
7 and I feel as though we're fairly underrepresented.
8 And I also feel as though we're kind of the stepchild
9 over there, and I believe that it would be fair for L&I
10 to consider having meetings, even if it was once a year
11 or twice a year or every other meeting, on the east
12 side so that you guys could actually see what our world
13 is like over there. So I think we're underrepresented,
14 and I think that we're ignored. And I do believe that
15 L&I should pay attention to the east side of the state,
16 because we pay too.

17 MR. TODD ALLRED: Yeah. Thank you for that.

18 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Thank you.

19 MR. TODD ALLRED: Noted.

20 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: I did not check the
21 facility capacity, but I will do that.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We have lots of room
23 on the east side. Lots.

24 MR. TODD ALLRED: Where are all of the Labor
25 and Industries offices on the east side?



1 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: There's Spokane. And
2 then Colville, I think, has just opened for the kiosk.
3 Yakima. Tri-Cities. East Wenatchee. Moses Lake has
4 kind of a big room.

5 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: They didn't have a big
6 enough floor. There's not --

7 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: I don't know that
8 anything does besides Tumwater.

9 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: Spokane used to.

10 (Cross-talk.)

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I could have to look
12 at a community college or the university there at
13 Ellensburg if you want.

14 (Cross-talk.)

15 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Okay. Okay. We could
16 use that information.

17 MR. JASON LAMIQUIZ: I'm Jason Lamiquiz with
18 Perry Technical Institute.

19 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Hi, Jason. Nice to
20 meet you.

21 MR. JASON LAMIQUIZ: Nice to meet you in
22 person as well. Maybe -- I would need to explore it,
23 but right in Central Washington maybe we could host the
24 meeting on our campus. And I think we have a facility
25 that could accommodate at least this many people plus



1 some. So we'll look into that and report back. Okay?

2 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Thank you. Perfect.
3 Thank you very much.

4 MR. TODD ALLRED: So we have some options.
5 Does that conclude your old business?

6 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Well, yes. I guess
7 we're going to look at our options and --

8 I do have a question. If we want to make a
9 decision before the next meeting, I don't know if
10 that's something that would constitute as a Board
11 meeting outside. Like, I don't know if we can just
12 have that decision or discussion. I don't know how
13 that plays out. Can we just do it without Open Public
14 Meeting Act?

15 MR. BEN BLOHOWIAK: No. We need to make that
16 decision today, like at a meeting.

17 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Okay.

18 MR. BEN BLOHOWIAK: And then you need to --
19 there's notice requirements with the State. You need
20 20 days before the next meeting. So if you want to
21 make a decision to change the location, you should do
22 that here today, vote on that.

23 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Okay.

24 MR. BEN BLOHOWIAK: And then, you know,
25 follow the notice requirements. And we can talk about



1 that, specifics, after the meeting. But choosing your
2 location you should -- if you're going to change the
3 meeting, if you've already noted this location, then
4 yeah, if you're going to -- yes. The Board needs to
5 vote on that today if you're going to change it for the
6 next meeting.

7 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Okay. Would it be
8 possible to have the next meeting in Tumwater? We'll
9 have time to get that all done with the Public Meetings
10 Act. It will hold capacity for those who want to
11 attend. And then by the next meeting, we'll have
12 information back with Perry Tech and can have another
13 decision at that time.

14 UNIDENTIFIED BOARD MEMBER: Is that a formal
15 motion?

16 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: No. It was a more a
17 question of is that something we can do. Like, can we
18 change it that way?

19 MR. BEN BLOHOWIAK: Yes. As long as you are
20 following the notice requirements on the Open Public
21 Meetings Act, the Board can continue to change them.
22 But just changing a meeting constitutes a final action
23 by the Board, and so that needs to be done at a public
24 meeting.

25 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: As secretary, can I



1 make a motion? I don't think I can.

2 MR. SCOTT FOWLER: I'll make a motion the
3 next meeting be held at Tumwater.

4 MR. BRAD MOORE: Second.

5 MR. RYAN McMAHAN: Can we have a discussion
6 on that?

7 MR. TODD ALLRED: Yeah, we'll have a
8 discussion. And it needs to be seconded in order to --

9 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: It was.

10 MR. TODD ALLRED: It was?

11 Oh, sorry. I didn't hear you.

12 MR. RYAN McMAHAN: So what I'm hearing,
13 though, is that if we go to Tumwater, it will be
14 substantially smaller.

15 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Larger. It will fit up
16 to 100.

17 MR. TODD ALLRED: It's the Tukwila office
18 that's smaller.

19 MR. RYAN McMAHAN: Okay.

20 MR. SCOTT FOWLER: As a friendly amendment to
21 that, it's all depending if the room availability is
22 available there.

23 MR. TODD ALLRED: Okay. So the motion is to
24 move the next quarterly Plumbing Advisory Board meeting
25 to Tumwater depending on room availability. Okay?



1 That's the motion that we have currently.

2 MR. JED SCHEUERMANN: And then for
3 discussion, as well, do we want to make a separate
4 conversation about an eastern Washington location for
5 perhaps the following meeting or some future meeting?
6 Does that need to be a separate piece or...

7 MR. BEN BLOHOWIAK: I think you should set an
8 agenda item for a meeting in the future to discuss.

9 MR. TODD ALLRED: Yeah, what he's saying. I
10 think we should have an agenda item at the meeting.

11 And then maybe we could get some feedback from the
12 folks from the east side about a potential location if
13 Labor and Industries' room isn't big enough. If you
14 guys could look and let us know a couple of options.
15 And then at the next meeting in Tumwater, we can then
16 have a motion and a decision to meet in eastern
17 Washington. Does that work for you? Can you do that?

18 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Perry Tech.

19 MR. SCOTT FOWLER: I accept that as a --

20 MR. TODD ALLRED: Perry Tech, yes. Perry
21 Tech, also get back to us as well. I'll need to get
22 you my information. We did that already, didn't we?
23 Okay. Thank you.

24 All right. Any more questions or comments or
25 discussion on that?



1 (No audible response.)

2 MR. TODD ALLRED: Call for a vote. All in
3 favor?

4 (Chorus of ayes.)

5 Opposed? Abstentions?

6 (No audible response.)

7 The motion carries. Thank you. So we'll see you
8 in Tumwater.

9 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yes.

10 MR. TODD ALLRED: All right. New business.
11 I have one piece of new business.

12 Our friend Ben Blohowiak here provided me with
13 some documents that I had not previously had my hands
14 on, and that's our bylaws. I believe we have some
15 bylaws, you guys. I e-mailed these out to the Board,
16 as I just got them yesterday.

17 And I was reviewing this morning, and I realized
18 that we don't have a vice chair on this board. So
19 according to our bylaws, we have to have a vice chair.
20 And I would like to nominate Ryan McMahan as the vice
21 chair of the Board.

22 MR. ANTONIO CRUZ: Second.

23 MR. TODD ALLRED: Do you accept the
24 nomination?

25 MR. RYAN McMAHAN: I do.



1 MR. TODD ALLRED: Did I do that right?

2 MR. BEN BLOHOWIAK: Yeah.

3 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yeah. And he did
4 second. Antonio.

5 MR. TODD ALLRED: And Antonio seconded?
6 Thank you.

7 And then any discussion?

8 (No audible response.)

9 All right. All in favor?

10 (Chorus of ayes.)

11 Opposed? Abstentions?

12 (No audible response.)

13 The motion carries.

14 Thank you, Ryan. Welcome. You have
15 responsibilities now, by the way.

16 MR. RYAN McMAHAN: Thanks.

17 MR. TODD ALLRED: Another piece of new
18 business that we're going to address now. Melissa and
19 I had a conversation this morning. According to the
20 bylaws, our agenda for this meeting is supposed to
21 posted online. You should not have to reach out to
22 anybody to get it. So Melissa's going to make sure
23 that the agendas are now posted online on the Plumbing
24 Advisory portion of the page, okay? So that's a point
25 of clarification for us.



1 All right. Any other new business?

2 UNIDENTIFIED BOARD MEMBER: There was one guy
3 earlier.

4 MR. TODD ALLRED: There was a gentlemen
5 earlier. Yes, sir?

6 MR. JEFF JOHNSON: My name is Jeff Johnson
7 with Spartan Plumbing.

8 I just wanted to take this time to address two of
9 the biggest problems I see in the industry right now
10 since everybody's here, because it's all of our
11 problems.

12 The first problem being that there aren't enough
13 journeymen for trainees to serve Washington. There
14 just aren't enough right now. So I'd like to thank you
15 guys for helping clarify and hours and everything,
16 because during the last meeting, I heard two or three
17 gentlemen that quit the industry because they were so
18 frustrated with not getting their hours, and they were
19 done, and they were out. We need more, not less. So
20 if we can all come together and help clarify all of
21 this so we know exactly what we're doing, exactly how
22 to do it to make sure that we're getting as many new
23 journeymen as possible, we might be able to dig
24 ourselves out of this.

25 And the second problem that I'm noticing, because



1 we follow up with all of our customers whether we get
2 the job or not, is that operating legitimately is too
3 expensive now. We have so many customers that just
4 say, "Oh, we couldn't afford you. We loved you.
5 Everything was perfect." We had this problem, so we go
6 back. I don't even know if they found some guy off the
7 street, a handyman or somebody else to do the work.

8 Nothing's done right. No permits were pulled.
9 Nothing is insulated. Nothing is supported. I've seen
10 things vented into an attic. We found water heaters
11 vented into an attic instead of outside because we were
12 too expensive. They called us back because it smelled
13 funny and it wasn't working right. I mean, this is
14 stuff we're running into all of the time.

15 And we work very hard to operate right at where we
16 have enough money to stay open but we don't charge the
17 customer too much. And with the journeymen, luckily we
18 have enough. But all the other companies I talk to,
19 they just take the \$20,000 signing bonus and go to the
20 big company and make six figures or more. The smaller
21 companies can't afford to pay them, so they don't get
22 them. They just can't. They can't afford them.

23 So those are the two biggest problems with no
24 clear solutions that I see in our industry right now.
25 And I just wanted to bring that to everyone's attention



1 so that we can all think about this. And if anybody
2 has any great ideas on how to fix this, I would love to
3 hear them. And I'm going to do the same.

4 MR. TODD ALLRED: You're not wrong.

5 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Thank you.

6 MR. TODD ALLRED: Yes, sir?

7 MR. KELLY RIAL: My name's Kelly Riall
8 [phonetic]. I'm one of the plumbers with Valley
9 Medical here in Renton.

10 We have -- 18 months ago we hired an apprentice,
11 and he is -- L&I's rejected his hours because the
12 hospital's not a contractor. So what is the process to
13 get apprenticeship hours approved if an individual's
14 working for someone, an organization other than a
15 contractor?

16 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: So it has to be a
17 plumbing contractor or a school approved through the --
18 like Perry Tech is, through the workforce -- I can't
19 think -- Workforce Education Board. Those are the
20 paths to get there. Or military hours, which is not
21 what you're here for. So those are the ways to get the
22 hours. We could also talk about getting you -- who are
23 you with? The hospital?

24 MR. KELLY RIAL: Correct.

25 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: (Audio cut out) --



1 creating a plumbing contractor license as well for the
2 hospital.

3 MR. TODD ALLRED: Well, we had a similar
4 situation at the prison over in Clallam Bay as well,
5 whether it's two journeymen plumbers that are employed
6 there, and they've got guys who are performing plumbing
7 work, rough-in work, running 4-inch cast iron,
8 et cetera, et cetera. We visited over there a couple
9 of years ago and looked at their program. But I
10 believe the decision came back from the Department is
11 that in the law, you have to be a public contractor.

12 So this may very well be something that would be
13 on the docket for the stakeholders group coming in May
14 as we start to meet, is to find a way to potentially
15 fix that for the guys that aren't working for a
16 plumbing contractor but they're doing plumbing and
17 they're learning plumbing and working under a
18 journeyman plumber, situations like yours, the prison,
19 et cetera.

20 MR. KELLY RIAL: For in the meantime,
21 though, any apprentice that we have, hours not be
22 recorded?

23 MR. TODD ALLRED: Unfortunately not.

24 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: No, because
25 unfortunately they don't meet the statutory definition



1 to get those hours.

2 MR. KELLY RIAL: Okay. All right. Thank
3 you.

4 MR. TODD ALLRED: Stay tuned, though.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good morning. Just a
6 general question. For the 2021 code book UPC being
7 applied July 1st this year, when are we moving the
8 exams testing certification for the 2021? Are we
9 moving that way from 2015?

10 MR. TODD ALLRED: I'd like to ask Bruce if he
11 knows the answer to that.

12 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: Yes, we are. We are
13 moving -- we've got to pull that together to get a task
14 built for that 2021. So it was impractical to do
15 the -- go from the '18. It didn't -- it took several
16 years to get that thing put in place. I mean, we
17 changed over to the PSI. And trying to change
18 everything around and get it all done, it was just
19 easier to stay with '15. But it will be changing soon.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Are we going to 2021?
21 Is that the goal? 2021?

22 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: 2021. It will be 2021.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is there anything you
24 plan on -- 2024 is already in place on the IAPMO side.
25 How far do you guys proceed as planned on moving to the



1 2024? Is it another three years from July? Like,
2 we're a little bit in a weird position because of
3 COVID.

4 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: COVID was an issue.
5 They moved it out. But that's the -- Washington State
6 Building Code Council has to make that determination.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

8 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: They'll have to go
9 through it and make a determination or change over
10 to -- they may -- they've skipped years before, so I
11 can't answer -- we can't answer that question.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, I kind of
13 perceived that. I was more interested in the exam part
14 and if we're following the 2024. It's not even in
15 place right now, right?

16 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: Yeah, I can't put
17 anything in place if it's in education or anything if
18 it's not adopted. Yeah, and 2021 doesn't get adopted
19 until July 1st.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Correct.

21 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: So once it's adopted, of
22 course I've got to get a committee together, people
23 that know how to -- I'll be with it. We'll build a new
24 test and get done and get it over to PSI.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is there a goal date?



1 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: I mean, normally I wait
2 until -- I usually had time once it was adopted, and I
3 usually had -- because of the way people were training,
4 I usually waited until January. I'm going to try to
5 get it done sooner than that. I can't tell you -- I'm
6 not going to tell you I'm going to have it done
7 July 1st, but I will have it -- I'm hoping to have it
8 done through the summer, at least by September.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Sounds good.

10 MR. TODD ALLRED: So, Bruce, just to clarify,
11 2021 UPC goes in effect July 1st, but you're testing on
12 2015 until January? Is that what you said?

13 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: No. I said normally I
14 try to get it through -- the new test through once it
15 gets -- something gets adopted by January the next year
16 and get into a test because of the way some of these
17 apprenticeships are doing it. But I'll try to get the
18 test hopefully done as fast as I can, possibly by
19 September.

20 MR. TODD ALLRED: So 2015 until at least
21 January.

22 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: Yeah. Until at least
23 September.

24 MR. TODD ALLRED: September.

25 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: I mean the 2015. I



1 never moved it because it was too complicated. So the
2 2021 is supposed to become effective -- and I haven't
3 heard that it's not -- supposed to be effective by
4 July 1st of 2023. So I will hopefully have everything
5 put together and back to PSI by September. That's my
6 plan.

7 MR. TODD ALLRED: September you could be
8 testing on 2021 code?

9 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: On 2021 code. September
10 of 2023.

11 MR. TODD ALLRED: Okay. Perfect. Thank you.

12 MR. CHRIS ALLEN: I just have two comments,
13 one I want on record.

14 But first and foremost, thank you for the
15 communication that L&I -- you personally more so than
16 others, especially after the last meeting, the verbal
17 whooping you took. It was -- you took it like a champ.

18 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Thank you.

19 MR. CHRIS ALLEN: So thank you. I appreciate
20 it. I've been a big proponent of yours on the Facebook
21 page about how to reach out and that information.

22 But reach out to L&I. Open a line of
23 communication. It does work in our favor.

24 Secondly, I want on the record that after last
25 meeting, I still have not heard back from this



1 gentleman even though he swore up and down that he
2 would get back to me with the proof I had, which I did
3 submit, and you even replied to, but he did not.

4 I just want on the record that he's -- he didn't
5 do anything that said he would in front of us last
6 meeting to start getting back to us on looking into
7 things. I just want that on the record.

8 I don't know if you want to apply to that or not,
9 but I just wanted that on the record.

10 MR. TODD ALLRED: Thank you. Thank you.

11 Yes, sir?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I really appreciate
13 being here. It's my first meeting.

14 I do have a question about the drain cleaning
15 portion of it. I wondering if L&I has the ability to
16 pause enforcement of being a plumber on-site. There's
17 just not enough personnel to go around, and most of it,
18 journeymen that have been in it for many, many years,
19 really don't want to work on the weekends as a
20 commercial plumber in a restaurant environment, because
21 it's a commercial job. We just don't have any desire
22 to be there, and so that even limits the number of
23 people that are available.

24 And my question is, does it have to be with the
25 stakeholders in that whole process, or can it be



1 something that L&I could be -- actually put it on pause
2 to allow drain cleaning companies to catch up or
3 companies that have drain clean divisions to catch up
4 and staff people and work that out?

5 Does L&I have that ability to respond to something
6 that's actually happening in the industry currently
7 instead of just ticketing every, you know, job-type
8 thing?

9 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yeah. But we don't
10 have the authority where we can just not enforce the
11 laws as written. Are there a lot of tickets going on
12 right now, infractions being issued for drain cleaning
13 specifically?

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: A tremendous amount.

15 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Infractions? Okay.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: To the point -- and I
17 come from the Lynden area. And you heard about a drain
18 cleaning company that went out of business. But more
19 than that, most of them are just going underground.
20 They're just working under the table to avoid all of
21 this because it's just not possible. There's just
22 nobody to hire to go do drain cleaning, especially in
23 the commercial environment, anything over two stories
24 or, you know, a restaurant that requires that. There's
25 just nobody that wants to do that work.



1 And it's a good entry-level way to get involved in
2 the trade, but usually people that work for a decent
3 length in the trade don't want to do that work anymore.

4 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Okay.

5 MR. TODD ALLRED: Thank you.

6 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yes.

7 MR. TODD ALLRED: Thank you for that. I
8 would like to comment additionally on that.

9 It's, you know -- there's a balance in my mind
10 with the manning of our industry and the public going
11 elsewhere. If the heavy land of regulatory is on us,
12 as we heard -- I heard today that there was a bunch
13 more compliance officers out there rolling around. If
14 regulatory has a heavy hand on us, on an under-manned
15 industry -- Labor & Industries has admitted a couple
16 years ago that our industry is under manned. There's
17 no way we can satisfy the demands of the public.

18 The public, if we turn down that consumer -- I
19 heard a story recently of a business, a nursing home
20 somewhere else in the state, had a main line go down
21 over the weekend. And the drain cleaning company has
22 no -- they don't have the -- they don't have a
23 certified plumber on staff to go clear that drain, and
24 they can't find anybody. So that leaves an elderly
25 population at risk, so that's not good.



1 So is it right that we're stopping drain cleaning
2 from happening on these type of jobs and requiring that
3 it be a journeyman plumber? I don't -- it doesn't --
4 it seems to be counterproductive to me because, again,
5 the consumers are going to -- they're going to call a
6 handyman if they have to, and that delegitimizes what
7 we do. So there's a balance between making sure that
8 we have the ability to perform the work and drawing a
9 line.

10 Another thing that I came across was that a
11 compliance officer had communicated to a contractor and
12 cited this contractor for -- they were there giving an
13 estimate for a sewer replacement. They never entered
14 the home. Our law 18.106 applies to two feet outside
15 the home, on the sewer. It doesn't -- if you're not in
16 the home, you don't have to be a certified plumber.
17 This contractor got cited.

18 It's that kind of stuff out there where we have
19 compliance officers that are not educated about the
20 law, and they're citing. It's creating problems.
21 That's driving people like this gentleman, maybe, that
22 went out of business. I don't know. I don't know
23 anything about that story. But it does -- it is an
24 issue.

25 Yes, sir?



1 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: And I want to respond
2 to that after.

3 MR. TIM HERBERT: Tim Herbert. Just a quick
4 comment.

5 Number one. Everybody's in here because of the
6 health and safety of the citizens of Washington state
7 as it relates to plumbing. I think we're walking down
8 a very interesting road.

9 If I need to go to a doctor and there's a shortage
10 of doctors, I don't want to lower the expectations of a
11 doctor because we need more. I believe the group that
12 we're going to convene together to address the issues
13 will slowly get us in the right direction to addressing
14 those issues, and everyone's voice and their concerns
15 are valid and important. But I think the legislative
16 solution and fix needs to be addressed in a mindful
17 manner.

18 MR. TODD ALLRED: Yes.

19 MR. TIM HERBERT: I would also like to state
20 that I am beyond a little upset with the barbs being
21 thrown at Labor & Industry for enforcing the law that's
22 on the books. I know that they're all working hard,
23 and we're here, and they're listening, and they're
24 taking the abuse. But at the end of the day, the
25 solutions to all of the industry issues need to be



1 handled legislatively in a process that we have set in
2 place.

3 And then I would just like to add that during that
4 process, reach out to the folks here. Find out how you
5 can be engaged and involved. Any legislation that we
6 come up with, that we, through lobbying, through an
7 awful lot of resources, time, energy, and effort --
8 there will be a process for people to put in their two
9 cents and talk about it during the legislative process
10 to make sure that every need is being met.

11 The other thing is, again, the first legislation
12 in over 45 years came through 3 years ago. It is a
13 start to a better process, and I would just encourage
14 all of us to stay focused on the process and being
15 engaged. I'm not interested in lowering the
16 expectations of a plumber to meet the need. I think we
17 have to do it mindfully, because it is about the health
18 and safety. Thank you.

19 MR. TODD ALLRED: Thank you.

20 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Thank you.

21 MR. TODD ALLRED: Yes, Melissa?

22 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: I just wanted to the --
23 if I misspoke and led somebody to believe we have a
24 bunch of new enforcement out there, we don't. The only
25 three new compliance inspectors we have are based off



1 of industry requests that went into legislation in
2 2021. So we don't have any new enforcement out there.
3 We're out there the same amount that we have been.

4 MR. TODD ALLRED: Okay. Okay.

5 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: The only new --

6 MR. TODD ALLRED: So how many compliance
7 officers does L&I have?

8 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: There's 27.

9 MR. TODD ALLRED: 27. Okay.

10 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yep. And we added
11 those three based off of industry requests to help
12 elevate the plumbing industry.

13 MR. TODD ALLRED: Yeah. Thank you. Thank
14 you.

15 Do you have an additional comment?

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. Just to follow
17 up on what was just said. Just a temporary pause. Not
18 looking to lower the standard, but maybe just going
19 back to what was accepted for a while in history, as
20 far as drain cleaners go, to allow people to catch up
21 in a window of time here. Just didn't know if it was
22 possible.

23 But secondly, one more example of that is
24 plumbers -- a lot of times, plumbers rely on
25 truck-mounted jetters, that kind of thing, which is not



1 usually included in their arsenal of tools. And this
2 law pretty much eliminates company that has
3 truck-mounted jettors to work inside the footprint of
4 any kind of restaurant, apartment building, or any kind
5 of application like that without having a plumber on
6 staff. And so that's -- it's just an awkward situation
7 where you can't even do the job legally for the most
8 part right now.

9 I just don't think people knew about it. They
10 didn't catch up.

11 MR. BEN BLOHOWIAK: So if you'll just excuse
12 me, Melissa. So I don't remember the Department of
13 Labor & Industries, but I do represent the Board. And
14 the Department just doesn't have the discretion to just
15 ignore the statues and rules --

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, that's my
17 question.

18 MR. BEN BLOHOWIAK: -- and do the type of
19 pause, as you called it. They have to enforce the laws
20 as they are written. They just -- they don't have the
21 discretion to do that.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But don't they have
23 the ability to give a warning instead of a citation?
24 Which maybe it was just simply a pause.

25 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: I'll have to look at



1 the statute. Warnings are allowed in some violations,
2 but I don't know if drain cleaning's included or not.
3 I'd have to go back.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Shouldn't that be in
5 education? Like someone else spoke, drain cleaning --
6 they were caught surprised that there was no
7 communication to that part of the --

8 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Yeah.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And a warning with so
10 many days or months or whatever to get caught up might
11 be a way to make that happen. And it includes people
12 that have equipment that normally isn't in the plumbing
13 industry, like truck-mounted jetters.

14 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Okay. And I did write
15 that down as something to go back into and look at what
16 communication that we did do. And I will tell you,
17 after the last Board meeting, I've learned so much
18 about affidavits and audits and requirements. So I'm
19 pretty sure at the next Board meeting, I'm going to
20 know a whole bunch about drain cleaning too. So I will
21 get up to speed on that.

22 MR. TODD ALLRED: I will -- let me interrupt
23 real quick first. Let me just say that, as Tim
24 mentioned, it has to go through a process, and the
25 stakeholders -- it's on my radar for the stakeholders



1 to talk about this and see what we can come up with as
2 a solution.

3 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: So I'm going to address
4 this because there seems to be a misunderstanding of
5 what's going on. We have never allowed anybody to go
6 inside the building and pull toilets that do any type
7 of drain cleaning. You had to be a plumber to pull
8 toilets, traps, anything else. The industry is getting
9 caught here that's been out there doing it that doesn't
10 have plumbers because of the new plumbing law, which is
11 the new contractor piece which says you have to have a
12 plumber on staff to be doing that work.

13 So if they're out there doing -- didn't have
14 people -- because I've gone out there and done audits
15 on all kinds of Roto-Rooters, and they got fined for
16 doing some of the work they were doing. I've never,
17 ever allowed anybody to go in there, nor did we tell
18 them they could. We just didn't catch it.

19 Outside the building is correct. We do not go out
20 there after sewer lines, and I do not know of anybody
21 that's wrote an infraction for being outside the
22 building. Now, there are sewer lines in the counties
23 and all that that have restrictions for sewer lines,
24 and they may have been caught by the county Department
25 of Health for doing it without having their



1 certifications or whatever.

2 But I'll tell you right now. I do not know of
3 anybody that has written -- and they know better to not
4 be outside the building. We don't let them do it. We
5 don't enforce outside the building. That was an
6 argument we definitely had when we sided with the
7 legislators in this bill for -- with the laborers on
8 that.

9 So we don't enforce -- we haven't been enforcing
10 it, we've never allowed anybody inside a building to
11 pull toilets. We never have. They can go and pull a
12 cleanout out and go outside the line all they want, but
13 they cannot do it inside without having certification.

14 These guys are getting caught because there's new
15 law in the certification. That's where a lot of guys
16 are getting caught up on it, because they didn't have
17 plumbers. We've caught all kinds of general
18 contractors that there's infractions in there for 400.
19 Those are all your contractors that have been out there
20 that think they can do plumbing and then they're
21 caught.

22 MR. TODD ALLRED: \$400?

23 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: No. 400 is the statute.
24 18.106.400 is the statute that we write under the --
25 for those guys not to be plumbing contractors.



1 So that's what caused this problem to shut people
2 down, because they've been doing something they haven't
3 been doing legally to do for many, many years, and it
4 final caught up to them. Does that help?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Isn't it true, though,
6 that in the past if you had a drain cleaning company,
7 it was issued a warning before an infraction?

8 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: We never had warnings.
9 We never had warnings. We never had any warnings. We
10 couldn't have warnings until I got this bill passed,
11 and then I'd do immediate warnings the time you need.

12 MR. TODD ALLRED: Thank you. Thank you,
13 Bruce.

14 The one gentleman that I know of that said he was
15 cited for that, I'll just tell him to appeal, then.

16 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: If he was. We heard a
17 lot of stories in the last meeting too that people said
18 that they were cited for things that weren't.

19 MR. TODD ALLRED: That's true.

20 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: So it makes me nervous
21 to go on record saying that something happened without
22 actually fact checking it.

23 MR. TODD ALLRED: And I have no way to do
24 that.

25 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Right.



1 MR. TODD ALLRED: All right. Well, very
2 good. Any other new business?

3 (No audible response.)

4 All right. We'll move to adjourn.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have a quick
6 question.

7 On a positive note, one of our apprentices just
8 passed their PL02, so I'm excited about that. Question
9 regarding when they can start signing off on hours. Is
10 that when they pass the test, at the beginning of their
11 certification date, or when they get the card in the
12 mail?

13 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: Once they've paid for
14 their card and issued it. If he's already online right
15 now, he's paid, and it says he's a plumber, then he
16 should start working out there as a plumber and
17 supervise trainees.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I've got three dates.
19 I just want to make sure we're right on this. I've got
20 three dates. I've got the effective date, which is
21 December 29, 2002 [sic]. I've got the date he passed,
22 which is March 2nd, 2023. And he hasn't gotten a card
23 in the mail yet.

24 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: If he paid the fee and
25 it's sitting there, we do it secure party. So a third



1 party is, you know -- whether he paid -- when he paid
2 for it, do you know?

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't know.

4 MR. BRUCE SPRINGER: Okay. We're having
5 problems with third parties. They, back in October,
6 didn't tell us they were running out of card stock.
7 They didn't send any. So if you're not getting it --

8 We've had some just recently. The guy said, "I
9 didn't get my card." I go out and check. Yeah, they
10 could have messed up. They send out some on certain
11 days.

12 So if you're not -- if it hasn't -- if it's been
13 more three weeks, then we need to know.

14 MS. ALISHA WELLS: Well, most of those were
15 mailed. The ones that we were having problems from
16 last month, they were mailed in the first week of this
17 month. So they should be coming within another two
18 weeks.

19 MS. MELISSA MCBRIDE: Do you have connection?

20 We will not do this right here, but if you have
21 connection, we can look at it after the meeting.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Awesome. Thank
23 you.

24 MR. TODD ALLRED: All right. I'll entertain
25 a motion to adjourn. All in favor?



1 (Chorus of ayes.)

2 MR. TODD ALLRED: Thank you, everybody.

3 (Concluded at 11:26 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JILLIAN H. KIRCHNER, a Certified Stenographic Court Reporter in and for the State of Washington, residing at Boulder, Colorado, authorized to administer oaths and affirmations pursuant to RCW 5.28.010, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me on the 18th day of April, 2023, and thereafter transcribed by me by means of computer-aided transcription, that the transcript is a full, true, and complete transcript of said proceedings, consisting of pages 1 through 111;

That as a CCR in this state, I am bound by the Rules of Conduct as Codified in WAC 308-14-130; that court reporting arrangements and fees in this case are offered to all parties on equal terms;

That as a matter of firm policy, the stenographic notes of this transcript will be destroyed three years from the date appearing on this Certificate unless notice is received otherwise from any party or counsel hereto on or before said date;

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 29th day of April, 2023.


JILLIAN H. KIRCHNER, CCR, RMR
WA Lic. No. 22030062

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