

Chair's Remarks

by Timothy E. Terranova

This has been a year of change for the Compact. As I leave office, it is a chance to reflect on those changes, examine the differences they have made and look forward to changes yet to come.

In a year that saw a pandemic grip the world, it would have been easy for the Compact to sit back and maintain the status quo. However, as John F. Kennedy said, "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." I believe the Compact has never stopped looking to the future and is making changes today to prepare for the future. Those changes have put the Compact in a position to lead on a national stage.

Two significant developments during the past year have been the change from contractors to employees, and the change from DocuSign to the CRM (customer relationship management) tool. Both changes had their hurdles and neither went off without a hitch, but we persevered and are in a better position than when we started.

The change from using contractors to having employees was important in two ways. First, as the compact grew it became possible to hire full-time employees rather than utilizing

contracted staff. The compact hired a human resources firm to help with the transition and ensure the compact is compliant with all applicable labor laws.

Second, the change from contractors to employees projects an image of permanence and stability. The Compact is no longer just an idea or a test. It continues to mature into a full-fledged organization with a proven track record.

The change from DocuSign to the CRM tool has set the groundwork for continued change and flexibility in the future. The new system gives the Compact the ability to automate more processes and will allow for easier integration as new states join. As with any database change, there have been issues, but Compact and state licensing staff have risen to the occasion and worked together to minimize or fix the issues and plan for system upgrades.

One of the most visible examples of state staff and Compact staff working together was the Licensing Summit, where both came together to create a dynamic training opportunity for licensing staff. The Licensing Summit had more than 70 attendees and was recorded for continued use as a training tool.

With the states and the Compact working hand in hand to create change and educate each other, I have no doubt that the Compact will continue to innovate and lead. Thank you for allowing me to have a role.

Annual Meeting Updates

It seems like in today's world, every update starts with the qualifier, "In these times of COVID..." So, honoring that required qualifier:

In these times of COVID, IMLCC commissioners gathered for two events in November - the first IMLCC Licensing Summit and the Annual Meeting of Commissioners. The events took place on Nov. 16 and 17 in the beautiful setting of Gulf Shores, Alabama.

More than 75 people took part in the Licensing Summit, most attending the LiveStream presentation remotely. To view a recording of the meeting, please see the instructions below.

The Licensing Summit was successful because the presentations and ideas came from member board licensing staff. A special thanks to the presenters - Jaime Dunbar (IA), Melinda Boyle-Prior (WI), Tara Anderson (NE), Commissioner Terranova (ME), Commissioner Silas (AL) and Dave Clark, IMLCC operations manager.

The members of the planning committee were the presenters plus, Anna Boone (MS) and Tammy Sine (NV). The best part of the Summit, from my perspective, was the exchange of ideas and the discussions between the member board licensing staff - the people who make the IMLCC function and successful every day.

A suggestion was made to coordinate the next Licensing Summit with the Administrators in Medicine (AIM) License Staff Certification course to be held in 2021 and we have already started that discussion.

The Annual Meeting had a full agenda, including a rulemaking hearing on proposed IMLCC Rule, Chapter 10.

- The chair and executive director provided an update of the past year's accomplishments, including the on-going transition and development of the governance role by the commissioners and how the IMLCC was able to respond to the needs of physicians to be licensed quickly and effectively to react to the pandemic.
- The rulemaking hearing on IMLCC Rule, Chapter 10 included a lively and important discussion about how the Commission would assess a levy on member states should the financial situation change and how much advanced warning would be provided. The proposed rule was amended during the discussion prior to its final passage. See the IMLCC webpage for a copy of the rule.
- The IMLCC Bylaws were updated to reflect the established practice of committee membership and leadership.
- A new policy on capital assets was adopted that is reflective of the growth and maturation of the Commission
- Closing the circle from the 2019 meeting resulted in:
 - The final adoption of the IMLCC Vision Statement and Strategic Plan; and,
 - The adoption of an administrative procedure providing instructions to the Executive Committee on commissioner's expectations prior to taking legal action.

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Annual Meeting *(continued from page 1)*

- After a long and discussion filled day, the commissioners held an election of officers. The following commissioners were elected:
 - Chair - Commissioner Jesse Cushman (NE)
 - Vice Chair - Commissioner Edward Cousineau (NV), re-elected for a 2nd term
 - Treasurer - Christine Farrelly (MD), re-elected for a 2nd term
- The new officers assumed their responsibilities at the conclusion of the meeting and Commissioner Terranova (ME) now serves on the Executive Committee as the past chair.

A list of meetings for the Commission and the Executive Committee in 2021 was approved and has been posted to the IMLCC's webpage. The 2021 meeting will take place on Nov. 15-16 in Denver, Colorado.

Instructions to view the Licensing Summit LiveStream:

1. Go to: <https://go.e-attend.com/>
2. Scroll down the list of options to the IMLCC tab
3. Select "IMLCC 2020"
4. Click on "View Webcast"
5. Enter "IMLCC_Licensing_Summit_2020@imlcc.com" as the user name
6. Enter "Summit2020" as the password

– *Marschall Smith, Executive Director*

Member Profile: **Utah**

The Utah State Legislature enacted the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact during the 2015 legislative session. The law went into effect May 11, 2015.

Utah has two medical boards – the Physicians and Surgeons Board, and the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons Board – both within the Department of Commerce, Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing (DOPL).

The first two commissioners were Director Mark Steinagel and Dr. Kenneth Schaecher. Currently, Commissioner Larry Marx represents both boards. Utah has hosted IMLC meetings twice since the start of the Compact. Commissioner Marx is over all healthcare professions for DOPL and serves on the Compact's Rules and Administrative Procedures Committee.

Participation in the Compact has been extremely beneficial for the healthcare industry in Utah. The University of Utah Medical School and HealthCare Services have been able to expand their services to the Intermountain area by utilizing Compact licensure in Utah and surrounding states. Intermountain Healthcare has also used Compact licensure as they serve patients in Utah, Idaho and Nevada.

As the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) pandemic has increased the use of telemedicine, Compact licensure has been a valuable tool for providing public access to telemedicine and healthcare while ensuring the integrity of the providers through Compact licensure. Utah has Compact licensees in a large variety of specialties including Oncology, Emergency Medicine, Pathology, Psychiatry, Radiology, Internal Medicine and Family Medicine.

Meet the New Chair - Jesse Cushman (NE) -

I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as chair of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. My goal for the next year is to continue to move the Executive Committee and other committees into a role of governance and oversight, leaving the day-to-day operations with the executive director and the IMLC staff.

This next year presents us with great opportunities to move forward with the Strategic Plan to meet this goal of governance and oversight. I would like to thank the Strategic Planning Sub-Committee for its work and effort in crafting this plan. I would also like to thank Commissioner Terranova and the members of the Executive Committee for their continued support and leadership. An organization such as this takes all of us working together to make this Compact successful.

My journey as a commissioner started in 2018 after taking on the role of board administrator for the Nebraska Board of Medicine and Surgery, and six other boards, and one committee. During that time, I was assigned to the Personnel Committee under the chair of Commissioner McSorley, who was a great leader and mentor. From there, through regular participation on the Personnel Committee, I began to have an interest in Compact growth, and I started attending Executive Meetings as an observer.

Eventually Commissioner Terranova asked that I chair the Technology Committee, which I accepted. During my time as chair of the Technology Committee, I had a vision of IMLC staff providing the committee with regular metrics and information about the status of IT programs, software, and projects. The establishment of these metrics, while still under development, will help provide a view of IT assets, projects, and outcomes to the Technology Committee and the Commission. The establishment of metrics for all committees will help further the goals of the Strategic Plan and move the whole Commission one step closer to realizing the end goal of governance and oversight.

The IMLCC continues to facilitate expedited licenses to many MD and DO physicians. Now, more than ever, we have seen how practice can cross borders as patients and physicians move. The IMLC provides for licensees a way to expedited license while still maintaining state autonomy and jurisdiction. Together, we can continue to grow the IMLC and work together to make the Compact even stronger.

**Interested in having your
state become part of the
Compact?**

Contact Marschall Smith at
imlccexecutivedirector@imlcc.org.