



Department of
Safety and Professional Services

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Wisconsin DSPS Leaders Attend Midwest Occupational Licensing Summit

A great Wisconsin Idea continues to grow

Madison, Wis. – Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services Secretary Dan Hereth and Deputy Secretary Jennifer Garrett arrived in Chicago today for the two-day Midwest Occupational Licensing Summit, continuing a collaboration that started in Wisconsin two years ago.

“It’s always great to talk with other licensing and regulatory leaders from across the region,” Hereth said. “It’s a great opportunity to share about the work we’re doing to better serve people and communities in our respective home states and to learn from each other.”

“The common challenges we all face are not bound by state borders” added Garrett. “We have a lot we can learn from each other but didn’t have an existing way to bring us together. That was the inspiration for us to create the group and launch the first of these summits in 2023.”

Wisconsin created and hosted the first Midwest Occupational Licensing Collaborative two years ago to provide a forum to convene regional regulatory leaders. Wisconsin also hosted the first in-person Midwest Occupational Licensing Summit in Madison, welcoming regulatory peers from several states, including Minnesota, Indiana, and Michigan. The Summit continued in 2024 with Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs hosting in Lansing, Michigan. This year, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation is hosting the summit in Chicago.

The initial summit led to historic data sharing agreements for Wisconsin with both Michigan and Indiana. Members of the collaborative meet virtually between the annual summits.

“We’re excited about the partnerships that have grown out of the summit, and we are thrilled that other states have recognized the benefit of collaborative conversations about best practices in licensing and regulation,” Hereth said.

Key topics at this year's summit include engaging stakeholders, the future of healthcare licensing, and how state governments can better work with local and federal government agencies.

About DSPS

DSPS issues more than 240 unique licenses, administers dozens of boards and councils that regulate professions, enforces state building codes, runs the state fire prevention program, and maintains the award-winning Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which is a key tool in the multi-faceted public health campaign to stem excessive opioid prescribing. A fee-based agency, DSPS is self-sustaining and receives no general fund tax dollars for its day-to-day operations. With five offices and 250 employees throughout Wisconsin, DSPS collaborates with constituents and stakeholders across a wide range of industries to promote safety and advance the economy.