

Governor's Workforce Development Board - Minutes

Thursday, March 21, 2024, | 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Elmer L. Andersen Human Services Building

St. Paul, Minnesota

GWDB Members or Agency Designees	Guests and Staff
<p>In-Person Attendees Laura Beeth (GWDB Chair) Josh Berg Michael Berndt Deb Broberg Shannon Bryant Bernie Burnham David Dively Kevion Ellis Sam Heimlich Steve Kalina Michelle Kamenov Lance Louis Katie Lundmark Nicole Mattson Scott Parker Jovan Perry Jeffrey Rainey Linda Sloan Shannon Sloan Roy Smith Rob Stark Jeff Tollefson Hanna Valento Matt Varilek</p> <p>Virtual Board Attendees Carol Anderson Shannon Geshick Troy Haugen Virginia Rose Kane Megan Lynch Gabe Mooney Paul Pribbenow Nola Slagter-Johnson,</p>	<p>Guests Brad Hasskamp Josiah Litant Rebecca Mino Jess Niebuhr Karl Ohrn Maureen Ramirez Governor Tim Walz</p> <p>GWDB Staff Katie McClelland, Director Sonji Davis, Workforce Policy Coordinator Kay Kammen, Sr. Policy Analyst</p> <p>DEED Staff Ama Akakpo, ETP Director Jeremiah Carter, Employment Services Manager, CareerForce Jeanna Fortney, CareerForce Director Mitzi Hobart, CareerOne Stop Director Liz Jennings, Employment Engagement Specialist Mike Lang, WFD Director of Strategy and Innovation Marc Majors, Deputy Commissioner for Workforce Development Liz McLoone, Employment and Training Program Specialist Sr. Abdiwahab Mohamed, Assistant Commissioner, Immigrant and Refugee Affairs</p> <p>Virtual DEED Staff Attendees Rita Beatty, Information Officer 3 Cory Schmid, Youth Programs Coordinator Dee Torgerson, Director of Vocational Rehabilitation Services Julie Toskey, CareerForce Analyst</p>

Call to Order and Welcome

Laura Beeth, Chair of the Governor's Workforce Development Board, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., welcoming members and guests in attendance.

Action Item:

Approval of Minute's from the November 8, 2023, Joint Winter Meeting with MAWB.

Scott Parker made a motion to approve the quarterly meeting minutes. Deb Broberg seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Public Comments

GWDB Director Katie McClelland recognized the GWDB Special Committee members who volunteered to go through assigned sections of the state plan. She addressed the public comment period and went over the change log and plan edits received prior to the meeting.

Action Item:

Approval of 2024-2027 Combined State Plan authorizing the GWDB to submit.

Bernie Burnham made a motion to approve the plan. Scott Parker seconded the motion. The 2024–2027 Combined State Plan was approved.

Minnesota's 2nd Annual Workforce Summit

Director McClelland announced that we are planning to have a Workforce Summit this fall. She asked meeting attendees if they had suggestions for topics, they would like to see covered at the 2024 Workforce Summit. Some of the topics suggested were - highlighting demographic shift and how MN will prepare for those shifts, how will we prepare our state for the changing nature of workforce, growing excitement from LWDBs concerning strategic work initiatives, experiential work for youth, how can we better support individuals in our communities through alignment and interagency coordination leveraging our partners and resources.

Recognition of Outgoing Chair Laura Beeth

Governor Tim Walz thanked the outgoing GWDB Chair Laura Beeth for 20 years of service and contributions in advancing the mission of the Board on behalf of workers and businesses in Minnesota. Laura has been the GWDB Chair for the last ten years and she will be missed.

Commissioner Matt Varilek

Commissioner Varilek discussed building alignment within our workforce development system. He mentioned MN's workforce shortage and current 2.7 unemployment rate, and how the governor's planning to address these issues. The One MN plan initiative hopes to improve the lives of Minnesotans by working collaboratively. State agencies and their Commissioners are working on their individual strategic plans but meeting together regularly. Rebecca Mino with the MMB's results team and Director Katie McClelland are present with others leading some of these discussions. The meetings are putting relevant parties together for strategic interagency collaboration. We want to leverage the GWDB for the home of this effort, and the creation of a commissioners committee that will be a part of the GWDB.

GWDB and ONE MN Update

Director Katie McClelland led a discussion on the current status of the GWDB. Addressing why each of our committees have a varying level of activities partially due to staffing challenges. Part of this new

structure seeks stronger alignment incorporating state agency staff and subject matter experts. The GWDB will have an Executive Committee up and running shortly. She reminded the board that GWDB committee members are required to make biannual recommendations, and announced that we will be bringing on a new GWDB Staffer supporting this work and the work of the GWDB. This new hire will help make sure that all these pieces are fitting together.

She led a discussion requesting feedback to the One MN announcement. Members responded with excitement over addressing big picture priorities, representatives coming together to look at duplications and gaps, using the GWDB and what it means for the upcoming legislative session, hurdles we have faced over the years are being addressed, perhaps this will lead to a structural change permitting reforms to take place.

Special Introductions and DEED Update

DEED Deputy Commissioner for Workforce Development Marc Majors introduced new hires on the Workforce Division Team DEED ETP Director Ama Akakpo, CareerForce Director Jeanna Fortney, CareerOne Stop Director Mitzi Hobart, Director of Innovation and Strategy Mike Lang.

Deputy Commissioner Majors also gave a brief workforce development update on grants: Drive for 5, Targeted Populations, Clean Energy, Getting to Work, and other signature programs.

Drive for 5 Workforce Fund to prepare the workforce to enter **five of the most critical occupational categories** in the state with high-growth jobs and family-sustaining wages:

- **Technology**
- **Caring professions**
- **Education**
- **Manufacturing**
- **Trades**

Minnesota Training Partnership

Bernie Burnham – Minnesota Training Partnership – Manufacturing Apprenticeship Accelerator - Engage in conversation regarding the benefits of Apprenticeships – On Tuesday, April 30, 2024, from 8:30am-12pm UBC Carpenters Training Institute, 700 Olive St. St Paul, MN 55130. Reserve your spot contact Jen Anderson. JAnderson@mnaflcio.org

Federal Grants

PROWD Presentation – Jeremiah Carter

MN one of 18 states with The PROWD One Grant –

- Engaging individuals at two years pre-release.
- Around employment, and retention services.
- Peer Mentoring
- Creative Writing component with CareerOne Stop
- Will be implementing services in Rochester within the next 6 mths.

Stage Two

- Residential Reentry Center
- Volunteers of America Residential Reentry Center – Minneapolis
- PROWD Expansion
- To provide a workforce specialist, working with the GWDB, this role expanding into creation of fair chance hiring – this person being the liaison with employers

- Opportunity to address the labor shortage
- Being able to tap into this pipeline beneficial to this population

Additional Reentry Support Services

- Re-Entry Grants: Funding of 3 mil for DW Program was approved by the On June 2022 MJSP Board – released on October 7, 2022
- New Leaf Workshops: CareerForce and MN Dept of Corrections (DOC)
- Employer-Facing Programs: WOTC – Work Opportunity Tax Credit
- These initiatives demonstrate DEEDs proactive approach.

CHIPS – Coalition Workforce Partnership

Our goal is to meet workforce needs, but we have not yet received funding. Three different workforce streams:

- 1) Skills Development
- 2) Talent Pipeline Development
- 3) Workforce Development

Tech Hubs: Minnesota MedTech 3.0

The Greater MSP organization brought everyone together. If money comes in for this, there will be a GWDB new project manager hired. The role of the GWDB will be convening strategic partners. There will be many sectors and we will work to build engagement across our partners.

Infrastructure and Jobs Act

We are working with Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB). They are working on a dashboard. Katie McClelland has applied for a grant to make this happen. They are forecasting 40,000 new jobs, 7,000 open construction jobs. We are trying to be better prepared for the future and would love your partnership and engagement.

Disability Equity Committee Update – Josh Berg

They are bringing in new members. In the fall, they participated in the NGA’s Disability Policy Action Lab. Exposure to best practices in the disability and employment landscape. Tying it to interagency coordinator Working with NGA and CEED – resource map. They were accepted in NGA’s Learning Collaborative. The committee is working alongside Natasha Jerde and the state’s disability team. Trying to expand the scope of experts with meaningful representation.

Racial Equity Committee Update – Linda Sloan

We have an upcoming meeting next week on Tuesday, March 26th, 2024, from 10:30am-12pm. In our last meeting, we acknowledged new members and wanted to make sure that everyone received a recap on our state’s vision, goals and strategies. We went over our priorities: Best practice for employer in hiring, onboarding, retention, racial equity goals and sector work. The committee discussed that there’s no one place where this information lives – discussed the creation of a Resource Repository for promising practices. We plan to develop an intake form for workforce initiatives. Looking at barriers to both employers and career seekers.

Trades Subcommittee Update – Roy Smith

The subcommittee is staffed by Liz McLoone. They are looking at what’s been done and what’s worked. Not wanting to let great get in the way of good work. How to best introduce Trades to students and meet them where they are. Increasing the collaboration between union and higher education. Looking at pre-apprenticeship programs within the trades.

GWDB Committee Chair and Staff - meeting invite

Calendar invite will go out to Chairs, Vice Chairs, and committee staff – Scheduled virtual meeting date Wednesday, April 4th

GWDB Meeting Save the Date

Also, please Save the date but be mindful that there could be a potential switch from Wednesday, November 13th to December date for the GWDB-MAWB Joint Winter Meeting

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 2:00 p.m.