**GWDB Disability Equity Committee to Address Disparities for Individuals with Disabilities in Education and Employment**

**Meeting Minutes – April 2018**

Thursday, April 5, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ProAct, Inc.

3195 Neil Armstrong Blvd, Eagan, MN 55121

# Members Present

* Steve Ditschler, Chair
* Karen Lilledahl
* John Fisher
* Allan Lunz
* Kim Peck
* Jayne, Spain

**Guests Present**

* Brianna Johnson, Disability Hub
* Chris Chandler, Disability Hub
* Kelly Ferrel, Disability Hub

**Staff Present**

* Connie Ireland, Executive Director, GWDB

# Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Ditschler called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Introductions of members in person and on the conference call were made. Connie Ireland provided an update on the State Plan which was submitted on April 2, 2018.

**Approval of Minutes**

March 1, 2018 meeting minutes were approved. Motion to approve the minutes were made by Jayne Spain and second by Alan Lunz.

**Presentation on Disability Hub MN.**

* Brianna Johnson, Chris Chandler, and Kelly Ferrel presented on the Disability Hub. The presentation was very informative and provided an overview of how the Disability Hub interfaces with the WFCs. The Disability Hub is a powerful technology platform that provides numerous resources and information to help customers make informed decisions and guides referrals. The Disability Hub is funded through multiple funding streams including Voc-Rehab. Voc-Rehab staff work with the Disability Hub and the Disability Hub staff mentor WFC staff. The committee discussed how they could assist in developing an outreach plan to inform WFC staff of the resources available. Connie Ireland committed to providing information and contacts to Jill Moe, Project Manager for the technology side of Career Force (WFC’s).

**Presentation on Data, Vo-Rehab.**

* Kim Peck, John Fisher, and Alan Lunz presented data on individuals on waiting lists by category and local area. The data included maps and definitions of categories. Kim Peck provided an overview of what the changes under WIOA means to serving individuals. The Committee had a very long discussion and began to identify a few questions:
  + Of the 1600 individuals in MN, who is being served?
  + How many are being served under the DEI grants?
  + What is the DEI ratio of who is being served? Control group?
  + Of the 207 individuals served under these grants, what categories?
  + How can we improve outcomes for the 15,000 individuals seeking employment in MN?
  + How does the WFC system serve and impact these individuals to address training, education, and employment goals?
* The Committee discussed a possibility of a pilot project. Pending additional information and discussion regarding DEI, the committee will start developing a plan and framework at the May meeting. ODEO is seeking a toolkit to help WFCs redesign their facilities to become more accommodating for people with disabilities. This is a policy concern.
* The WFC availability and access to headphones has been addressed.

* A common intake form does not exist. Connie will reach out the National Governor’s Association to research what other states are doing and report back to the committee.
* Connie sent three emails regarding the DEED workforce strategy consultants to their Director and has not received a response to date. The committee wants to know what DEED business strategist do and how they help employers connect with the disability community and learn about accommodations?

**Adjournment –** Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.