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

**Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, August 8, 2019 – 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

Capitol Conference Room, DEED HQ

# Members Present

# Josh Berg

* Vance Boelter, Vice Chair

# Steve Ditschler, Chair

# Ann Feaman

# John Fisher

# Carol Pankow

**Staff Present**

* Ben Baglio, GWDB
* Kay Kammen, GWDB

# Call to Order and Introductions

Steve Ditschler called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Introductions of members attending in person and via phone followed.

# Meeting Minutes Approval

John Fisher made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2019 meeting. Steve Ditschler seconded the motion and it carried.

# Rehabilitation Services Administration monitoring visit

John Fisher and Carol Pankow spoke on the upcoming Vocational Rehabilitation monitoring visit by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), planned for the week of August 19. The federal team will be focusing on performance, continuous improvement and fiscal outcomes for Program Year 2017, and joint implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) with a particular interest in cross-collaboration and Pre-Employment Transition Services (PRE-ETS). State Services for the Blind also went through an RSA monitoring visit in June. Documents have been submitted to RSA in advance of the VRS visit and pre-visit conference calls have also taken place. Steve Ditschler offered to be available to RSA representatives when they are on site at DEED. Discussion followed on the WIOA requirement for VR programs to spend 15 percent of their federal allocations on PRE-ETS. Chair Ditschler comments that 15 percent is prescriptive and the requirement is doing a disservice to individuals requiring assistance, with unintended consequences. This may be an area where the REC can offer support increasing flexibility at the federal level.

# Update on regional VRS work

A written report was provided by Jodi Yanda, DEED Rehabilitation Area Manager, as she was unable to attend in person.

**2020-24 State Combined Plan for Workforce Development**

Kay Kammen gave an overview of preparations for the 2020-2024 Combined State Plan for Workforce Development. CareerForce Director Lorrie Janatopoulos will lead the effort for DEED. State Administrators are meeting in preparation for formal guidance and training for a new portal to be provided by the U.S. Department of Labor. The State Plan will be due to USDOL in April 2020.

**Announcements/Action Steps**

* Carol Pankow announced that it is National Disability Awareness Month in October.
* Josh Berg spoke on consideration of language changes to take to the League of MN Cities and Metro Cities.
* Vance Boulter commented on the need for more connections with local boards.
* Ann Feaman and the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity has been scheduling training on statutory obligations regarding universal access.

**Adjournment –** The meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m. *The next meeting of the committee will be from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon on Thursday, Nov. 7 at DEED Headquarters – PLEASE NOTE: MEETING IS CANCELED.*