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

**Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, June 6, 2019 – 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

Lakes Conference Room, DEED HQ

# Members Present

* Vance Boelter, Vice Chair

# Steve Ditschler, Chair

# John Fisher

# Larry Vrooman

# Jodi Yanda

**Staff Present**

* Darielle Dannen, DEED Government Relations Director
* 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 conference call followed.

# Legislative Update

Darielle Dannen, DEED’s Government Relations Director, gave a “big picture” overview of the 2019 Legislative Session, including the $7 million increase to DEED Vocational Rehabilitation Services. It was generally agreed that this was a successful outcome and avoids shutting down VRS Priority for Service Category 1. The Legislature also approved $4 million for2020-21 to cover rate increases for the Extended Employment program. An expenditure for $1.8 million for employment support services to persons with mental illness was also passed. A discussion followed on the role of VRS in allocating funding.

**Workforce Innovation Cohort Training Plan**

Jodi Yanda, DEED Rehabilitation Area Manager, reported on the Disability Roundtables for businesses held in Mankato, Monticello, the Metro Area, with more to come. She said employers are requesting sessions in other communities with suggested topics on anti-bias training, the application process, and best practices. She then spoke on the Customer Service Training Plan Framework, a deliverable of the Cohort for Workforce Innovation that Minnesota participated in with five other states. She also said a Universal Intake Form committee is in progress under the Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards (MAWB) Job Seeker Services Committee.

**Announcements/Action Steps**

* Plans are for the Racial Equity Committee to meet quarterly, based on discussion at the March 6, 2019 GWDB meeting committee breakout session and federal activity in coming months.
* It was announced that Chair Steve Ditschler was recently named to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB).

**Adjournment –** The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. The next meeting will be from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon on Thursday, August 8 at DEED Headquarters.