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**Governor’s Workforce Development Board - Minutes**

Wednesday, December 9, 2020 - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

Videoconference via Microsoft Teams

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| **GWDB Members/Delegates** | **MAWB Members Present**  | **Speakers**  |
| Sr. Vice Chancellor Ron Anderson, Minnesota StateShirley BarnesKristin Batson, MMBLaura Beeth, ChairJosh Berg Robert BlakeDr. Vance BoelterDr. Jeffery BoydSteve DitschlerDavid DivelyJason DuininckMary FergusonJeanna FortneyLes FujitakeLee GeorgeCommissioner Steve Grove, DEEDRep. Barb HaleyKelly HansenSamuel HeimlichSen. John HoffmanNerita HughesAbdiwadi HusenFelipe IllescasValerie JohnsonSteve KalinaMayor Elizabeth KautzJennifer LangKatie LundmarkBill McCarthyLoren NelsonBill NelsonEric NesheimScott ParkerCatherine PenkertJovon Perry – DHSEkta PrakashDr. Paul PribbenowAnthony RamunnoCommissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker, MDEEd ReynosoAli RodwayLaura SaylesRoy SmithDan Solomon, DLIWinnie Sullivan, OHEJerri SweeneyJennifer TheisenDee Torgerson  | Deb Bahr-HelgenShirley Barnes, Chair Ling BeckerLaura BeethCarrie BendixTammy BieryBarb ChaffeeMary FergusonJeanna Fortney, DirectorElena FoshayHeather GoodwinRod FranksRick GreeneCheryl GustafsonDiane Halvorson Mark JacobsWanda JensenStan KarwoskiAnne KilzerVicki LeaderbrandNicole MattsonJim McDonoughLoren NelsonPamela OefflerKate ProbertJinny ReitmanScott SchultePearce ShauenAlyssa SoderlundNola SpeiserBud StoneNicole SwansonJanelle Wald Kovar | Commissioner Steve GroveDeputy Commissioner Hamse Warfa**GWDB Staff**Ben Baglio, DirectorKay Kammen, Sr. Policy Analyst**DEED Staff**Lorrie Janatopoulos, CareerForce Director; Mike Lang, CareerForce Director of Employment Services;Maureen Ramirez, Director, Office of Economic Opportunity;Marc Majors, Director, Employment & Training Programs. |

**Call to Order and Welcome**

Laura Beeth, Chair of the Governor’s Workforce Development Board, welcomed everyone to the joint gathering of the GWDB and the Minnesota Association of Workforce Development Boards (MAWB). She praised the business members and other workforce partners for their ability to pivot and strategically move forward in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. She thanked Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, chair of the GWDB Operations Committee, for her leadership and the many GWDB members who serve on local workforce development boards.

MAWB Chair Shirley Barnes commented on the difficulties and successes of the past eight months and how Minnesota’s 16 local boards rose to meet the challenges they faced. She spoke of the importance of diversity and inclusion in the workplace, as well as the need for professional development and job training. She thanked the workforce directors, chairs, local elected officials and partners who make this work possible.

**GWDB Business Meeting**

***Action Item:*** *Approval of Chair Report*

Scott Parker made a motion to approve the Chair’s Report for Fourth Quarter 2020***.*** Shirley Barnes seconded the motion and the report was unanimously approved.

***Action Item****: Approval of Minutes September 9, 2020 Meeting*

Scott Parker made a motion to approve the minutes of the GWDB meeting on Sept. 9, 2020. Vance Boelter seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

***Action Item:*** *Approval of GWDB 2021 Legislative Report*

Operations Chair Elizabeth Kautz entered a motion to approve the GWDB 2021 Legislative Report and Bill McCarthy seconded the motion. It was approved by the Full Board.

**MAWB Business Meeting**

The Association’s 2021 legislative priorities were shared with the audience by Anne Kilzer, who is Director of the Hennepin/Carver Workforce Board and leads MAWB’s Legislative Committee. The 2021 Meeting Schedule was reviewed and approved. MAWB’s Promising Practices Awards were also announced.

**COVID-19 and Innovation at the Local Level**

Tammy Biery, Executive Director of Career Solutions in St. Cloud, outlined the outreach strategies her team has utilized, including social media, Somali radio programming, press releases, posters, handouts and community presentations and education. She also spoke of the role CARES Act funding has had in assisting families who are experiencing financial hardships.

Deb Bahr-Helgen, Director of the City of Minneapolis Training and Employment Program, shared the successes and the volume of customers served through an accessible and interactive virtual platform.

Ling Becker, Director of Ramsey County Career Solutions, expressed her appreciation to the County Board for their support during the public health crisis. Despite offering limited in-person services, partnerships with libraries, Minnesota State and digital literacy navigators resulted in numerous contracts and more than 1500 youth and young adults served.

**CareerForce Updates and Discussion**

Lorrie Janatopoulos, CareerForce Director, gave an update on the CareerForce response to the pandemic, initially presented in September. Outreach continues to be important. Women of Color continue to be impacted significantly as well as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities and younger CareerForce customers. She discussed the CareerForce Jobs in Demand campaign, which highlights businesses who are hiring on CareerForceMN.com.

Mike Lang, CareerForce Director of Employment Services, talked about how partnerships with community-based organizations and government entities have resulted in distribution of free personal computers and career kits to those in need. He said the CareerForce Help Desk has experienced a dramatic increase in calls. Drive-through career fairs and Jobs in Demand are drawing traffic and interest. Mike’s presentation included a demo of the CareerForceMN.com site.

A Question and Answer Session followed.

**Workforce Development and Economic Development**

Hamse Warfa, DEED Deputy Commissioner, greeted attendees of the joint meeting. He complimented Lorrie and Mike on the system-wide response to the pandemic. He highlighted efforts to engage with stakeholders, including MAWB, to address current needs related to the Workforce Development Fund and direction for the future. Going forward, goals are focused on key areas: the digital divide and the lack of wireless access in rural areas of the state; shared metrics around funding, competitive grants and the funding of innovative ideas and initiatives; and service utilization of programs such as Dislocated Worker and Rapid Response.

DEED Commissioner Steve Grove said he is grateful for the members of the GWDB and MAWB and the leadership of Chair Beeth and Chair Barnes. He said the next two to three months are projected to be the worst of the pandemic as Minnesota responds to being a centralized hotspot for COVID-19 cases as well the “Perfect Storm” of a health crisis, economic crisis and civil unrest. There is hopeful news that state relief is coming and a budget surplus was announced last week. These funds will serve as a bridge to federal funding. Unemployment Insurance has distributed $9 billion in Minnesota with more to come as benefits are extended.

Commissioner Grove told the group that what the state’s workforce development boards do in the next few months will determine where the state is 12 months from now. He offered a blueprint for success: Make every effort to increase inclusion; Build the best pandemic-proof economy by increasing new starts and sustainability for small businesses; Reskill for service sector workers who have suffered greatly using a host of methods, including the Coursera on-line learning platform.

**Closing Remarks**

Laura Beeth thanked Commissioner Grove for his leadership and perseverance during this difficult time. She recognized Steve Ditschler, long-time GWDB member and Chair of the Disability Equity Committee, who is entering a new phase of his life: retirement. She expressed her gratitude for his time, leadership and service to workforce development at the local, state, and national level. Steve said, “It has been an honor and a privilege to serve on this Board under three governors and have the opportunity to work with such great people.” Chair Beeth also gave a “shout out” to Ben, Kay and Jeanna for their efforts in planning the joint meeting.

Shirley Barnes shared a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr.: “Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?’” She thanked the members of both MAWB and the GWDB for the work that they do in service of others and our state.

**Adjournment**

Prior to adjournment, GWDB Director Ben Baglio said the deadline for responses to a GWDB member survey has been extended. The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m. by acclamation.

*The next meeting of the Governor’s Workforce Development Board is scheduled from* ***10:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 28*** *via Zoom.*