

**Minutes of the
Q1 Workforce Development Council
WSI Century Center
1600 E Century Avenue, Bismarck ND
Tuesday, March 11, 2025**

Members present: Al Dohrmann, Mandi Begin, Patrick Bertagnolli, Josh Blackaby, Olga Oliver – proxy for DJ Campbell, Erik Christenson, Kellie Carlson, Becca Cruger, Cindy Griffin, Mark Gorenflo – proxy for Chancellor Hagerott, Katie Ralston Howe, Adam Kidwell, Howard Klug, Landis Larson, Guy Moos, Matt Marshall, Raquel Nachatilo, Stan Schauer, Wayde Sick, Jim Upgren, Carrie Zubke

Guests present: Deloitte Consulting

Staff present: Phil Davis, Ruth Lacher, Sherri Frieze

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Cindy Griffin, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. welcoming members and guests to the WSI Century Center and members via the TEAMS video/audio conferencing platform.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Approval of Minutes

Motion: It was moved by Becca Cruger, seconded by Kellie Carlson, to approve the Q4 December 5, 2024, minutes. Motion carried.

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

Deloitte Consulting

Consultants from Deloitte engaged with council members during the morning hours, conducting breakout sessions formulating ideas, and discussing the findings identified in the Workforce Systems Assessment Summary. As the strategic planning session closed, members were thanked for their assistance in gathering the themes that will be generated into a report and discussed with the council members at a future meeting.

LMI & WIOA UPDATE

February 2025 LMI Report

Phil Davis

Phil talked about the Labor Market Report for February 2025

- ND Unemployment Rate for February = 2.5% vs. 3.8% nationwide.
- ND Labor Force Participation Rate = 68.4% vs. 62.5% nationwide.
- The top 5 occupational groups with open jobs for February are:
Healthcare, Farm, Fishing, & Forestry, Construction, Transportation, Sales & Related.
- Open jobs in ND = 16,630
- 10.7% up from January 2025
- .9% down from February of last year

Upcoming Job Fairs, Webinars, and Podcasts were also discussed.

- Fargo, Bismarck, Dickinson, Williston – March
- Grand Forks, Minot – April

JSND Podcast

- 76 podcasts
- 3,685 downloads
- Downloaded in 34 countries

Virtual Job Fair occurred in January, that had 85 employers, 511 job seekers including 24 states and 17 countries.

WORKING LUNCH
Around The Room Updates

Members gave a brief overview of current issues in their industry.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
Katie Ralston Howe

State agency partners gave updates to their agency bills.

NEXT STEPS
Katie Ralston Howe

Katie and Matt Marshall will be attending the NGA Conference March 12 – 14 in Washington, DC. The Winter Conference agenda is to include notable guest speakers and in-depth discussions on timely priorities like education, permitting reform, disaster preparedness and workforce development.

The WDC Q2 meeting will be considered for June with dates yet to be determined. At that meeting, the Strategic Planning results from Deloitte could be discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 2:00 p.m.