

MINUTES of the
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

August 22, 2023
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
TEAMS Conference Call

Members present: Dave Farnsworth, Pat Bertagnolli, Jason Ehlert, Cindy Griffin

Ex Officio members present: Katie Ralston Howe

Commerce staff and Job Service staff present: Phil Davis, Sherri Frieze

Dave Farnsworth called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: **It was moved by Cindy Griffin, seconded by Jason Ehlert to approve the executive committee minutes of August 18, 2022, November 17, 2022, February 16, 2023, and May 18, 2023. Motion carried.**

WIOA UPDATE
MOU, Audit, Membership Update
Phil Davis
Katie Ralston Howe

Phil and Katie gave an update to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was sent out for signature for those parties participating in the MOU. Not all signatures were received, but the auditors agreed that signatures received to date, would suffice.

Phil gave an overview of the recently conducted in-depth federal audit that covered every program at Job Service. An item of discrepancy, during the audit was the payment process being conducted for a client program. Currently, these clients are paid once a month and it was noted that payment to this group could be done twice a month. Job Service is working with the ND Office of Management and Budget to review a change to the payment process.

Katie spoke of new membership to the council, starting in August.

DJ Campbell – Sanford Hospital
Eric Christenson – Rugby Hospital
Josh Blackaby – Energy Sector
Emily O'Brien – Grand Forks Representative
Pending Senate Legislator side - two interests.
Jace Beehler – appointed as a proxy for Governor Burgum
Pending UAS sector – 2 members

NATIONAL GOVERNOR'S ASSOCIATION (NGA) UPDATE
Dave Farnsworth

The NGA Center for Best Practices hosted the Summer Workforce Symposium of the National Association of State Liaisons for Workforce Development Partnerships and the National Association of State Workforce Board Chairs in Fargo, ND, August 8-10, 2023.

The symposium brought together state workforce development leaders representing more than two dozen states. Governor Doug Burgum took part in the event, and discussed several major workforce-related bills, the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on the economy, the importance of equipping K-12 students with technology skills to set them up for success in the workforce.

Katie Ralston Howe, was elected to the National Association for State Liaisons for Workforce Development Partnerships executive committee, marking the first time that North Dakota has had representation at this level. In this role, Katie will continue serving on the association's executive committee which mentors new state workforce liaisons and directors, develops programming for association members and state workforce board chairs, and guides the association's views on proposed policies and programs that impact workforce development in every state.

INTERIM WORKFORCE COMMITTEE

September 28

Katie Ralston Howe

Chairperson Representative Shannon Roers Jones has asked the Workforce division to present September 28th at the Capitol on the Office of Legal Immigration, Occupational Licensure, Workforce Development Council/WIOA programs, and Apprenticeship. The committee meeting is set for a full day.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Katie Ralston Howe

Katie talked about the need to add more members to the executive committee. The number of committee members and their industry represented are not specified in the bylaws. WIOA Core partners are part of the administrative committee versus private sector/labor industry is represented in the executive committee. Elected officials have not been part of the executive committee in the past but the thought was that they should be going forward.

MEETING AGENDA

Katie Ralston Howe

- NGA Symposium update
- Interim Workforce Committee
- OLI presentation
- Subcommittee Update
- Montana Tech Hub project presentation
- SW Manufacturers Group presentation
- Around the Room Updates

Cindy Griffin asked about Minnesota Loan forgiveness/free tuition, an update on this could be a great topic for the council for someone to speak on. Dave mentioned Chancellor Hagerott could be a great voice for this topic. ND is in a position to develop some ideas and WDC could help brainstorm this.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: **It was moved by Cindy Griffin, seconded by Jason Ehlert to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.**