

**Minutes of the
Q2 Workforce Development Council
Job Service ND
1601 E Century Avenue, Bismarck ND
Wednesday, June 11, 2025**

Members present: Al Dohrmann, Patrick Bertagnolli, Josh Blackaby, DJ Campbell, Kellie Carlson, Michael Fridolfs, Cindy Griffin, Mark Gorenflo – proxy for interim Chancellor Sanford, Alicia Halle, Katie Ralston Howe, Howard Klug, Jay Kost, Landis Larson, Raquel Nachatilo, Emily O’Brien, Thomas Ross, Stan Schauer, Dawn Ulmer – proxy for Wayde Sick, Jim Upgren, Kasper Ziegler, Carrie Zubke

Guests present: Deloitte Consulting, Ashley Gaschk

Staff present: Phil Davis, Ruth Lacher, Tammy Barstad, Janna Pastir, Sherri Frieze

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairperson Cindy Griffin called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. welcoming members and guests to the Job Service ND Workforce Center and members via the TEAMS video/audio conferencing platform.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: It was moved by Howard Klug, seconded by Mike Fridolfs, to approve the Q1 March 6, 2025, minutes. Motion carried.

LMI & WIOA UPDATE

May 2025 LMI Report

Phil Davis

Phil talked about the Labor Market Report for May 2025

- ND Unemployment Rate for April = 2.6% vs. 4.2% nationwide.
- ND Labor Force Participation Rate = 69.5% vs. 62.6% nationwide.
- The top 5 occupational groups with open jobs for February:
 - Healthcare, Sales & Related, Management, Education & Library, Transportation.
- Open jobs in ND = 12,515
 - 13.8% down from April 2025
 - 15.3% down from May of last year

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

- Fargo, Bismarck, Dickinson, Williston, Grand Forks, Minot, and Devils Lake

Workforce Programs, participants and Impacts were presented.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Katie Ralston Howe

State agency partners gave updates to their agency bills.

Around The Room Updates

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

WORKING LUNCH
ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Deloitte Consulting

Consultants from Deloitte engaged with council members during the morning and afternoon hours, conducting and formulating ideas. A 20-week assessment was conducted to understand current programs and services. A future report will be developed in collaboration with the Workforce Development Council (WDC) and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Core Partners, Job Service ND, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Adult Education, to gather insights from a wide range of stakeholders.

Themes were gathered to focus efforts for building a stronger, more responsive workforce for ND:

- **Need for Unified Leadership**
- **Access Barriers Despite Strong Partnerships**
- **Increased Need for Wraparound Services**
- **Rural-Urban Disparities**
- **Labor Market Misalignment**
- **Funding and Staffing Gaps**
- **Data and Knowledge Sharing Challenges**

The assessment outlined four key areas for future focus:

- **Strategic Vision:** Defining clear goals and roles for ecosystem steering.
- **Customer Focus:** Streamlining access and engaging with customer needs.
- **Awareness and Engagement:** Enhancing outreach to communities and partners.
- **Information Tracking and Sharing:** Improving data collection and sharing for program efficiency.

NEXT STEPS
Katie Ralston Howe

Membership Update

- Members with the council as of June 30th include:
 - Landis Larson
 - Guy Moos
 - Kasper Ziegler
 - Jay Kost
 - Cindy Griffin

Special Meeting

- The In-Demand Occupations List needs to be approved by the full council by the end of June. Modifications to the list were currently ongoing, therefore, a Special Meeting, held via TEAMS will be conducted this month.

Q3/Q4 Meeting Dates

- Dates will be assessed and emailed to the members from Sherri Frieze.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Kellie Carlson, seconded by Landis Larson, to adjourn the meeting. With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 2:00 p.m.