

MINUTES of the
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

November 4, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
TEAMS Conference Call

Members present: Dave Farnsworth, Cindy Griffin, Arnie Strebe, Perry Lubbers

Ex Officio members present: Bryan Klipfel, Katie Ralston

Commerce staff and Job Service staff present: Phil Davis, Ruth Lacher, Tammy Barstad, Sherri Frieze

Dave Farnsworth called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved by Cindy Griffin, seconded by Arnie Strebe to approve the executive committee minutes of August 13, 2021. Motion carried.

WIOA UPDATE

Katie Ralston

Thirteen policies with the sunset year of 2018 were reviewed and approved by the administrative committee in October. The policies are brought forth to the committee every three years for their approval and then shared with the council for their understanding.

ONE REVISION

Policy 1.01.01 Attendance Policy – one revision

- Attendance policy – addition in the bylaws was made – if a member cannot attend, a proxy can be sent, but cannot vote.

NO REVISIONS

Policy 1.01.03 Member Expense Reimbursement

Policy 1.02.01 Conflict of Interest

Policy 2.02.01 In School Youth Eligibility

Policy 2.03.01 Out-of-School Youth Eligibility

Policy 2.05.01 Adult Program Priority of Service

Policy 2.10.01 Underemployment Policy

Policy 2.11.01 Incentives for Youth Policy

Policy 2.13.01 Basic Skills Deficient

RED LINED REVISIONS

Policy 2.04.01 One-Stop Career Center Certification

Policy 2.12.01 Adult-Dislocated Worker Funding Transfer

Policy 2.07.01.1 Co-Enrollment Policy and Procedures

Policy 2.09.01 Self-Sufficient Standard Policy - amendment of 100% made to the policy at the meeting

NATIONAL GOVERNOR'S ASSOCIATION WIN

Katie Ralston

November 1st, the National Governor's Association (NGA) announced that North Dakota and five other states were selected for the second phase of the NGA's Workforce Innovation Network (NGA WIN), in which states will deploy cross-agency teams to identify and implement strategies that advance digital skill development and more equitable economic participation. NGA WIN will award ND and five other states \$100,000 each and help provide technical assistance to help state teams ensure all individuals have the digital skills needed to participate in work, education, or training.

Katie mentioned a team of five people will work with the workforce team through June of 2022 to develop a state plan to increase digital skills for adults in ND. The focus will be on minority populations and rural communities that do not have access to training.

Team members for the NGA WIN, include NGA technical assistants, Katie Ralston, Commerce Dept.; Phil Davis, Job Service ND; Maria Nest, Governor's Office; Sara Mitzel, DPI; and Taya Spelhaug, Microsoft.

Dave talked about the NGA conference that Katie and he attended in September and the companies, Intel and Amazon Web Services presentations that were given. Presentation material included online courses pertaining to Artificial Intelligence in many industries, and Amazon Web Services online training for Cloud Services. These discussions will be continued in December with NDUS Chancellor Mark Hagerott and BSC President Doug Jensen. Dave asked that Katie be part of those discussions.

ARPA/LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Katie Ralston

Workforce ARPA funding of \$20M is dedicated to workforce initiatives for Commerce.

- \$15M is for a regional funding model, called the Regional Workforce Impact Program (RWIP)
- The allocation was decreased from the original ask of \$50M. Eight regions exist in ND and each will be given a certain dollar amount per planning region and funding levels, base on population.

Workforce ARPA funding of \$5M is dedicated for Technical Skills Training Grant – program designed to build or expand accelerated training programs for those who have been displaced. Companies are asking if the funds can be used for internal upskilling programs to advance workers through the company or entry level job training.

Commerce will be able to make those modifications in the grant, allowing allocation of \$3M to this training model. Commerce will move \$2M over to the initiative that is not funded, helping with recruitment initiatives.

Q4 WDC MEETING IN OAKES, ND

Katie Ralston

The Q4 meeting will be held in Oakes, with location at the Growing Small Towns meeting space on November 18th. The meeting will involve an optional morning tour of the Oakes CTE center, presentation from RoleCall; a talent attraction agency that has been contracted to work with the state of ND, legislative update, WIOA and NGA updates, council member updates, future meeting dates to consider, and in closing review of timeline for 2021-2022 recommendations.

AROUND THE ROOM UPDATES

Bryan Klipfel - At the end of the year, Bryan will be ending his interim executive director position that he has held for the past three years for Job Service ND. He will no longer serve on the WDC and various subcommittees as a Job Service ND representative.

Cindy Griffin – EPA blending obligations, with changes to regulations for E15 are happening, state and federal agriculture relief to be determined. Sanford is working on getting 200 international CNAs or nurses to Bismarck and 200 to the Fargo location. This will be implemented with work visas and a 3-year commitment.

Perry Lubbers – Supply chain issues with manufacturing continues.

Arnie Strebe – long term care facilities, home care, and childcare are all major issues, due to lack of workforce.

2022 MEETING DATES

Katie Ralston

Future dates for the quarterly WDC meetings were discussed. Dave mentioned he has a conflict with the Q1 February date and suggested an alternate date be suggested and discussed at the Q4 WDC meeting in November.

Katie also explained that the dates for the executive committee and the administrative committee will need to be chosen. The executive committee meets 2 weeks before each quarter meeting date and the administrative committee meets 3 weeks before each quarter meeting date.

Q1 - February 17 - alternate date to be suggested per the chair.

Q2 – May 19

Q3 – August 18

Q4 – November 17

NEXT STEPS

Katie Ralston

The company, Be More Colorful, is applying for funding through the LIFT program and is asking for a Letter of Support from the full council. This will be brought forward at the November full council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Arnie Strebe, seconded by Perry Lubbers to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.