



**Nebraska Workforce Development Board**  
Meeting Minutes  
June 9, 2023, 9a – 12p  
Nebraska Public Media Building  
1800 N 33<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Lincoln, NE 68503

Agenda item 1. Call to Order

---

Chair Mark Moravec called to order the meeting of the Nebraska Workforce Development Board (the Board) on June 9, 2023 at approximately 9a at the Nebraska Public Media Building, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Before taking up the business of the Board, Chair Moravec welcomed members of the public and encouraged the public to sign in at the registration table; indicating, however, that members of the public are not required to sign in. In addition, Chair Moravec stated that members of the public would have an opportunity to comment on agenda items requiring formal action by the Board. Chair Moravec also stated that members of the public would also have an opportunity to comment at the end of this meeting. In both cases, individuals are permitted five minutes to speak during the public comment period to allow all who wish to comment time to do so. Chair Moravec also indicated that members of the public may submit written comments, which would be made part of the permanent record for this meeting.

Agenda item 2. Roll Call

---

Chair Moravec asked Nicole Schaefer to call the roll for purposes of establishing quorum (minimum of 13 out of 24 Governor-appointed Board Members). Nicole called roll and advised Chair Moravec that quorum was established.

**Members in Attendance**

1. John Albin
2. Lindy Foley
3. Michael Geary
4. Jim Hansen
5. Tate Lauer
6. Susan Martin
7. Mark Moravec
8. Kyle Nixon
9. Terri Ridder
10. Jennifer Sedlacek
11. Becky Stitt
12. Paul Turman
13. Lisa Wilson
14. Courtney Wittstruck

**Members Absent**

15. Kyle Arganbright
16. Elizabeth Babcock
17. Brian Deakin
18. Gary Dixon, Jr.
19. James Hanson, Jr.
20. Cindy Johnson
21. Don Nordell
22. Governor Jim Pillen
23. Bradley Schroeder
24. Danette Smith
25. Jim Smith

## Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) Administrative Staff in attendance

1. Derek Ahrens, State Monitoring Unit Supervisor, Division of Reemployment Services
2. Erick Carrillo, Program Analyst, Division of Reemployment Services
3. Dawn Carrillo, Administrator, Division of Reemployment Services
4. Jana Dye, Administrator, Division of Reemployment Services
5. Lucas Miller, Program Coordinator, Division of Reemployment Services
6. John O'Keefe, Director, Division of Reemployment Services
7. Nicole Schaefer, Administrative Programs Officer, Division of Reemployment Services
8. Katie Thurber, Deputy Commissioner for Operations and General Counsel

## Agenda item 3. Notice of Publication

---

Nicole Schaefer announced that the Notice of Public Meeting was duly published, in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, in the Beatrice Daily Sun, Columbus Telegram, Grand Island Independent, Hastings Tribune, Kearney Hub, Lincoln Journal Star, Norfolk Daily News, North Platte Telegraph, Omaha World-Herald, and Scottsbluff Star-Herald. Nicole also announced that notice of the meeting was posted on the State of Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar.

## Agenda item 4. Approval of Minutes

---

Chair Moravec called the next order of business, which was the approval of the draft meeting minutes from the March 10, 2023 meeting of the Board. The draft minutes from the September meeting were emailed to Board Members on June 8, 2023. The meeting minutes were also included in Board Member meeting packets as Handout 1.

Chair Moravec opened the floor to Board Members for discussion on the draft minutes. Board Members had no comments on the draft minutes. Chair Moravec opened the floor for public comment on the draft minutes. No public comments were made.

Michael Geary motioned to approve the June minutes as provided, and Becky Stitt seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion by roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

## Agenda item 5. New Business

---

### a. Catholic Social Services

John Soukup, Development Officer, and Nadia Peterchuk, Refugee Case Manager for Catholic Social Services presented on their efforts at resettling refugees in Lincoln and integrating them into the local workforce. Their presentation was provided as Handout 3.

### b. Lincoln Literacy

Brian Seck, Executive Director of Lincoln Literacy presented on his organizations efforts to teach English to refugees and immigrants in the Lincoln area. His presentation was included as Handout 5.

### c. Lutheran Family Services

Sam Sodji, Employment Specialist with Lutheran Family Services presented on the challenges refugees face when coming to the United States and the efforts his organization makes to assist them. His presentation was included as Handout 4.

#### d. Nebraska Workforce Development Award

Mark Moravec presented the 2023 Nebraska Workforce Development Award to Jessica Barry, Information Technology Manager of Software Development for Conagra Brands.

Jessica was recognized for her leadership and dedication in improving Conagra's tech internship program and retaining talented individuals within the organization. She revitalized the intern program at Conagra, built it from the ground up, and forged relationships with several Nebraska schools, resulting in a 50% increase in the 2020 intern class. She also created a rotational development program within Conagra that spanned both the Information Technology and Global Business Services departments, which allowed employees to apply and gain exposure to medium and high-tech roles, with a new role every 12 months.

Jessica was involved in other initiatives aimed at supporting the tech community in Nebraska, including the Nebraska Tech Collaborative and the Millard STEM academy board. She is also creating a partnership program between CodeBlack and Conagra to increase the diversity pipeline of their organization.

#### Agenda item 6. Member Updates

---

Chair Moravec asked Members of the Board for updates on their respective industries or organizations and local workforce development area activities for the Members who also serve on local workforce development boards. Members of the Board provided updates as requested.

#### Agenda item 7. Next Meeting – Date and Time

---

Chair Moravec reminded the Board that the next meeting of the Board is scheduled for September 15, 2023 from 9a to 12p, at the Nebraska Public Media Building, 1800 N 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, Lincoln, Nebraska. If the date, time or location of the meeting changes, Chair Moravec advised the Board that Members would be notified by email.

#### Agenda item 8. Public Comment

---

Chair Moravec opened the floor for public comment. Public comments were not made.

#### Agenda item 9. Adjournment

---

Chair Moravec asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Board. Becky Stitt motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Susan Martin seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion by roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 11a.