



Nebraska Workforce Development Board
Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2018

Agenda item 1. Call to Order

Chair Mark Moravec called the Nebraska Workforce Development Board (the Board) meeting to order on September 14, 2018 at approximately 9:30a at the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel, 333 South 13th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Agenda item 2. Roll Call

Dawn Carrillo called the roll and determined that a quorum was established.

Members in attendance (13)

Senator Joni Albrecht	Mark Moravec	Jennifer Sedlacek
John Albin	Don Nordell	Beck Stitt
Jason Feldhaus	Terri Ridder	Lisa Wilson
Allan Hale	Dave Rippe	
James Hanson, Jr.	Bradley Schroeder	

Members absent (8)

Governor Pete Ricketts	Brian Deakin	Courtney Phillips
Tammie Beck	Michael Geary	Carol Swigart
Matthew Blomstedt	Susan Martin	

Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) Board support staff in attendance

Stan Odenthal, Director, Office of Employment & Training
Al Kroner, Workforce Services Administrator, Office of Employment & Training
Deb Andersen, WIOA Policy Coordinator, Office of Employment & Training
Dawn Carrillo, WIOA Program Analyst, Office of Employment & Training
Katie Thurber, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel
Thomas Ukinski, Attorney III, Office of the General Counsel
Wendy Sieler, Employment Services Program Specialist, Office of the General Counsel

Guests in attendance

Amara Meyer, Legal Counsel to the Business and Labor Committee, Nebraska Legislature
Phil Baker, Research Administrator, Office of Labor Market Information, NDOL
Monica Barger, Program Coordinator, Office of Employment & Training, NDOL
Jodie Meyer, Research Analyst II, Office of Labor Market Information, NDOL
Rachel Stevens, Research Analyst I, Office of Labor Market Information, NDOL
Jan Norlander-Jensen, Workforce Administrator, Greater Lincoln Workforce Development Area
Michelle Olson, Project Director, Greater Lincoln Workforce Development Area

Cherisa Price-Wells, Project Director, Greater Lincoln Workforce Development Area
Brittney Urias, Regional Manager, Greater Lincoln Workforce Development Area
Anita Sutton, Employment Services Manager, Greater Nebraska Workforce Development Area
Danna Bacon, Program Coordinator, Greater Nebraska Workforce Development Area
Erin Porterfield, Executive Director, Greater Omaha Workforce Development Area
Alejandra Sinecio, Manager, Workforce Performance, Greater Omaha Workforce Development Area
Andy Huls, One-stop Operator, Greater Omaha Workforce Development Area
Connie Daly, Lincoln District Supervisor, Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Carol Jenkins, Deputy Director, Client Services, Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Hope Feeney, President/CEO, Cheyenne County Chamber of Commerce
Shannon Grotrian, Economic Assistance Policy Administrator II, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Britton Gable, Program Manager II, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Jody Stutzman, Regional Director, Proteus, Inc.
Aledia Mikale, Infinite 8 Aeronautics
Ean Mikale, Infinite 8 Aeronautics

Agenda item 3. Notice of Publication

Dawn Carrillo announced that the Notice of Public Meeting was duly published, in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, in the Beatrice Daily Sun, Grand Island Independent, Lincoln Journal Star, North Platte Telegraph, Omaha World Herald, and Scottsbluff Star-Herald and on the State of Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar.

Agenda item 4. Approval of Minutes

James Hanson motioned to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2018 meeting of the Board (Handout 1), and Brad Schroeder seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted by voice vote on the motion, which carried unanimously.¹

Agenda item 5. State WIOA – Update

Stan Odenthal provided an update on the approval of the mandatory two-year modification of the Combined State Plan for Nebraska’s Workforce Development System.² Stan directed the Board to the approval letters (Handouts 2 and 3) from the US Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Labor. Stan advised the Board that the current state plan concludes on June 30, 2020, development of the 2020 – 2024 state plan will begin soon, and the Combined State Plan partners will work closely with the Board on strategic planning and setting of goals and strategies for the 2020 – 2024 state plan.

Stan directed the Board’s attention to a letter from the US Department of Labor (Handout 4) regarding waivers for which NDOL applied during the state plan modification process. The Secretary of the US Department of Labor approved one waiver request that allows the State to assign a single local workforce development area to multiple planning regions. A second waiver requested by NDOL was not approved as it fell outside of the Secretary’s waiver authority. The

¹ Agendas, minutes, and handouts for meetings of the Nebraska Workforce Development Board are available electronically and accessible at <https://dol.nebraska.gov/EmploymentAndTraining/LCRWP/WIOA/NWDB>.

² The Combined State Plan is available electronically and accessible at <https://dol.nebraska.gov/EmploymentAndTraining/LCRWP/WIOA/ManualsPlansReports>.

waiver, had it been approved, would have permitted the State to establish stand-alone Wagner-Peyser Employment Service offices.

Stan advised the Board that the US Department of Labor conducted an onsite monitoring visit in Nebraska during the week of August 20, 2018. During the visit, a Federal Project Officer reviewed state-level dislocated worker program documents and activities, as well as the documents and activities of the dislocated worker programs administered by the Greater Lincoln and Greater Nebraska Workforce Development Boards through the Lincoln and Beatrice American Job Centers, respectively. Stan indicated that the State will receive a report within the next three weeks from the US Department of Labor regarding the outcome of the visit.

Agenda item 6. Workforce Initiatives in Nebraska

Lt. Governor Mike Foley presented to the Board on workforce initiatives in Nebraska, including Nebraska's Reemployment Program for Unemployment Insurance claimants, the expansion of the WIOA/SNAP pilot program in the Greater Nebraska Workforce Development Area, the expansion of Registered Apprenticeship programs in Nebraska, and Nebraska's Developing Youth Talent Initiative.

Agenda item 7. Nebraska Department of Economic Development Initiatives

Dave Rippe presented to the Board on economic development initiatives underway in Nebraska. Dave described the efforts of the Nebraska Talent Team; provided an overview of activities relating to Nebraska's talent portal website, thegoodlifeiscalling.com; elaborated on the Developing Youth Talent Initiative mentioned by Lt. Governor Foley; described ongoing activities resulting from the Next Generation Industry Partnership; talked about the Nebraska Department of Economic Development's role as one-stop operator for the Greater Nebraska Workforce Development Area; and explained the purpose of the Intern Nebraska Program Fund which ends in the near future as reappropriation was not authorized by the Nebraska Legislature. In closing, Dave briefed the Board on activities funded by LB518, the Rural Workforce Housing Investment Act.

Agenda item 8. Workforce Development Activities in Sidney

Hope Feeney and Anita Sutton presented to the Board regarding ongoing workforce development activities in the Sidney, Nebraska area, subsequent to the acquisition of Cabela's by Bass Pro Shops. Hope and Anita described activities aimed at enhancement of the web presence of Cheyenne County businesses to support ecommerce in Cheyenne County; explained the Sidney Downtown Revitalization Project; informed the Board about the establishment of the affiliate one-stop center in Sidney; described a job fair hosted by the Sidney one-stop center; talked about [Econic](#), a Lincoln consulting firm that held several workshops in the Sidney area on starting a business and doing freelance work; and described the new Education and Entrepreneurship Center on the Western Nebraska Community College Sidney campus. Anita advised the Board that new businesses have committed to Sidney, including [Xpanxion](#) (a UST Global Group Company), which recently announced that it will be bringing up to 200 healthcare and technology jobs to Sidney. In closing, Anita advised the Board that the revision of LB840, the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act, allowed for eligible businesses in the Sidney area to apply for low-interest or performance-based loans to be used for economic development purposes.

Agenda item 9. Rapid Response Services and Trade Adjustment Assistance Program

Monica Barger presented to the Board on Rapid Response services which promote economic recovery and vitality through development of an ongoing, comprehensive approach to identifying, planning for, responding to layoffs and dislocations, and preventing or minimizing their impacts on workers, businesses, and communities. Monica also presented on the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program and described how it supports workers who lose their jobs or whose hours of work and wages are reduced as a result of increased imports.

Agenda item 10. Local Area Reports

Representatives of each of Nebraska's three local workforce development boards reported to the Board on the three topic areas described in Handout 5:

1. structure of their respective local workforce development areas;
2. sources of funding received or managed by the local Board; and
3. one successful initiative implemented by the local board during Program Year 2017 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018).

Cherisa Price-Wells and Brittany Urias presented on behalf of the Greater Lincoln Workforce Development Board; Lisa Wilson for the Greater Nebraska Workforce Development Board; and James Hanson for the Greater Omaha Workforce Development Board.

Agenda item 11. 2018 – 2019 Meeting Calendar and Locations

Members of the Board reviewed the list of suggested meeting dates and locations for the upcoming 12-month period provided in Appendix 7 of the Board Membership Manual:

- suggested dates:
 - December 7, 2018
 - March 8, 2019
 - June 7, 2019
 - September 13, 2019
- suggested locations:
 - American Job Centers
 - Board Members' places of business
 - publically available venues, such as museums, libraries, or state recreation areas

Members discussed the suggested meeting dates and locations. Mark Moravec suggested changing the date of the December meeting to December 14, 2018. Several Members suggested meetings continue to be held in Lincoln at a hotel venue, such as the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker or Hyatt Place in the Haymarket.

Becky Stitt motioned to hold the meetings on the dates and locations as discussed and Lisa Wilson seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted by voice vote on the motion, which carried unanimously.

Agenda item 12. Workforce Development Excellence Award

Chair Moravec announced that the Board received a suggestion that it consider establishing a *Workforce Development Excellence Award* program. The program would recognize exceptional contributions and achievements of individuals or organizations in the area of workforce

development on an annual basis. Chair Moravec stated that the NDOL team offered to assist the Board in developing award criteria and procedures and coordinate program activities.

Jason Feldhaus motioned that the Board establish a *Workforce Development Excellence Award* program as discussed and Alan Hale seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted by voice vote on the motion, which carried unanimously. The matter will be discussed again at the next meeting of the Board.

Agenda item 13. Board Committees and Subcommittees

Chair Moravec reminded the Board of its discussion during the June 8, 2018 meeting on the possibility of restructuring the Board's subcommittees and including individuals from the Nebraska Partner Council on its subcommittees, which is permitted under Section 5.3(d) of the Board's bylaws. Stan Odenthal spoke to the Board regarding this possibility, providing an overview of the current purposes of the Nebraska Partner Council and how the Council may contribute to the purposes of the Board through participation on the Board's subcommittees. Stan provided the Board with a handout developed by the Council regarding two suggested subcommittee structures:

- Group 1 subcommittee structure: System Alignment Subcommittee, Strategic Direction Subcommittee, and Service Strategies Subcommittee; or
- Group 2 subcommittee structure: Policy and Oversight Subcommittee, Strategy and Innovation Subcommittee, and Evaluation and Review Subcommittee.

Stan recommend the Group 2 subcommittee structure to the Board as it aligns more closely with the required functions of the Board.³

Members of the Board discussed the matter of subcommittee restructuring. John Albin asked if a change to the subcommittee structure of the Board would require an amendment of the Board's bylaws. Stan indicated that an amendment would be required if the Board votes to revise its subcommittee structure. Lisa Wilson asked if a Member of the Board is required to serve on a subcommittee of the Board if that Member also serves on a local workforce development board. Stan indicated that each Member of the Board must serve on at least one committee, subcommittee, or similarly designated group of the Board⁴ and that Members are appointed to committees and subcommittees by either the Governor or Chair of the Board.⁵

Alan Hale motioned to restructure the subcommittees of the Board as recommended and Dave Rippe seconded the motion. Members of the Board voted by roll call vote, and the motion carried unanimously. Chair Moravec announced that the matter of amending the bylaws of the Board to reflect the approved restructuring of the Board will be taken up at the next meeting the Board.

Agenda item 14. 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.

³ Required functions of the Board are defined under WIOA Sec. 101(d) and 20 CFR § 679.130.

⁴ Refer to Section 2.8, Participation, of the Board's bylaws.

⁵ Refer to Section 5.3, Appointment of Members, of the Board's bylaws.

Agenda item 15. Public Comment

Chair Moravec opened the floor for public comment. No public comments were made.

Agenda item 16. Adjournment

Chair Moravec asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bradley Schroeder motioned and Alan Hale seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted by voice vote on the motion, which carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:20a.