

**Minutes of the  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

February 10, 2022

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

TEAMS audio/video Meeting

**Members present:** Dave Farnsworth, Pat Bertagnolli, Wayde Sick, Stan Schauer, Damian Schlinger

**Members absent:** Arnie Strebe

**Ex Officio members present:** Katie Ralston

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

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Dave Farnsworth called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was moved by Wayde Sick, seconded by Dave Farnsworth, to approve the administrative committee minutes of October 28, 2021. Motion carried.

**WIOA Update**

**Policy Review/Approval**

**Katie Ralston Howe**

Katie gave an overview of the WIOA Policy Review update that will have a public comment on March 15 and public hearing on March 22. Final version will be submitted to the Department of Labor and the Governor's office.

**WDC Recommendation Process Overview & Timeline**

**Katie Ralston Howe**

The Workforce Development Council (WDC) is recommending four main themes this legislative session, comprised of four WDC subcommittees that have been meeting monthly for the past year.

1. Career Explorations and Skills Gap
2. Removing Barriers to unemployment
3. Recruit and Retain employees
4. Occupational Licensing Reform

In 2018, the WDC had 30 recommendations brought forth, in 2020, 13 recommendations; and now for 2022, 5-10 comprehensive recommendations are being suggested.

**Subcommittee are focusing on**

- Research of workforce issues, success, best practice
- Statewide impact
- Scalable solutions
- Started in Bismarck & Fargo and expanded to other communities
- Private sector partnership
- Coordinate and maximize federal resources
- Balance current and future needs
- Consider Priorities vs Programs

**Considerations for the WDC**

- Build on work completed to date where possible
- Recommend actionable strategies (both short & long term)

**Metrics**

- Determine the metrics the WDC will use to measure success and how to know that the recommendations are successful.

#### Timeline

- March 3, 2022 - Present preliminary recommendations (long list) with feedback from the WDC.
- June 2, 2022 - Present short list of comprehensive recommendations, WDC will vote to approve.
- June 15, 2022 - Recommendations sent to the Governor's office.

#### WDC Meeting March 2 in Carrington

Members discussed the building of the WDC agenda for March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- Childcare topic – guest(s) invited
- Working lunch panel
- Pasta Plant recruitment – possible discussion
- Healthcare recruitment – possible discussion
- Subcommittee chairs to discuss their Themes
- Member updates – Agency strategy updates that will be presented to the Governor's office.
- Industry updates

#### Member Updates

- Highlighted updates from members included:
- Digital Literacy Program for Adults, program to end in June and working on a plan with the committee members.
- Governor's strategy for JobsND and focus on unemployment insurance modernization.
- H2A - Agricultural Foreign Labor Program, 570 job orders from October 1<sup>st</sup> to present.
- Capital projects grants, 3 center projects were funded at \$6.67M, with intention to fund the remaining balance to each.
- RU Ready platform to partner with Golden Path.
- Higher Education, working on reciprocity with 12 state region to boost enrollment.
- Business and leadership teams with the BSC Polytech programs; cybersecurity, ag, marketing, & energy.
- Dave and Katie to attend the National Governor's Association meeting in March in Washington, DC.
- Client financial participation with vocational rehab, phased out at \$25 thousand has almost been doubled financially now, to help put people back to work.
- DOCR – helping with guidance and counselling ex-offenders before released.
- Applied for ESSER funding for Integrated Education and Training. Received a \$129 thousand grant. Funding for the workforce training was received, with awards given to three cities, Bismarck, Fargo, & Minot for CMA, Paraprofessional, and CNA.

#### Next Steps

- Finalize the WDC agenda
- Update Bylaws in the WIOA state plan
- Finalize the WDC March meeting location

#### Adjourn

Meeting was unanimously adjourned at 3:00 p.m. Motion carried.