



## **Missouri Workforce Development Board**

January 25, 2024

Teleconference – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

### **DRAFT AND NOT APPROVED BY BOARD**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Members attending: Len Toenjes, Cara Cannon, Garland Barton, Dr. Don Cook, Rob Binney, Gregg Roberts, LeRoy Stromberg, Virgil White, Megan Price (arrived after roll call), Tony Bryan, Jill Williams, Kristie Davis, Gary Jungerman, Sr. Chris Clause, Anna Hui

#### **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Chair Len Toenjes called the State Workforce Development Board (SWDB) to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

#### **Roll Call**

A quorum was declared.

#### **Meeting Minutes**

Chair Toenjes opened the floor with discussion regarding content of prior meeting minutes. As a result, meeting minutes were approved as follows:

- January 23, 2023: Motion recommended by Garland Barton and seconded by Megan Price. Passed with unanimous vote.
- July 13, 2023: Motion recommended by Megan Price and seconded by Garland Barton. Passed with unanimous vote.
- July 14, 2023: Motion recommended by Rob Binney and seconded by Megan Price. Passed with unanimous vote.
- September 6, 2023: Motion recommended by Megan Price and seconded by Gary Jungerman. Passed with unanimous vote.
- November 9, 2023: Motion recommended by Rob Binney and seconded by LeRoy Stromberg. Passed with unanimous vote.

### **Strategic Priorities Review**

Chair Toenjes led a discussion surrounding the Strategic Priorities initiative. OWD staff provided updates accordingly with emphasis on Job Center Operations, Technology, Training, and Public Awareness items. Action has begun on all strategic goal categories, and many are being implemented ahead of expected deadlines.

### **New Business**

Chair Toenjes led discussion regarding the WIOA combined state plan. No public comments were received during the public comment period. Gregg Roberts provided a motion to approve the WIOA combined state plan and transmit it to the Governor for consideration, approval, and signature in preparation for transmittal to the USDOL. The motion was seconded by Megan Price and a vote passed unanimously.

Chair Toenjes discussed ideas about reviewing board processes and by-laws for opportunities to create efficiencies that will allow the board to act on its recommendations more effectively. Discussion included a short review of by-law requirements around Executive Committee authority, quorum, voting, and other areas. As a result, DHEWD provided draft verbiage to the by-laws to allow for electronic and email voting. Chair Toenjes called for a roll call vote. As a result, the modification to add electronic and email voting to the by-laws passed unanimously. Chair Toenjes discussed options to establish a Board policy document and requested that staff query other state workforce development boards related to such a document as a potential model.

### **Local Workforce Development Area Subsequent Designation**

Becky Fletcher discussed the process and status for subsequent designation. No changes to local area designations are recommended.

### **Board Roundtables**

Chair Toenjes led discussion regarding results of a Department of Social Services (DSS) employment challenges survey report. The survey obtained feedback from people who may be served by DSS. Justin Logan, DSS, provided commentary on the survey results.

### **Tech First Initiative**

Kieran N. Blanks, Cortex Innovation District, provided information regarding the Missouri Tech First Initiative which strives to Missouri the premier hub for non-traditional technology training and hiring. LWDB Directors are interested to collaborate further.

### **Local Workforce Development Board Presentation**

Amy Sublett, on behalf of TEAM president Greg LaPosa, provided an update to include examples of local workforce development activities that align with SWDB strategic goals. Amy's report was well received and highlighted successes across the state. Amy highlighted her involvement with the Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce as co-chair of the Jefferson City Regional Economic Partnership to retain, retrain, and attract a skilled workforce to the central Missouri region.

## **OWD Director Report**

Mark Bauer provided an update on behalf of Director Julie Carter regarding the following:

OWD continues efforts to innovate connections between education, the public workforce system, and business workforce needs. To assist with this goal, DHEWD and LWDBs have assigned staff to assist job seekers on-site at State Fair Community College (Clinton), MO Innovation Campus (Lee Summit), and one day each week at Ozark Technical College.

- Efforts to obtain additional funding sources beyond USDOL continue. DHEWD is collaborating with Missouri Division of Energy to increase solar development career opportunities and to expand residential energy audit programs in underrepresented communities.
- Plans to increase partnerships with colleges and/or universities to co-located public workforce staff on campus.
- Emerging partnership with Missouri S&T to assist with their Critical Minerals and Critical Materials grant award.

Meeting Adjourned by Consensus at 11:35 a.m.

Workforce Development Board Responsibility Resources

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-20/chapter-V/part-679/subpart-A/section-679.130>

<https://dhewd.mo.gov/WDB/#:~:text=The%20Board%20serves%20as%20convener,these%20efforts%20promote%20economic%20growth.>