

**Nebraska Workforce Investment Board
Meeting Minutes**

Blue Cross/Blue Shield
1919 Aksarben Drive, Omaha, NE
October 31, 2014
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (CST)

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order

The meeting of the Nebraska Workforce Investment Board (NWIB) was called to order on October 31, 2014 at approximately 9:35 a.m. by Mr. Mark Moravec, Chair.

Chair Moravec thanked Mr. Bradley Schroeder for inviting the Nebraska Workforce Investment Board to meet at the Blue Cross/Blue Shield facility. The Chair also welcomed two new members to the Board. John Albin and Dacia Kruse had recently been appointed to the Board by Governor Heineman to represent the Nebraska Department of Labor and Nebraska Department of Economic Development respectively.

Agenda Item #2 – Roll Call

NWIB members present (18):

John Albin	Dacia Kruse	Terri Ridder
Cheryl Anderson	John McNally	Brad Schroeder
Brian Deakin	Mark Moravec	Jennifer Sedlacek
Bud Fleischer	Don Nordell	Becky Stitt
Michael Geary	Michelle Olson	Carol Swigart
Jim Hanson	Vern Powers	Kerry Winterer

NWIB members absent (12):

Roma Amundson	Vanessa Brown	Lt. Governor John Nelson
Dennis Baack	Mindy Fisher	Mark Ondracek
Tammie Beck	Ronald Johns	Ann Rouch
Matt Blomstedt	M. L. Martin	Clyde Tyndall

A quorum was established.

Ex-officio member absent (2):

Senator Galen Hadley Senator Steve Lathrop

Other Guests in Attendance (12):

Shirley Carlson.....Heartland Workforce Solutions
Debra Cremeens-Risinger.....USDOL Office of Apprenticeship
Seth Fager.....Nebraska Department of Labor – Employment & Training Administrator
Amanda Felton.....Nebraska Department of Labor – Employment & Training
Lorena Hernandez.....Nebraska Department of Labor – Employment & Training Administrator
Vicki Leech.....City of Lincoln – Urban Development
Joan Modrell.....Nebraska Department of Labor – Employment & Training Director

Stan Odenthal Nebraska Department of Labor – Employment & Training
 Erin Porterfield Heartland Workforce Solutions
 Brooke Siefker Nebraska Department of Labor – Employment & Training
 Thomas Ukinski Nebraska Department of Labor – Legal Counsel
 Zoé Verboon Nebraska Department of Labor – Employment & Training

Agenda Item #3 – Notice of Publication

Amanda Felton, recorder for the Nebraska Workforce Investment Board, stated that notice of a public meeting was both posted and advertised in accordance with the Public Meetings Law. Notices were marked as exhibits and made part of the formal record of the meeting.

Agenda Item #4 – Approval of Minutes

Chair Moravec entertained a motion regarding the meeting minutes from June 20, 2014. Kerry Winterer moved to approve the June 20, 2014 minutes as presented; Brian Deakin seconded. No discussion ensued.

Roll Call vote follows:

FOR: (17)

John Albin
 Cheryl Anderson
 Brian Deakin
 Bud Fleischer
 Michael Geary
 Jim Hanson

John McNally
 Mark Moravec
 Don Nordell
 Michelle Olson
 Vern Powers
 Terri Ridder

Brad Schroeder
 Jennifer Sedlacek
 Becky Stitt
 Carol Swigart
 Kerry Winterer

ABSTAIN: (1)

Dacia Kruse

AGAINST: (0)

ABSENT: (12)

Roma Amundson
 Dennis Baack
 Tammie Beck
 Matt Blomstedt

Vanessa Brown
 Mindy Fisher
 Ronald Johns
 M. L. Martin

Lt. Governor John Nelson
 Mark Ondracek
 Ann Rouch
 Clyde Tyndall

MOTION CARRIED

Chair Moravec stated that dates, agendas, minutes and handouts for the full board, as well as the Executive Committee and the Performance Committee, can be found on the website at www.dol.nebraska.gov under the heading “Workforce Investment Act.”

Agenda Item #5 – New Business

a) *Local Area Plan Modifications*

i. *Consent Agenda*

Chair Moravec invited Stan Odenthal, Program Coordinator with the Nebraska Department of Labor, forward to summarize and discuss the Consent Agenda. Mr. Odenthal informed the Board that local areas are allowed to transfer funds from the

Dislocated Worker (DLW) funds and the Adult funds. The WIA allows for transfers up to 20%, with Nebraska having a waiver that allows for a 50% transfer to or from these fund sources. Part of the waiver indicates that there is a quarterly cap of 25% that cannot be exceeded. This explains the various transfers from varying program years.

Mr. Odenthal continued on by reviewing the two local areas, Greater Omaha and Greater Nebraska, and the requested fund transfer amounts. He notified the Board that the State recommends approval of the consent agenda as follows:

1.1 Approval Local Area Plan Modification for the Greater Nebraska Local Area.

Greater Nebraska has requested to transfer the following amount of funds:

- Transfer of \$194,526 from FY14 Dislocated Worker Funds to FY14 Adult Funds, effective 08/11/14.
- Transfer of \$39,474 from FY14 Dislocated Worker Funds to FY14 Adult Funds, effective on 10/02/14.
- Transfer of \$185,500 from FY15 Dislocated Worker Funds to FY15 Adult Funds, effective 10/01/14.
- Transfer of \$185,500 from FY15 Dislocated Worker funds to FY15 Adult Funds, effective 01/15/15.

1.2 Approval Local Area Plan Modification for the Greater Omaha Local Area.

Greater Omaha has requested to transfer the following amount of funds:

- Transfer of \$133,487 from FY14 Dislocated Worker Funds to FY14 Adult Funds, effective 11/01/14.
- Transfer of \$38,235 from PY14 Dislocated Worker Funds to PY14 Adult Funds, effective 11/01/14.
- Transfer of \$96,620 from FY15 Dislocated Worker Funds to FY15 Adult Funds, effective 11/01/14.

Chair Moravec explained that items listed on the consent agenda are considered non-controversial. The consent agenda provided a method for expeditious handling of items that do not require discussion. The items listed on the consent agenda were to be approved by a single roll call vote. Any item on the consent agenda may be removed by the Chair if a member of the public requests to speak on the matter or if there is a request by a board member.

It was moved by Bud Fleischer and seconded by Brad Schroeder to approve the consent agenda. No discussion ensued.

Roll Call vote follows:

FOR: (18)

John Albin

Cheryl Anderson

Brian Deakin

Bud Fleischer

Michael Geary

Jim Hanson

Dacia Kruse

John McNally

Mark Moravec

Don Nordell

Michelle Olson

Vern Powers

Terri Ridder
Brad Schroeder

Jennifer Sedlacek
Becky Stitt

Carol Swigart
Kerry Winterer

ABSTAIN: (0)

AGAINST: (0)

ABSENT: (12)

Roma Amundson
Dennis Baack
Tammie Beck
Matt Blomstedt
Vanessa Brown

Mindy Fisher
Ronald Johns
M. L. Martin
Lt. Governor John
Nelson

Mark Ondracek
Ann Rouch
Clyde Tyndall

MOTION CARRIED

b) Introduction to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Stan Odenthal was given the floor to discuss the changes regarding WIOA. Mr. Odenthal began by alerting the Board that there would be many changes ahead. He summarized the important dates including July 1, 2015 for when the Act goes into effect, and July 1, 2016 for when the State Unified plan and common performance accountability provision take effect.

Mr. Odenthal also covered the makeup of the WIOA Board. Changes to the new Board included the requirement of only one Senator and a 20% makeup of workforce representatives from in demand industries and occupations within the State. The increase in responsibilities of the Board was also a topic Mr. Odenthal reviewed. Some of these responsibilities included assisting the Governor in the development and updating of comprehensive state performance accountability measures, developing and implementing the State plan, and defining the role and contributions of one-stop partners, including equitable and efficient cost allocation. Mr. Odenthal indicated that additional information may arise when the regulations are released in January 2015.

c) Dates For Upcoming Nebraska Workforce Investment Board (NWIB) Meetings

Chair Moravec presented for the Board the proposed NWIB meeting dates for 2015. They were as follows:

Proposed Full NWIB Meeting Dates

- i. January 23, 2015
- ii. June 5, 2015

Proposed NWIB Performance Committee Meeting Dates

- i. February 18, 2015

- ii. May 20, 2015

Proposed NWIB Executive Committee Meeting Dates

- i. April 17, 2015

No objection arose to these dates.

d) *Grant Information*

i. *H-1B Ready to Work Partnership Grant*

Stan Odenthal took the floor to discuss the H-1B Ready to Work Partnership Grant. Mr. Odenthal discussed that the aim of this grant is to serve the long-term unemployed. Long-term unemployed are defined as individuals that have been unemployed for 26 weeks or longer. The Grant also focuses on training and supportive services leading to rapid employment in occupations and industries. In Nebraska, one of the leading specialty occupations fall in the Information Technology (IT) sector.

The strategy of the Nebraska partnership will be a partner-driven strategy that focuses on the reemployment of long-term unemployed workers and creates a systems reform effort to bridge the skills and education gaps between the available workforce and employment positions in the IT industry. Mr. Odenthal informed the Board that the current partners included Metropolitan Community College and the University of Nebraska, Omaha. Allowing for multiple entry points for individuals to receive training.

Mr. Odenthal went on to review the breakdown of the funds, the timeline of the Grant, and the rapid reemployment and training strategies if the partnership. The population served by the Grant will need to consist of at least 85% long-term unemployed individuals. The areas served by the Grant will be the Omaha Metropolitan Area. Bud Fleischer inquired as to how the Omaha Metro area was selected for the focus area. Mr. Odenthal explained that the area has a high number of long-term unemployed and has a need for IT sector employees. This would not, however, limit the participants or employers outside of the metro area from taking advantage of this Grant.

ii. *Job Driven National Emergency Grand (JDNEG)*

Chair Moravec gave the floor to Lorena Hernandez, Employment and Training Administrator with the Nebraska Department of Labor. Ms. Hernandez began by summarizing the background of the JDNEG grant. This included the goal of implementing local and regional job-driven partnerships to serve more dislocated workers and other unemployed populations by focusing on work-based trainings, job coaching, and job placement strategies.

She continued on by reviewing the project partners which included the Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL), Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED), American Job Centers and One-Stop

System, Community Colleges, Industry Councils, and Employers. The Geographical location focus will include western Nebraska, northeast Nebraska, Lincoln, and Omaha areas.

Ms. Hernandez also reviewed for the Board the various services provided by the program. Included will be job coaching and job matching. The industry impact evaluations include the job coaching, work based training, and general industry impact. Since the grant is only for a two year period, the information should provide insight into what is to come for the industries.

iii. Workforce Data Quality Initiative

Chair Moravec informed the Board that Mary Findlay was unable to attend the meeting and that her presentation on the Workforce Data Quality Initiative would be discussed at another meeting.

e) Nebraska Workforce Trends

Joan Modrell, Director of the Employment and Training office with the Nebraska Department of Labor, was invited to present to the Board the Nebraska Workforce Trends publication. Ms. Modrell turned the Board's attention to the Trends packet that was included with their handouts. She let the Board know what a helpful resource the publication was as an insight into what is happening throughout the State. She also let the members know that if they are interested in receiving the monthly Labor Market Information publication, that we would be able to add their information to the mailing list.

f) Update from the Local Workforce Investment Boards

The Chair invited the Chairs of the local area Boards to present information on what was happening in their areas. Seth Fager, Employment and Training Administrator with the Nebraska Department of Labor, presented on behalf of the Greater Nebraska area in the absence of Local Chair, M. L. Martin. Mr. Fager began with summarizing the area Board's goal to work with community colleges to create training for soft skills.

He continued to discuss a financial coaching position that the area was applying for. The program would be sponsored by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and would provide assistance to transitioning veterans with financial coaching. Mr. Fager also highlighted the efforts on placing participants in H3 jobs throughout the area, the various layoffs occurring, and the upcoming re-certification of the One-Stop location in Grand Island.

Carol Swigart, Chair of the Greater Lincoln Board, then presented on behalf of her area. She began by taking a moment to pay tribute to Ron Joyce who had recently passed away. Ms. Swigart remarked on the important role that Ron had played with their area and that he would be greatly missed.

Ms. Swigart went on to discuss the recent Chambers business trade show, the start-up week celebrating local entrepreneurs, and the recently completed Tower Square located on P Street in downtown Lincoln. Other items of discussion included the areas accomplishment of meeting all of the negotiated standards on their Common Measure performance, the Make It Work for Lincoln program, and the areas preparation for WIOA. She ended with informing the member that the next Greater Lincoln Board meeting would take place on November 5, 2014.

For the Greater Omaha area, Jim Hansen filled in for Heartland Workforce Solutions Board Chair, Wendy Boyer. Mr. Hansen began with reviewing that their area also met all of their negotiated standards for their Common Measures. Mr. Hansen also discussed the Annie E. Casey Foundation recipient, working on a common intake data system with on and off-site service partners, and continuing to work on the mission, values, and goals of the organization. It was also mentioned that they are implementing steps to help prepare for WIOA as all of the areas are doing.

Agenda Item #6 – Old Business

a) Performance Committee Report

i. PY2013 Annual Report

The Chair invited Becky Stitt, Chair of the Performance Committee, forward to review the PY2013 Annual Report. Ms. Stitt informed the Board that one of the key responsibilities of the Performance Committee is preparing the WIA Annual Report for submission to the United States Secretary of Labor. The Annual Report provides a wealth of information regarding the programs and activities under the WIA program in Nebraska. She emphasized that the presented report was only a draft for the Board to review. Ms. Stitt informed the Board that a finalized copy would be sent to members electronically in mid-November.

ii. PY2013 Final Performance

The Final Performance numbers were also presented by Ms. Becky Stitt. She discussed how reviewing the State and Local performance was another responsibility of the Performance Committee. Ms. Stitt reviewed how for Program Year 2013, the State exceeded its negotiated standard of performance in 7 of the 9 Common Performance Measures, and was very close to reaching the negotiated standard in the other two.

b) Business and/or Partner Updates

Chair Moravec then invited the members to discuss what was happening in their areas. The business and/or partners gave a brief snapshot of conditions in their industry, business or agency and any new initiatives or trends.

Agenda Item #7 – Upcoming Meetings

The Chair reminded the Board of the upcoming Executive Committee meeting on December 12, 2014.

Agenda Item #8 – Adjournment

It was moved by Bud Fleischer to adjourn. Brian Deakin seconded the motion. No discussion ensued. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 12:10.

11/04/2014

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