

Nebraska Workforce Development Board
Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2024, 9a – 12p
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center
1800 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68503

Agenda item 1. Call to Order

Chair Mark Moravec called to order the meeting of the Nebraska Workforce Development Board (the Board) on March 15, 2024 at approximately 9a at the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center, 1800 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68503.

Agenda item 2. Roll Call

Chair Moravec asked Nicole Schaefer to call role for purposes of establishing quorum.¹ Nicole called roll and advised Chair Moravec that quorum was established (18 of 25 Governor-appointed voting members attending).

Governor-appointed voting members
attending

1. John Albin
2. Steve Corsi
3. Brian Deakin
4. Lindy Foley
5. Michael Geary
6. Jim Hansen
7. James Hanson, Jr.
8. Tate Lauer
9. Susan Martin
10. Mark Moravec, Board Chair
11. Kyle Nixon
12. Don Nordell
13. Bradley Schroeder, Board Vice Chair
14. Jennifer Sedlacek
15. Jim Smith
16. Becky Stitt
17. Paul Turman
18. Lisa Wilson

Governor-appointed voting members
absent

1. Kyle Arganbright
2. Elizabeth Babcock
3. KC Belitz
4. Gary Dixon, Jr.
5. Cindy Johnson
6. Terri Ridder
7. Courtney Wittstruck

¹ Section 4.7 of the [Board's bylaws](#) defines quorum as a majority of Governor-appointed voting members.

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

1. Derek Ahrens, State Monitoring Unit Supervisor, Division of Reemployment Services
2. Erick Carrillo, Interim Administrator, Division of Reemployment Services
3. Dawn Carrillo, Administrator, Division of Reemployment Services
4. Joel Green, Attorney III, General Counsel Division
5. John O'Keefe, Director, Division of Reemployment Services
6. Nicole Schaefer, Administrative Programs Officer, Department of Labor

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 December 8, 2023 meeting of the Board. The draft minutes from the December meeting were emailed to Board Members on March 13, 2024. 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.

Bradley Schroeder motioned to approve the December minutes as provided and James Hanson, Jr. seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion by roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda item 5. Old Business

There was no old business before the Board for consideration.

Agenda item 6. New Business

a. Nebraska Teacher Shortage

Board Member Paul Turman presented information on the teacher shortage in Nebraska. Paul's presentation materials were provided in Board Member meeting packets as Handout 2.

b. Nebraska Department of Education – Registered Apprenticeship program for teachers

Lane Carr, Administrator with the Office of Policy and Strategic Initiatives at the Nebraska Department of Education, presented information on the new Registered Apprenticeship program sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Education. Lane's information was presented verbally.

c. Workforce Development Excellence Award program – Discontinuation recommendation

Dawn Carrillo, Administrator with the Nebraska Department of Labor Reemployment Services Division, presented a recommendation to the Board concerning discontinuation of the Workforce

Development Excellence Award program, citing three reasons supporting the Division's recommendation: waning interest, reduced funding, and reduced staffing resources.

1. There was interest in the program when it was first launched in 2019, which is now declining based on diminishing nomination rates.
2. Funding resources have decreased since July 1, 2022 due to a reduction in Federal WIOA Title I funding, which impacts the Reemployment Services Division and the Board's administrative support team.
3. Because of the reduction in Federal funding, resources for staffing have also decreased which also affects the Division and the Board's administrative support team.

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

Jim Hansen motioned to approve the recommendation and James Hanson, Jr. seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion by roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

d. Policy and Oversight Subcommittee

James Hanson, Jr., Board Member and Chair of the Policy and Oversight Subcommittee, provided Subcommittee updates.

1. Nebraska's Annual statewide performance report for Program Year 2022
 - a. A link to the [report](#) was sent to Board Members by email on March 13, 2024
2. Status of Nebraska's proposed Combined State Plan for Program Years 2024 through 2027
 - a. The proposed plan was submitted on March 4, 2024 for review and approval by the United States Departments of Education and Labor.
 - b. The Departments have 90 days from that date to approve the proposed plan.
3. Subcommittee Career Pathways Workgroup activities
 - a. James presented on behalf of Josh Hanson, Career Pathways Workgroup Lead, as Josh wasn't available to present.
 - i. The Workgroup is currently working on:
 1. career pathways mapping, and
 2. mapping of career pathways barriers experienced by workers and employers.
 - ii. The Workgroup will meet again in April.

Jody Easter, Subcommittee Alignment Workgroup Lead, provided updates on the Workgroup's activities.

1. The Workgroup's common intake system initiative is progressing.
 - a. A system release form and process for uploading "common intake" forms to Share File have been developed.
 - b. A vetting process for agency representatives who will have access to the common intake Share File site has yet to be established.
 - c. The Workgroup is currently discussing training for agency representatives who will be granted access to the system, to ensure consistent use of the system by vetted representatives.
2. As of November 2023, the statewide training sessions were completed for one-stop delivery system partners with all WIOA required one-stop partner programs. Statewide training sessions are continuing during 2024. Training sessions with other programs and agencies that provide relevant workforce development services in Nebraska have been and will be held.
 - a. January 2024: [SNAP Next Step and Employment & Training](#) presented

- b. February 2024: [Community College Gap Assistance Program](#) presented
- c. March 2024: [Legal Aid of Nebraska](#) will present

e. [Strategy and Innovation Subcommittee](#)

Michael Geary, Board Member and Chair of the Strategy and Innovation Subcommittee, provided Subcommittee updates.

1. The Subcommittee's [Workforce Initiatives](#) page was launched after the Board's December meeting.
 - a. A link to the page was sent to Board Members by email on March 13, 2024.
 - b. Board Members were also provided with an image of that page in Board Member meeting packets as Handout 3.
2. Any business or organization can go to that page and click the *Submit a Workforce Event* button to submit an event for review, approval, and publication on the page.
 - a. An image of the submission form was provided in Board Member meeting packets as Handout 4.
3. The Subcommittee is still looking into adding search functions and sorting options for the page.
4. Since launch of the page, several initiatives were published and have since dropped off based on submitted end dates for the initiatives.
5. All Board Members were asked to promote the availability of the page a resource to increase awareness of workforce initiatives in Nebraska, which can be done in at least 2 ways by sharing:
 - a. the link to the page
 - b. in person during meetings or other events

[Agenda item 7. 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 8. Next meeting date, time, and location](#)

Chair Moravec reminded the Members of the Board that the next meeting of the Board is scheduled for June 14, 2024 from 9a to 12p and will be held at the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center, 1800 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68503. If the date, time or location of the meeting changes, Chair Moravec advised Board Members that they will be notified by email.

[Agenda item 9. Public comment](#)

Chair Moravec opened the floor for public comment. Public comments were heard from Dylan Wren, Administrator with the Greater Lincoln Workforce Development Area, commented on Greater Lincoln's current activities. No other public comments were made.

[Agenda item 10. Adjournment](#)

Members of the Board in attendance voted unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn the meeting. Chair Moravec adjourned at approximately 11:15a.