

**Nebraska Workforce Investment Board  
Performance Committee Meeting Minutes**

Nebraska Department of Labor  
550 S. 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln NE  
January 14, 2015  
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (CST)

**Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order**

The meeting of the Nebraska Workforce Investment Board (NWIB) Performance Committee was called to order on January 14, 2015 at approximately 9:33 a.m. by Ms. Becky Stitt, Chair.

**Agenda Item #2 – Roll Call**

*NWIB members present (9):*

<b>John Albin</b>	Randy Kissinger*	<b>Becky Stitt*</b>
<b>Cheryl Anderson</b>	Cherisa Price-Wells	<b>Carol Swigart</b>
<b>Vanessa Brown*</b>	<b>Terri Ridder*</b>	Thomas Warren

*NWIB members absent (3):*

<b>Matt Blomstedt</b>	<b>Dacia Kruse</b>	<b>Clyde Tyndall</b>
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\*Indicates members who attended via conference call

**Bold** indicates voting members of the Committee

**Let the record reflect that Terri Ridder entered the meeting at 9:41 am.**

*Other Guests in Attendance (12):*

Dan Birdsall.....	Nebraska Department of Labor – Employment & Training
Steve Bray.....	Nebraska Department of Labor – Finance
Shirley Carlson*.....	Heartland Workforce Solutions
Seth Fager.....	Nebraska Department of Labor – Employment & Training Administrator
Amanda Felton.....	Nebraska Department of Labor – Employment & Training
Mary Findlay.....	Nebraska Department of Labor – Labor Market Information
Vicki Leech.....	City of Lincoln – Urban Development
M.L. Martin.....	Coyote Lake Ranch, Inc.
Joan Modrell.....	Nebraska Department of Labor – Employment & Training Director
Jan Norlander-Jensen.....	City of Lincoln – Urban Development
Stan Odenthal.....	Nebraska Department of Labor – Employment & Training
Kim Schreiner.....	Nebraska Department of Labor – Finance

**Agenda Item #3 –Approval of Minutes**

Chair Stitt entertained a motion regarding the meeting minutes from October 31, 2014. Carol Swigart moved to approve the October 31, 2014 minutes as presented; Cheryl Anderson seconded. No discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Chair reminded the members 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](http://www.dol.nebraska.gov) under the heading “Workforce Investment Act.”

#### **Agenda Item #4 – Distribution Weights for Dislocated Worker Funds**

Chair Stitt invited Stan Odenthal forward to review the distribution criteria for the Committee. Mr. Odenthal reviewed for the Committee process that led to the review of the weights. He discussed how for Dislocated Worker (DLW) allocations, the weights are prescribed by the Federal Government, but the percentage attributed to each weight is up to each State. At the last Performance Committee meeting, the members had requested additional information regarding the weights and their distribution.

Mr. Odenthal continued by discussing with the Committee the results of the various questions from the previous meeting. He began with reviewing the ways in which the other States divided their DLW weight percentages. Some of the varying distributions included dividing all weights evenly, combining weights together, removing weights, or adding additional weights to their formulas. It was encouraged to consider how well the weights will reflect the current workforce.

Discussion continued with a review of the average weights for DLW formula criteria nationwide. The issue of declining industries was raised. Mr. Odenthal expressed how this weight criteria was at a zero for Greater Lincoln and that projections for this current program year indicate that both Greater Lincoln and Greater Omaha may be in danger of receiving zeros in this category in the last program year. Mary Findlay, a Labor Market Industry Research Analyst with the Nebraska Department of Labor, informed the Committee that this statistic is measured statewide. Ms. Findlay related that due to our rising economy, that there were few declining industries.

M.L. Martin, Chair of the Greater Nebraska Board, brought up the decline in the agricultural machinery industry in recent months. She indicated that since the reports run a year behind that the current statistics were not reflective of the current workforce.

Terri Ridder asked if any of the weights took into account the underemployed. It was agreed that this is an important factor, but until we could find a way to collect reliable data on the subject, it would not be a dependable criteria.

Thomas Warren inquired into if Nebraska uses the formulas for comparable states with similar statistics and regions as our State. Ms. Modrell confirmed that we do look towards the other surrounding States for information to that could be relevant. She also commented that while we have a large amount of the State that is geographically rural, the population is very much in the metropolitan areas. With that in mind, while we can look to other states, it is difficult to find one that is in a similar situation as us.

As the members continued to review the data provided by Mr. Odenthal, Ms. Cherisa Price-Wells questioned if minimizing the number of weights would affect the number of Dislocated Workers who could be assisted. Ms. Modrell followed by stating that the weight percentages were just to allocate funds to the local areas and that they would not alter the definition of who would qualify as a DLW.

As the meeting progressed, the topic of local area DLW funds being used for DLW participants was raised. Mr. Odenthal reviewed the information with the Committee. The statistics showed that the

Greater Lincoln area was the area with the highest average DLW funds used on Dislocated Workers. Greater Nebraska and Greater Omaha both showed a more common history of fund transfers from DLW to Adult programs.

Mr. Odenthal brought to the Committee's attention the addition of the Hold Harmless clause that would come into effect under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). This clause would ensure that each Local Area received no less than 90% of their previous two year average. This would prevent any area from having a dramatic shift in the amount of their funding from one year to the other.

**Let the record reflect that Cheryl Anderson left the meeting at 10:47 a.m.**

Lengthy discussion continued on the various factors regarding the distribution of DLW weights. Seth Fager requested that information be provided at the next meeting regarding the cost per participant for each Local Area. After much debate, Terri Ridder motioned to recommend to the Nebraska Workforce Investment Board, the Option 2 that was presented to the Performance Committee. Carol Swigart seconded the motion. No discussion ensued.

Roll Call vote follows:

**FOR: (4)**

Vanessa Brown  
Terri Ridder

Becky Stitt  
Carol Swigart

**AGAINST: (0)**

**ABSTAINING: (1)**

John Albin

**ABSENT: (4)**

Cheryl Anderson  
Matt Blomstedt

Dacia Kruse  
Clyde Tyndall

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Agenda Item #5 – Upcoming Meetings**

The Chair reminded the Committee to put the date of February 18, 2015 on their calendars for the next Performance Committee Meeting.

**Agenda Item #6 – Adjournment**

It was moved by Carol Swigart to adjourn. Terri Ridder seconded the motion. No discussion ensued. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

01/28/2015  
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