**Vermont State Workforce Development Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**February 10, 2022**

**9:00 am – 11:00 am**

**Virtual**

**Board/Committee members in attendance:** Adam Grinold, Kiersten Bourgeois, Patrick Leduc, Chris Loso, Joyce Judy, Shawn Rouleau, Rebecca Kapsalis, Margaret Pinello-White, Heather Bouchey, David Lynn, Tristan Toleno, Sophie Zdatny, Michael Harrington, Jill Olson, Steven Dellinger-Pate, Lindsay Kurrle, Scott Giles, Frank Cioffi, Gregory Maguire, Zach Hatch, Tom Longstreth, Ellen Kahler, Governor Phil Scott

**Guests in attendance:** Victoria Biondolillo, Mary Anne Sheahan, Karla Coleman, Nathan Piper, Phyllis Ershowsky, Ellen Emery, Kendal Smith, Laurel Butler, Denise Girard, Tiffany Walker, Len Schmidt, Maureen Hebert, Rick Bugbee, Bobbi Jo Carter, Rob Bahny, Abby Rhim, Beth Demers, Tamira Martel, Melissa Bocash, Lisa Culbertson, Melany Letourneau, Mary Ellen Giglio, Robert Stubbins, Derek Williams, Jay Nichols, Brian Kravitz, Marita Martin, Amanda Chase, Monika Madaras, Anna Telensky, David Snedeker, Amanda Wheeler, Erika Hoffman-Kiess, John Young, Dave Culver, Darcy Brouillette, Gillian Nanton, Patricia Giavara, Hillary Bailey, Kelly Broker-Campbell, Richard Tulikangas, Hal Cohen, Erin Oalican, Sarah Buxton, Alison Lamagna, Elizabeth Frascoia, William Lucci, Mathew Barewicz, Thomas Cheney, Liz Scharf, Kim Bushey, Ted Fisher, Cameron Wood, Carla Wuthrich, Linda Schadler, Megan Brunovsky, Ann Nygard, Deborah Wright, Jesse Brooks, Kelly Broker-Campbell

Chair Adam Grinold called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

**Old Business**

Chair Adam Grinold filed a motion to approve the December 10, 2021 minutes and hearing no corrections, moved to accept the minutes as written. Motion was unanimously approved. He gave brief remarks regarding COVID-19 and the pandemic’s impact on Vermont’s workforce. He highlighted the great resignation, our demographics “cliff” and the pandemic’s global impact. On a positive note, he highlighted the new leadership of the Board and our collective opportunity to capitalize on opportunities as we emerge from the pandemic.

**New Business**

Executive Director Victoria Biondolillo echoed Adam Grinold’s remarks and her optimism about the future and our ability to move forward through the workforce crisis. She then shared various housekeeping issues including member paperwork, an update on the MOU/IFA and the progress of the Federally required State Plan. She then shared there will be an emergency board meeting on February 18, 2022 to vote on the MOU/IFA. She stressed that the Board is focusing on accountability and measurement with these two documents. She also shared the Board’s staff engagement throughout the state through County tours and welcomed suggestions of potential business members to meet. She also highlighted the Board’s growing social media presence. She then shared the new structure of the Board, including sector-based committees that will be meeting monthly to target specific areas that need attention in order to create clear recruitment plans and take targeted measures in addressing unique issues in each individual sector. She asked that if anyone has any interest in joining a committee, please follow up the Board’s administrative staff. Tori ended by acknowledging the Board’s dormancy in the last two years but stressed that the Board is re-energized and focused on making the system most effective for all Vermonters.

**Kendal Smith and Representative Toleno**

Kendal and Rep. Toleno went through the various workforce development bills currently in the works in the legislature. They echoed the sentiments that folks are very focused on helping move the needle on the workforce crisis. They touched on key themes and answered questions regarding CTE; trades and training; healthcare; career coaching; skills enhancement, and returnships; childcare; higher education.

**Pipelines & Pathways**

All presentations can be found here

Tiffany Walker of CCV spoke on industry recognized credentials that can be earned at CCV. She also discussed registered apprenticeships that are employer driven, including partnerships with CVMC, Darn Tough and CVS. She then expanded on CCV’s funding, including usage of CCV’s Coronavirus Relief Funds.

Tom Cheney and Amanda Chase of Advance Vermont spoke on their goal to advance the civic and economic vitality of Vermont. They unveiled MyFutureVT, an accessible and clear website that aims to serve as a free, one-stop resource for job seekers, prospective students and navigators. The site is built for Vermonters but especially disadvantaged populations. Lastly, they asked for input from attendees regarding evolving.

Mary Anne Sheahan of Vermont Talent Pipeline Management spoke on her organization’s aim to align training to industry careers or a talent supply chain. She highlighted their focus on education partners, but desire to push engagement with regional communities and their specific industries.

**Governor Scott’s Remarks**

Governor Scott then highlighted priorities from his 2022 Budget Address. He stressed the need to train our current workforce, but more importantly, relocate new Vermonters. He noted how our workforce shortage is intertwined with other state issues including childcare, housing, healthcare and affordability. He asked attendees to reach out to the Legislature to voice support. He ended his remarks by reminding attendees that this is a unique moment in time with unprecedented funding that enables us to make lasting change for all Vermonters.

Executive Director Victoria Biondolillo gave closing remarks and reminded participants that we will distribute presentation materials covered in this meeting.

Chair Adam Grinold then made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:04 am. Hearing no objections, the motion was approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:04 am.

Respectfully submitted by Abby Rhim

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Abby Rhim, Executive Assistant, Vermont State Workforce Development Board