

Vermont State Workforce Development Board
Meeting Agenda
Thursday, December 5, 2019
9:00 am – 11:00 am

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| 9:00 am | Call to Order |
| 9:05 am | Old Business: Approve October 2019 Meeting Minutes |
| 9:10 am | WIOA State Plan Vision, Goals, and Strategies: WIOA Core Partners Update |
| 10:00 am | Perkins V State Plan: Agency of Education Presentation |
| 11:00 am | Adjourn |

Vermont State Workforce Development Board
Full Board Minutes
Thursday, December 5, 2019
9:00 am – 11:00 am

Board members in attendance by phone: Janette Bombardier, Diane Dalmasse (proxy: Rick Tulikangas), Pat Elmer, Sec. Dan French (proxy: Jay Ramsey), Gerry Ghazi (proxy: Steve Lutton), Scott Giles (proxy: Patrick Leduc), Adam Grinold, Comm. Michael Harrington, Melissa Hersh, Joyce Judy (proxy: Tiffany Keune), Ellen Kahler, Tom Longstreth, Chris Loso, Dale Miller (proxy: Patty Shirk), Jeb Spaulding, Comm. Mike Touchette (proxy: Kim Bushey), Dave Wheel, Jeff Wimette
Guests in attendance by phone: Sarah Buxton, Dustin Degree, Jen Oldham, Sophia Yager

Chair Adam Grinold called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

Update on Regional Workforce Summits:

Chair indicated that the summits have now concluded and thanked Board members for their participation. In the coming weeks, Board and Department of Labor staff, the Regional Development Corporations (RDCs) and the summit facilitators will discuss the drafting and public rollout of the report. Board members will receive updates as necessary.

Old Business:

Chair asked for a motion to approve October meeting minutes but noted the absence of a quorum. Chair will seek a motion for approval of the October meeting minutes at the next Board meeting.

WIOA State Plan Update:

Chair thanked Ellen Kahler and the WIOA State Plan Work Group for their work over the past several months to develop and recommend draft vision and goals for the plan. Chair noted the successful engagement of all members in the drafting exercises at the October Board meeting.

Chair invited Sarah Buxton, Director of Workforce Development at the Department of Labor, to give an update on the status of the vision and goals since the recommendations were submitted to the WIOA Core Partners in November.

Ms. Buxton noted that the Core Partners are still working toward a March 31 deadline and determining the required process for each of the four titles that must occur before the full plan is compiled. The Core Partners met in November to review the recommended vision and goals and check for alignment with the Governor's vision and the Core Partners' programmatic visions and trajectories. In the coming weeks, the Core Partners will be conducting a regulatory scan to clarify terms in the recommended goals such as "underrepresented populations" and "financial independence." Each Core Partner will also examine their existing performance metrics crosswalk with recommended metrics. The Core Partners will also discuss whether the plan's strategies and activities will fall under the goals section or the programmatic sections. Finally, the Core Partners are working to complete two MOUs in the coming months to expand data sharing on co-enrollment and credential attainment and measurable skills gain that will be noted in the State Plan.

Ms. Buxton outlined key theme identified by Core Partners upon review of the recommended vision and goals:

1. Importance of a statewide system that serves both jobseekers and employers in all regions
2. Maintain support for Career Pathways
3. Access and integration of work-based learning
4. Promote lifelong learning and increase the youth labor force participation rate
5. Demand-driven system that is nimble and flexible in response to employer needs

Ms. Buxton also noted additional priorities Core Partners may incorporate in the programmatic and/or goals sections:

1. Address gaps in transportation
2. Additional support for mature workers
3. Support co-enrollment in programs and services for the purposes of performance reporting and for speedier, more efficient customer service and use of resources
4. Expanding work experience opportunities to build bridges between students, jobseekers, and employers

Pat Elmer noted that gaps in internet connectivity must also be addressed in addition to transportation gaps. Ellen Kahler noted that most of the additional priorities could be incorporated into objectives/sub goals, but that transportation, connectivity, and other structural barriers to employment could be incorporated into an additional, stand alone goal. Ms. Kahler also inquired as to whether WIOA funds can be used to mitigate barriers such as transportation. Ms. Buxton explained that WIOA funds are more flexible in allowable uses than previous legislation and can help participants overcome barriers like transportation. Jen Oldham also noted the importance of helping employers understand and accommodate employee needs to attract and retain their labor pool.

Perkins V Plan Presentation:

Jay Ramsey, Student Pathways Assistant Division Director & State Director of Career Technical Education at the Agency of Education, presented information on the upcoming Perkins V State Plan. The full presentation is available at:

<https://vwdb.vermont.gov/sites/vwdb/files/Perkins%20V%20Presentation%2012.5.19.pdf>

The meeting adjourned at 10:40.

Respectfully Submitted by Dustin Degree.

Dustin Degree, Executive Director, Vermont State Workforce Development Board