

**Vermont State Workforce Development Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date/Location:** Thursday, February 16, 2023, 9:00 – 11:00 am, virtually via Microsoft Teams

**Video Record of the Meeting:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fBTi4JA3QMw>

**Members Present:** Corey Mathieu, Michael Posternak, Chris Loso, Adam Grinold, Steven Dellinger-Pate, David Lynn, Pat Elmer, Tom Longstreth, Kiersten Bourgeois, Kumulia (Kase) Long, Kelly Putnam, Lindsay Kurrle, Frank Cioffi, Joan Goldstein, Jill Olson, Gregory Maguire, Scott Farr, Brian Carpenter, Tristan Toleno, Margaret Pinello-White, Ellen Kahler, Rebecca Kapsalis, Tom Longstreth, Tim Smith, Janette Bombardier, Scott Giles, Kevin Chu

**Proxys Present:** Nathan Piper, Heather Bouchey, Dustin Degree, Tiffany Walker, Matt Mckenney

**Guests in Attendance:** Len Schmidt, Judy Emerson, Alex Bunten, Patrick Leduc, Michael Keogh, Lisa Culbertson, Ross Farnsworth, Robin Castle, Rob Stubbins, Mary Ellen Giglio, Rick Bugbee, Maureen Hebert, Patricia Moulton, Tom Cheney, John Burnham, Missy Mackin, Anna Telensky, Glenn McRae, Mathew Barewicz, Brian Kravitz, Jayshree Bhat, Ann Nygard, Melany Letourneau, Jerry Baake, Deborah Wright, Brenda Soto, William Lucci, Patricia Stovall, Richard Tulikangas, Jason Finley, David Justice, John Young, Tony Risitano, Sean Marie Oller, Debra Glerum, Darcy Brouillette, Hazel Brewster, Kendal Smith

**Minutes By:** Abigail Rhim

Old Business:

* 9:02 am meeting called to order
* Approval of Minutes
  + Chair asked for a motion to approve October 2022 meeting minutes. Motion moved by Chris Loso, seconded by Secretary Kurrle, approved unanimously by voice vote.
* Chair Remarks
  + Chair Grinold highlighted the Board’s ongoing partnership with the National Governors Association regarding best practices. He then highlighted the Board’s ongoing shift from a compliance body to strategic planning in order to fully active the potential power of the Board.
* Special Oversight Committee on Workforce Expansion and Development Update
  + Chair Grinold updated the Board on the Special Oversight Committee on Workforce Expansion and Development, which was created during the last legislative session and charged with identifying best practices in workforce systems by looking at other states like Vermont. The vendor selected to complete this work is Public Consulting Group. The committee will meet with the vendor for the first time tomorrow (Friday, February 17th, 2023). The link to the group’s website can be found [here](https://aoa.vermont.gov/content/special-oversight-committee-workforce-expansion-and-development).
* Governor Scott’s Workforce Policy Update
  + Executive Director Biondolillo gave an in-depth overview of the Governor’s budget initiatives related to workforce, including investing in Vermont's existing workforce, retaining more high school and college graduates, recruiting more working families to the state and continuous monitoring and improvement of Vermont's workforce system. She highlighted that she sends out bi-weekly legislative updates and hosts weekly office hours on Fridays from 10-11 am via Microsoft Teams where any questions regarding legislative updates can be discussed. The link can be found here: <https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ODU0MWYxMWYtYjhmZi00MTMwLWI4MjEtNzIxNDY1Y2E0NmY1%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2220b4933b-baad-433c-9c02-70edcc7559c6%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%226de2ea51-24e6-45aa-819a-f3a32b1b5037%22%7d>
  + The full presentation can be found [here](https://vwdb.vermont.gov/sites/vwdb/files/2.16.23%20Policy%20Update%20and%20Strategic%20Plan.pdf).

New Business:

* State Workforce Development Board’s Strategic Plan
  + Deputy Director Rhim gave a brief overview of the ongoing timeline of the strategic plan, starting back in May of 2022. She ended by noting that the goal is to vote on the full plan, in person, in May of 2023.
  + Executive Director Biondolillo then reviewed each of the priority areas, including the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), workforce system alignment, workforce supports, workforce education and training and relocation, recruitment and retention. The full document, outlining each of the priority areas, can be found [here](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fvwdb.vermont.gov%2Fsites%2Fvwdb%2Ffiles%2FStrategies%2520and%2520Benchmarks_2.3.23%2520DRAFT.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK).
* Group Review/Next Steps
  + Janette Bombardier highlighted the need to include strategies aimed at supporting young men.
  + Tom Longstreth suggested adding the priority of disengaged workers, potentially under the relocation, recruitment and retention priority area. It was then discussed and agreed upon by the group that in order to remain flexible and not too granular, the priority itself could be renamed to “increase the size and quality of labor force participation” with strategies that point towards specific populations, like disengaged workers, mature workers, etc.
  + Chair Grinold asked for a motion to approve the Board’s strategic plan strategies and benchmarks document shared and discussed today. Motion made by Commissioner Goldstein, seconded by Michael Posternak, approved unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.

Respectfully submitted by Abigail Rhim.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Abigail Rhim, Deputy Director, Vermont State Workforce Development Board