



**Missouri Workforce Development Board**  
January 29, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
**Conference Call Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Commissioner Dan Atwill, Garland Barton (Proxy), Chair Catherine Bass Black, Greta Bax, Cara Canon, Spencer Clark, Dr. Don Cook, Director Rob Dixon, Dr. John Gaal, Stephanie Garret, Kathy Lambert, Commissioner Mulligan, Todd Spencer, LeRoy Stromberg (Proxy), Joshua Tennison, Vice Chair Len Toenjes, Commissioner Margie Vandeven

**Guest Attendees:** Sherri Baumeister, Michael Brewer, Jeanna Caldwell, Julie Carter, Lisa Elrod, Rebecca Fletcher, Karla Houchins, Gerren McHam, Michael Pantleo, Chris Sutherland, Melissa Woltkamp, Yvonne Wright

**MOWDB Staff:** Mark Bauer, Director Mardy Leathers, Allyssa Miget

**Call to Order and Welcome:** Chair Bass Black called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and welcomed everyone.

**Roll Call:** Allyssa Miget conducted roll call and declared a quorum.

**Approval of November 13, 2019 minutes:** With no corrections or edits requested Chair Catherine Bass Black moved to accept the minutes and Vice Chair Len Toenjes seconds. The minutes were approved.

**Planning Committee Discussion:** Vice Chair Toenjes thanked the WIOA Partners and staff for time and effort in writing the WIOA State Plan. The Planning Committee participated in a series of calls to review the various iterations of the WIOA State Plan. The most recent call on January 28, 2020 finalized the document in preparation for the full board meeting on January 29, 2020. Since the November 13<sup>th</sup> State Board Meeting, the WIOA State plan opened for public comment and minor edits to the plan. One public comment was received during the November 22<sup>nd</sup>-December 23<sup>rd</sup> public comment period and was inserted into the plan. The comment focused on youth disability in sheltered workshops to receive job center services. Vocational Rehabilitation and Rehab Services for the Blind responded to the public comment. An additional response was received after the 30 day public comment period and was similar to the previous comment. The Planning Committee chose not to accept the comment outside of the public comment period.

The Planning Committee encouraged staff and WIOA Partners to engage the State Workforce Board more regularly on the WIOA State Plan, as compared to every two to four years.

Vice Chair Toenjes expressed his gratitude to the WIOA Partners working together to create a cooperative experience.

The Governor is required to establish a designee for the WIOA State Plan, in which, Yvonne Wright was selected to work with the WIOA Partners to enter the plan into the portal.

Chair Bass Black encouraged staff and WIOA Partners to engage with the board once the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) has suggested edits or comments.

**WIOA State Plan Discussion & Approval:** Chair Catherine Bass Black motioned for the WIOA State Plan to be presented to the Governor for his approval and Commissioner Zora Mulligan seconds. The motion passed.

**Office of Workforce Development Update:** Director Mardy Leathers thanked all of the partners across the state agencies.

#### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The Department and sub-agencies across the State of Missouri released strategic priorities for the next calendar year. The Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD) is focused on five things: raise awareness of options, help more Missourians get on a path, increase quality attainment of skills and education, make DHEWD the best place to work, and drive performance and outcomes.

DHEWD has several initiatives to help achieve broader goals including: increasing awareness of resources, align postsecondary education with workforce needs, focus on investing in DHEWD staff, and focusing on the health of the public workforce system. Additionally, the Office of Workforce Development (OWD) has several initiatives including the transformation to innovate job centers and serving Missourians, develop a strategy to work with WIOA Partners, and refocus and restructure the State Workforce Board. OWD will also be launching the Job Centers for the Future initiative to examine how the public workforce system is serving Missourians and how to improve this process.

Dr. Don Cook requested additional information on what a job center provides and how to better connect students exiting high school to workforce development and/or higher education. Lisa Elrod followed up with Dr. Don Cook accordingly.

Commission Mulligan recognized this challenge and said DHEWD's Communication and Outreach Office will be working on publicizing job center services over the next year.

Chair Catherine Bass Black requested the board to engage with DHEWD and OWD's strategic initiatives.

## SWD ANNUAL REPORT

Each year OWD develops a state workforce development board report. This report, by statute, requires a copy to be delivered to the Governor, Speaker of the House, and President Pro Tem in the Senate.

## SENATE CONFIRMATION HEARINGS

Excited to welcome Chair Catherine Bass Black, Greta Bax, Stephanie Garrett, Senator Mike Cierpiot and Commissioner Margie Vandeven. The new members did a great job going completing the Senate Confirmation process.

## OAWBL

During the November meeting it was announced the Governor created an Office of Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning (OAWBL). Missouri will join Indiana, Alabama and others who also have an Apprenticeship Office. OAWBL brings together the state agencies who engage in apprenticeship and work-based learning activity to align and remove duplication. OAWBL is charged with several duties including: partner with our labor management organizations, as the state and organizations work together toward the goal of 25,000 Active Apprentices by 2025. For the March meeting a business and industry council should be identified to present to the State Workforce Board. It is important that OAWBL is guided by employer driven workforce goals, and to collaborate on statewide grants to push performance and focus.

## NAWB CLEO SUMMIT

In September, OWD hosted the first Chief Local Elected Official (CLEO) Summit to discuss regulatory compliance under WIOA. It is important for OWD to work with the local boards and stakeholders to ensure the accountability in accepting the workforce funds. Director Leathers meets with the CLEOs monthly to build a relationship and resolve any issues. OWD has been asked to present at the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) in March as the CLEO Summit is a leading best practice. We discuss at length at the annual board meeting at the GO conference.

## PERFORMANCE

OWD has made some progress on Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth performance numbers. A year ago, the job centers reported serving 60% of Missourians with jobs. Adult median earnings improved from \$4,837.50 quarterly to \$6,040.09 quarterly. Additionally, adult credential attainment improved from 19.7% to 71.4%. Dislocated Workers' performance is improving in both median earnings and credential attainment. Youth's performance continues to struggle, however OWD is working with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to obtain additional data.

## REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

OWD continues to engage with the Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDB) quarterly to implement new policies and work together to provide access to resources, training, and ensuring Missourians are receiving services. OWD will be issuing quarterly report cards for each region and one report card for OWD. Regulatory compliance is the number one priority of OWD. OWD has been working with the Office of Administration Purchasing to outsource fiscal monitoring to provide thorough monitoring and training.

Chair Catherine Bass Black commented on how impressed with the work occurring under Director Mardy Leathers.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Gerren McHam expressed his gratitude to present to the State Workforce Development Board. The General Assembly began on January 8, 2020 for the 100<sup>th</sup> General Assembly with more than 1,400 bills filed. DHEWD is monitoring 68 bills. DHEWD is tracking legislation that affect the department and other stakeholders. Governor Parson's budget added \$4 million for Fast Track, \$850,000 for Workkeys testing and additional MoExcels dollars.

DHEWD will be monitoring firearms on campus legislation, tuition for non-citizens, the department's budget, and any other legislation that will impact the department or it's stakeholders.

Governor's proposed legislation is SB830/HB2174 seeks to ensure students are prepared for post-secondary life and equip schools with the tools to succeed including: individual career academic plans, FASFA completion requirement, and WIOA application for aid.

Other workforce legislation includes: HB1587 which authorizes tax credit that provide employment, employment services and housing to homeless persons; HB1659 establishes the "Missouri Urban Rural Renewal Workforce Act"; HB1688/SB877 creates the "Expanded Workforce Access Act of 2020"; and HB 2038/SB839 establishes the "Workforce Diploma Program"

Chair Catherine Bass Black expressed her gratitude for the legislative update and looks forward to the budget update in March.

**Questions, Comments & Closing Remarks:** Chair Catherine Bass Black stated how meaningful this call was with so much accomplished. Chair Catherine Bass Black encouraged the board members to come to the meeting on March 4, 2020 in Jefferson City. Chair Catherine Bass Black moved for adjournment and Dr. John Gaal seconds. Meeting ended at 10:22 A.M.