



**Missouri Workforce Development Board**  
June 23, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.  
**Conference Call Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Greta Bax, Cara Canon, Spencer Clark, Dr. Don Cook, Dr. John Gaal, Commissioner Zora Mulligan, Todd Spencer, LeRoy Stromberg, and Interim Chair Len Toenjes

**Guest Attendees:** Ronda Anderson, Sherri Baumeister, Tina Bonnot, Mike Brewer, Jeanna Caldwell, Becky Dunn, Becky Fletcher, Tim Gaines, Sara Harrison, Jeremy Kintzel, Gerren McHam, Lori Myers, June O'Dell, Mike Pantleo, Donna Parrot, Elizabeth Perkins, Keith Roderick, Diane Simbro, Melissa Woltkamp, and Yvonne Wright

**MOWDB Staff:** Mark Bauer, Dr. Mardy Leathers, and Allyssa Miget

**Call to Order and Welcome:** Interim Chair Len Toenjes called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and welcomed everyone.

**Roll Call:** Allyssa Miget conducted roll call and quorum was not declared.

**COVID-19 Update:** Commissioner Mulligan explained that the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD) will be pursuing the 2020 placemat initiatives, as DHEWD Senior Staff believed strongly all placemat initiatives are still important. DHEWD set goals related to economic recovery to ensure DHEWD partners with appropriate state agencies like Department of Economic Development and SEMA, assist higher education return to school and work stronger, ensuring access to training for Missourians unemployed, and focus on DHEWD becoming stronger and more cohesive.

**OPEN DISCUSSION FROM SWD MEMBERS:** Interim Chair Toenjes led the discussion in stating the Associated General Contractors (AGC) were determined as an essential industry and has continued to work through the pandemic. AGC has engaged with regulatory agencies, MODOT, and private industries to keep the employees safe. Some construction projects were suspended because employees felt uncomfortable. Some of the employers are struggling to get workers back due to the pandemic unemployment assistance.

Todd Spencer expressed how essential truck drivers are because they provide the supplies for the COVID virus and goods to keep the stores stocked. Todd explained the industry does not need more truck drivers at this time and many of the current truck drivers can transition to construction.

LeRoy Stromberg said many jobs were on hold and delay due to feeling uncomfortable at the job sites.

Greta Bax said AFL-CIO has been busy responding the layoff notices and hosting meetings to provide information to the laid off individuals. AFL-CIO is working to connect dislocated workers with job opportunities and continues to meet employers needs. Interim Chair Toenjes asked if there was a particular segment of AFL-CIO's partnership that was hit hard? Greta Bax responded that the hotel and entertainment industry was hit particularly hard.

**Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) Discussion:** Lisa Hostetler, President of TEAM, explained the 14 Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) Directors have worked closely with Dr. Leathers and the senior Office of Workforce Development (OWD) team in developing initiatives and support throughout the COVID-19

pandemic. The staff had to embrace using technology, be flexible and creative in serving the customers. The LWDBs feel strongly in adopting a hybrid model in the future to continue to serve customers. Some of the challenges the LWDBs face is funding. Only 17% of the funds are available until October, which is a typical allocation from the United States Department of Labor (USDOL). Additionally, there have been staffing cuts over the past year, in which staff are responding to several calls from customers. Lisa Hostetler said she has never seen the state so responsive. Interim Chair Toenjes thanked Lisa and the LWDBs for the work they are doing and that it is in their DNA to help people.

**Legislative Update:** Gerren McHam, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, said more than 2,267 bills were filed in the Missouri Legislature, however only half of the bills passed. Only 3 Truly Agreed and Finally Passed bills impact the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD). HB1511 (Lynch) allows any resident or non-resident to apply for an occupational license as long as the resident holds a current license from another state. HB2046 (Grier) allows individuals in certain professions currently excluded from receiving license reciprocity in Missouri to have this restriction removed and establishes the Expanded Workforce Act. And finally the budget bill, which is HB2003. The department's budget is \$1.6 billion, which is a significant increase. The Fast Track Incentive Grant received \$3 million which the funding was split between General Revenue, lottery funds, and federal funds. The MoExcels grant, which supports one time spending for workforce investments in community colleges, was not funded this year due to budget restrictions.

**Office of Workforce Development Update:** Dr. Mardy Leathers offered updates on the following on the Return Strong Initiative. OWD pivoted its efforts on May 18<sup>th</sup> from response to recovery. OWD peaked calls at over 5,000 calls daily and staff were very responsive. OWD continues to serve the public through flip phones and laptops at home. The Return Strong has two phases skill up and get back to work and reopen the job centers safely and responsibly. The public workforce system is struggling in deploying extra resources in the market place due to procurement policies, and addressing federal law challenges. There are over 1,000 Missourians engaged in training, but OWD is considering how to increase services and access to training programs at a wide scale. DHEWDs Communications & Outreach Office has established a landing page to get all workforce partners access to readily available posts and email content to share with employers and job seekers. Interim Chair Toenjes asked how this resource was distributed to workforce partners. Assistant Commissioner Dunn responded that the team has worked with all LWDBs and attended some of the TEAM meetings. Also, Dr. Leathers and Commissioner Mulligan have interviewed with the local media to notify the public of these resources, including the St. Louis Post Dispatch.

Yvonne Wright reported that the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) State Plan was conditionally approved in June. OWD will continue to engage the Board on the progress of implementing this plan.

After this call OWD will host the PY2020 CLEO Update Meeting, SWD members are welcome to join this meeting.

**Closing Remarks:** Interim Chair Toenjes thanked everyone for attending and asked SWD members to attend the PY2020 CLEO Update meeting.