

**STATE OF NEVADA**  
**GOVERNOR’S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

**Friday, November 6, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.**

**TELECONFERENCE ONLY**

**888-363-4735 - Access Code: 9319340**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Present:** Larry Fagerhaug (Chair), Senator Pat Spearman, Aaron West, Ann Silver, David Dreibelbis, Douglas Owen, Hugh Anderson, Jenny Casselman, Jim New, Joseph Riney, Kenneth Evans, Larry Harvey, Lawrence Montrose, Madison Burnett, Melissa Maguire, Nancy Olsen, Robert Cunningham, Shelley Hendren, Steve Fisher, William “Bill” Stanley, Stewart “Mac” Bybee,

**Absent:** Ryan Cordia, Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick

**Also present:** John Thurman (Nevadaworks) Robert Whitney (Deputy Attorney General), Joan Finlay (OWINN), Andres Feijoo (OWINN), Isla Young (OWINN),

**OPENING REMARKS**

**Larry Fagerhaug, Chair**, called the meeting to order and welcomed participants. He explained that under normal circumstances, the Board would not be permitted to conduct business via teleconference. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor issued Emergency Directive 006, Extended 029, section 4 which permits public bodies to conduct proceedings via teleconference.

**1. ROLL CALL - CONFIRMATION OF A QUORUM AND VERIFICATION OF PUBLIC POSTING**

Per direction from Chair Fagerhaug, **Andres Feijoo** took a roll call and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

**2. VERIFICATION OF PUBLIC POSTING**

**Andres Feijoo** affirmed that the agenda and notice of the Governor’s Workforce Development Board meeting on November 06, 2020, was posted pursuant to Nevada's Open Meeting Law, NRS 241.020.

**3. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT(S) NOTICE**

**Chair Fagerhaug** read the notice into the record as follows: “Members of the public are invited to comment at this time; however, no action may be taken on any matters during public comment until the matter itself has been included on an agenda as an item for possible action. At my discretion, in the interest of time, public comments will be limited to three minutes per person.”

**Chair Fagerhaug** invited comments from the public. **There were no comments.**

**4. \*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION - APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR U.S. Department of Labor H1-B Rural Healthcare Grant**

**Isla Young, OWINN** described the grant to the Board. This is a four-year, \$2.5 million grant with the purpose of funding rural communities to build out their healthcare systems and to build up their healthcare pipeline of workers. Ms. Young likened this to the Reimagine Grant, which was approved and supported by the Board.

**John Thurman, Nevadaworks** explained to the Board how this grant began as a look at the application by Nevadaworks, and a determination was made that working with OWINN would carry more weight in regards to the calculation of cost. Mr. Thurman informed the Board that they have partnered with the Nevada Hospital Association, which is bringing all of the rural hospitals and medical facilities in the rural counties in northern Nevada to the program. Mr. Thurman explained that the program targets moving up new graduate nurses with advanced certifications and abilities, and then brings in other individuals behind them. Mr. Thurman discussed how the different community colleges throughout northern Nevada would be instrumental in the delivery of some of the training courses and explained that the work-experience components would then take place in the rural health facilities. Mr. Thurman discussed the background of the program, informing the Board that this looked like a good fit for a proposal that the Nevada Hospital Association had presented earlier in the year but was not able to launch due to lack of funding. The Nevada Hospital Association was very interested in partnering up on this program and has worked very hard on developing a program to deliver services to the rural communities. Mr. Thurman informed the Board that they have partnered with Grant Lab and Cindy Gustus (phonetic), and both Ms. Gustus and the auditors advised that the application would carry more weight if it were to come from the Governor's Workforce Board rather than from just the local Board. Mr. Thurman explained that Nevadaworks would fulfill the oversight monitoring of the fiscal and programmatic components as well as collect data and do the monthly and quarterly reporting into the system.

**Board Member Ann Silver** questioned the emergency nature of the meeting as the Department of Labor had initiated an RFP for the grant some time ago, and the Board had never been made aware of participation by either OWINN or Nevadaworks. Ms. Silver commented that to her understanding, the Nevadaworks Board also had not been made aware of this. Ms. Silver next explained that the GWDB had just approved and received the reimagined grant, which awarded Nevada \$13.8 for workforce development, including healthcare as a focus sector for that funding. Ms. Silver opined that it would be prudent to understand the dissemination of funding in the reimagined grant prior to layering on a second grant serving the same sector as the DOL grant and the reimagined grant are duplicative in that they will address the same sector and the same audience of clients in the rural areas. Ms. Silver informed the Board that she would have preferred an upscaling of the current rural WIOA provider with this additional grant rather than duplicating efforts through the Nevada Hospital Association. Ms. Silver informed the Board that this grant was for 90 participants over four years with an average cost of approximately \$26,000 per participant, whereas the WIOA client cost is approximately \$6,500. Ms. Silver finished by acknowledging the need for health care professionals in the rural areas but expressed concern about layering workforce training and development players and partners where the merits and outcomes of workforce efforts have yet to be established.

**Chair Fagerhaug** asked for Mr. Thurman's response to Ms. Silver's question regarding the urgency of the meeting and asked the Board that additional comments regarding Ms. Silver's concerns.

**John Thurman** responded that the urgency of the meeting coincided with the lateness of the grant announcement in October with a submission due date of November 13th. Mr. Thurman explained that the current plan is to submit the application on Wednesday, November 11th to allow for possible system issues that could potentially cause a delay. Mr. Thurman informed the Board that the grant was discussed at the October 9th Nevadaworks Board meeting, but at that point, an application had not yet been submitted because partnerships had not yet been developed and the right combination of services had not yet been established. Mr. Thurman explained that the lateness in approaching the Governor's Workforce Board was due to the application have just been established the week prior, followed by a discussion call with the chair, at which time it was decided to bring the proposal to the full Board for approval prior to submission.

**John Thurman** next addressed Ms. Silver's concerns regarding layering and explained his position that he looks at this not as duplication, but as additional funding for healthcare development that would address additional clients for a full four years from entry-level nursing to a Bachelor's degree in nursing.

**Isla Young** also addressed Ms. Silver's concerns and explained that two Department of Labor grants were released at the same time, one focused on healthcare, and the other focused on the workforce. Ms. Young explained that the Workforce Connections Board would be pursuing the workforce grant whereas the healthcare piece appeared to better fit the rural. Ms. Young explained that the monies would not be duplicated as the healthcare piece was specific to the rural areas whereas the Reimagine Grant covered a wider range of areas beyond just healthcare and was not specific to the rural areas. Ms. Young opined that the money from this grant would enable some of the work that needs to happen in the rural areas and is another way to bring additional money into Nevada to support that need.

**Board Member Nancy Olsen** informed the Board that the major difference between this grant and the Reimagine Grant is the participation of the Hospital Association, participation that Ms. Olsen opined would be invaluable moving forward as the Reimagine Grant had very limited participation by employers. Ms. Olsen informed the Board that she was very supportive of this grant and offered her assistance with adult education within this grant.

**Board Member Ann Silver** reiterated her concern that the Board has not yet received any indication of how the \$13.8 million from the Reimagine Grant will be spent. Ms. Silver further informed the Board that there are providers in the rural areas who could have been scaled up to provide this training. Ms. Silver indicated her appreciation for the Nevada Hospital Association's involvement as well as her concern that the Nevada Hospital Association will be benefitting from this grant and getting a few duplicative positions. Ms. Silver reiterated her concern about the late notification and the emergency meeting for required Board approval when the information regarding this grant dated back to early October. Ms. Silver asked John Thurman for clarification regarding the certifications within the grant.

**John Thurman** acknowledged that the grant indeed includes more than just registered nurses, but the fact that it does include registered nurses over four years does contribute to a much higher per-client cost overall.

**Board Member Robert Cunningham** commented that the Board thus far has only been able to review the request for the proposal itself and the hospital association document rather than the full proposal. Mr. Cunningham questioned if four years would be enough payback and discussed not seeing any information regarding incumbent employees wanting to upgrade. Finally, Mr. Cunningham questioned whether or not the Board would receive a plan of how the Reimagine Grant and this grant would complement rather than compete with one another.

**Isla Young** offered a formal presentation on the Reimagine Grant at the Board's convenience to clarify how the monies have been build-out and how the programmatic pieces will be supporting that. Ms. Young informed the Board that OWINN will be serving as fiscal agent for the Reimagine Grant and the healthcare grant if approved, and as such, will ensure that the work taking place within each grant complements rather than competes. Ms. Young reiterated her view that these grants are not competing but rather supporting each other and providing an opportunity for Nevadans.

**Board Member Ann Silver** questioned what role GOD has in overseeing these grants and ensuring they are on separate tracks. Ms. Silver asked Ms. Isla Young for more clarification.

**Isla Young** explained that with this particular grant, OWINN would serve as the prime and Nevadaworks would serve as the sub and that funding would flow that way, but that GOED would not be involved.

**Board Member Ann Silver** mentioned that she had not seen money flowing through Nevadaworks in the budget.

**Isla Young** confirmed that OWINN would serve as the prime and the partnership would be with Nevadaworks and Nevadaworks would implement the program for the rural areas.

**Board Member Ann Silver** asked what it means that Nevadaworks would implement.

**John Thurman** responded, but much of the audio was inaudible.

**Board Member Ann Silver** asked Mr. John Thurman if Nevadaworks had approved the grant.

**John Thurman** responded that Nevadaworks can go forward with the grant's applications this week, and then the distribution of the funding will go to the Board for approval.

**Board Member Ann Silver** asked Mr. John Thurman why the approval was not in place before gathering the Governor's Workforce Board in an emergency meeting for approval.

**John Thurman** responded that because the application is submitted through OWINN on behalf of GWDB, it needs to come to the GWDB first to make the application, and then following the award, the Nevadaworks Board will approve the budget and distribution of the funds.

**Board Member Ann Silver** questioned if approved by GWDB, could the Nevadaworks Board decide that the grant would not go through the hospital association. Ms. Silver asked what would be left for the Nevadaworks Board to decide following approval by GWDB.

**John Thurman** responded that the grant will become a part of the Nevadaworks budget as a whole even though it is a separate program that specifically includes the Nevada Hospital Association.

**Board Member Ann Silver** made a final comment on the grant, but much of the audio was inaudible.

**Board Member Ken Evans** asked Mr. John Thurman if there was an existing healthcare services provider in the rural area that could be leveraged to participate in the grant.

**John Thurman** responded yes, in that the community colleges would be covering some of those areas with their programs.

**Board Member Ken Evans** explained his understanding that funds flow from the federal government either through Nevadaworks in the north or Workforce Connections in the south to local frontline service providers, and reiterated Ms. Ann Silver's question regarding whether or not there are local service providers who could or should be considered to be leveraged to participate in this opportunity.

**Board Member Ann Silver** explained in response to Mr. Ken Evans' question that JOIN, a rural provider in several counties, is currently recruiting clients from rural areas for job training in the healthcare sector.

**John Thurman** added that it is possible that a client that contacts JOIN would be referred to this program for training. Mr. Thurman continued to say that it wouldn't be the duplication of dollars, but it's possible that clients of providers funded through Nevadaworks, including JOIN, that would be candidates for this program would be referred into it.

**Board Member Ken Evans** asked if it was possible that a candidate who would not meet the criteria for WIOA funding would instead qualify for this program.

**John Thurman** responded that it is possible and gave an example of an adult client who may not meet the low-income threshold requirement for Title 1 but then would be eligible for training under this program instead.

**Board Member Ken Evans** explained that he would like an idea of the potential healthcare service providers contacted as well as the potential healthcare service providers that would be projected to be partners, supporters, or collaborators with this effort.

**Board Member Joseph Riney** suggested that Ken Evans make a motion regarding his final comment.

**Chair Larry Fagerhaug** commented that he would like to continue the discussion but was not yet ready for a motion.

**Board Member Aaron West** reiterated Ms. Ann Silver's concern regarding duplication of efforts and efficacy within the existing programs. Also, Mr. West opined that because there is an infrastructure already in place and an entirely new infrastructure is not being created, this particular program seems to be a waste.

**Board Member Ann Silver** concurred with Mr. West and reiterated that this program is duplicative and expressed her perplexity as to why the GWDB is being asked to approve prior to the Nevadaworks Board approving and laying out a plan to oversee and disperse the funds in question. Ms. Silver further opined that this proposal appears to be pitting Title 1 providers against healthcare providers.

**John Thurman** responded that the Nevada Hospital Association has been a Title 1 provider for approximately ten years but did not receive funding this most current year because of the reduction in funding to Nevadaworks. Mr. Thurman commented that the Nevada Hospital Association has been doing these types of services and workforce development specifically in the healthcare arena for numerous years.

**It was moved by Nancy Olsen and seconded by Hugh Anderson to approve the application for the H1-B Rural Health Grant. Ann Silver opposed. Jenny Casselman abstained. Motion carried.**

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS NOTICE (SECOND)**

**Chair Fagerhaug** read the statement into the record: "Members of the public are invited to comment at this time; however no action may be taken on any matters during public comment until the matter itself has been included on an agenda as an item for possible action. In my discretion, in the interest of time, public comment will be limited to three minutes per person." He invited comments from Carson City, Las Vegas, or on the telephone.

**Chair Fagerhaug** invited comments from the public.

**Ms. Irene Bustamante-Adams from the Southern Nevada Local Workforce Board** commented that neither OWINN nor the Nevada Hospital Association has reached out to the Southern Nevada Local Workforce Board regarding this grant. Ms. Adams reminded the Board that there are also rural areas outside of the southern Clark-County area.

6. **ADJOURNMENT – The November 06, 2020, meeting was adjourned.**

**Notice of this meeting was posted on or before 9 a.m. on the third day prior to the meeting on the Internet at:**

OWINN's Public Meetings website - [http://owinn.nv.gov/GWDB/GWDB\\_Workforce\\_Meetings/and](http://owinn.nv.gov/GWDB/GWDB_Workforce_Meetings/and)  
[Nevada's Public Notice website at https://notice.nv.gov/](https://notice.nv.gov/), as required by NRS 232.2175.

Supporting public material provided to Committee members for this meeting is posted on OWINN's Web site at [http://owinn.nv.gov/GWDB/GWDB\\_Workforce\\_Meetings/](http://owinn.nv.gov/GWDB/GWDB_Workforce_Meetings/) and may be requested from the Executive Director's Office at

555 E. Washington Ave, Las Vegas, Nevada or call (702) 486-8080