

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

**Thursday, April 15, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.**

**Teleconference Only  
1-669-900-6833  
Access code 823 3034 8355**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Present:** William "Larry" Fagerhaug (Chair), Jim New, Kenneth Evans, Larry Harvey, Ann Silver, Shelley Hendren, Jenny Casselman, David Dreibelbis, Ryan Cordia, Hugh Anderson, Larry Montrose, Isla Young, Aaron West, Joseph Riney, Nancy Olsen, Robert Cunningham

**Also present:** Andres Feijoo, (OWINN), John Thurman (Nevadaworks), Jaime Cruz (Workforce Connections), Ben Daseler (DETR)

**1. CALL TO ORDER - OPENING REMARKS**

**Chair Fagerhaug** called the meeting to order and welcomed participants.

**2. ROLL CALL - CONFIRMATION OF A QUORUM**

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

**3. VERIFICATION OF PUBLIC NOTICE POSTING**

**Mr. Andres Feijoo** affirmed that the agenda and notice of the Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWDB) meeting on December 16, 2020, was posted pursuant to Nevada's Open Meeting Law, NRS 241.020.

**4. 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." Please clearly state and spell your full name for the Record.

**Chair Fagerhaug** invited comments. There were none.

**5. \*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION - Cancel April 15th 2021, 2 pm Meeting**

**Chair Fagerhaug** called for comments/changes to September 16, 2020 draft minutes of the Executive Committee. There were was a correction to the spelling of Chair Fagerhaug's name. **It was moved by Joseph Riney and seconded by Ken Evans to cancel the April 15, 2021 meeting of the Executive Committee.**

**6. \*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – Approval of January 13, 2021 meeting minutes**

**Chair Fagerhaug** called for comments/changes to January 13, 2021 draft minutes of the Executive Committee. Nancy Olsen noted a correction under number 8 to remove the word "Investment" and a correction under number 12 to change "divisions" to "revisions". Both these corrections were noted and made. **It was moved by Ann Silver and seconded by Robert Cunningham to approve January 13, 2021 minutes of the Executive Committee as amended. The motion carried.**

## 7. **DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ONLY – OWINN Updates**

**Andres Feijoo, OWINN**, informed the Board that today's meeting was scheduled to last an hour or less and then following a half-hour break, the Board should click on the other Zoom link for the Board's training. Mr. Feijoo asked Board members who did not have access to the link to email him and he would share the link. Mr. Feijoo indicated his belief that the training would be beneficial for current and future Board members and is meant to be interactive.

**Andres Feijoo** informed the Board that he has been actively recruiting new Board members given the number of vacancies. Mr. Feijoo indicated that he is hoping to fill multiple seats by July. Mr. Feijoo explained that a number of Board members have expiring terms at the end of October, and he will be sending out an email to alert the affected individuals.

**Andres Feijoo** explained that the usual economic report from David Schmidt has been foregone for this particular, abbreviated meeting, but once the report is released, Mr. Feijoo informed the Board that he will distribute it to each member for reference.

**Andres Feijoo** concluded with the announcement that Isla Young has been appointed as the executive director to OWINN, a position that deems her as the governor's designee to the GWDB.

**Isla Young, OWINN**, informed the Board that Nevada was invited to participate in a five-part training course in high-value credentialing provided by the National Skills Coalition. Ms. Young indicated that all key workforce members were invited to participate as OWINN addresses its current credentialing system and continues to shape and create a seamless system for people transitioning into new careers who are in need of skills.

**Isla Young** gave a quick update on the Sandy Grant. Ms. Young informed the Board that all of the contracting has been approved by all necessary systems in the state and the grant is now moving into the implementation phase of providing opportunities to dislocated and underemployed workers to participate in training. Ms. Young explained that in the coming months, programs will be launching at different community colleges as a result of this grant.

**Isla Young** informed the Board that Nevada is one of eight states that has been selected to participate in a new grant opportunity from the Inaugural Cohort of States of the Workforce Innovation Network for the National Governors Association. This grant was developed by OWINN and other state agency partners with the purpose of helping states build capacity for near-term innovation and longer-term strategies to prepare their workforces for a post-COVID-19 economy. More specifically, Ms. Young explained, OWINN plan is to focus on grants, resources, and planning out Governor Sisolak's job force initiative recently announced in the governor's State of the State address.

**Isla Young** thanked the performance of reporting subcommittee for their work in developing an asset map that will be helpful for the grant team to find gaps in the current workforce development resources and existing systems.

**Isla Young** informed the Board of a new grant opportunity announced by the Department of Labor specifically for apprenticeship programs. Ms. Young informed the Board that OWINN will be applying as the prime for this grant of just under \$4 million with an anticipated growth of approximately five apprentices in the areas of IT and healthcare, the fields that currently have the

highest need in the state. Ms. Young informed the Board that this grant is supported by the governor with the intent of looking specifically at non-construction apprenticeship programs.

**8. \*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION -- Remove the state-imposed restrictions on employer staffing levels in OJT contracts per program year in SCP 1.14 in alignment with the WIOA federal regulations**

**John Thurman, Nevadaworks**, explained that this request had been approved at the previous month's GWDB Committee meeting and was now coming in front of the full Board. The request involves taking the up-to 20 percent of an existing company's OJT employee requirement down to zero. The 20 percent had prevented very small companies from participating in the program.

**It was moved by Hugh Anderson and seconded by Ken Evans to approve removal of the state imposed restrictions on employer staffing levels in OJT contracts per program year in SCP 1.14 in alignment with the WIOA federal regulations. The motion carried.**

**9. DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ONLY -- GWDB Subcommittee Reports**

**Andres Feijoo for Bill Stanley, Performance and Reporting Subcommittee**, reported that under the leadership of Bill Stanley, the workforce asset map has covered the major elements to the WIOA system's local Boards, Title programs, among others, and includes the input of other entities such as HHS and the Office of Economic Development. Mr. Feijoo indicated that the asset map will be used for future Board members to understand all critical elements of the system and will be shared with current Board members. Mr. Feijoo reported that the asset map will serve as a key information source for ongoing and future workforce development efforts.

**Chair Fagerhaug** Isla Young's earlier point that the asset map is being used quite well in the submission for grants and in understanding where gaps need to be filled. Chair Fagerhaug further indicated his belief that the asset map will help determine areas where there may be service overlaps, thus helping to reduce some of the redundancies noted by other Board members.

**Nancy Olsen, Strategic Planning Committee**, informed the Board that the Committee is focusing on revisions for the 2022 state plan. Two workgroups, not subject to open-meeting law, will meet and then provide recommendations regarding the information to be included in and potential changes to the state plan. The workgroups will be focusing on two areas specifically, goal setting and measurement, rather than focusing on the state plan as a whole in order to make impactful but not extensive revisions. Ms. Olsen informed the Board that the customer flow and common processes workgroup has met and will continue to meet twice a month through July and then submit recommendations and that the workgroup on data and accountability will meet for the first time the Monday following this meeting. The core workgroup will ultimately take all recommendations and compile them and draft the revisions for the state plan. The core workgroup includes representation from each Title as well as the Department of Welfare Services and includes the following members in addition to Ms. Olsen: Chris Nelson, John Thurman, Jaime Cruz, Michelle Merrill, Eric Hennessy, and Andres Feijoo.

**Hugh Anderson, Continuous Improvement Subcommittee**, reported that the Continuous Improvement Subcommittee is working on ultimately providing enough data and dashboard metrics to merge with the Performance and Reporting Subcommittee, thus eliminating redundancy. Mr. Anderson reported that the subcommittee has all necessary data points. The subcommittee has worked with DETR and other organizations to produce formats and forms that can be used on an ongoing basis. Mr. Anderson reported that Christopher Robison, DETR, will be able to pull together a dashboard of standardized reporting statistics from core partners. Mr. Anderson further indicated that the subcommittee should have some rough drafts that can then be massaged into useful functions by the next meeting. Mr. Anderson informed the Board of his hopes to have cross-functional data extraction in order to obtain insight into the data. Mr. Anderson informed the Board that his

committee will be working with Mr. Stanley's Committee's input, and Mr. Anderson hopes to have the first workable dashboard of material available by the next Board meeting.

**Mayita Sanchez for Melissa MaGuire, Barriers and Underserved Populations Committee**, reported that the subcommittee has not met in the last month but does have a tentative agenda planned for the current month. Ms. Sanchez indicated that at the last meeting, a discussion took place regarding setting a baseline for the subcommittee to have a good understanding of the target demographic requiring communication. Ms. Sanchez reported that the subcommittee is reaching out to DETR to provide a presentation at the next meeting to help identify the target audience for messaging. The next step will then be to map out a campaign for best ways to reach that target audience.

## 10. DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL -- Title Program Reports

**Chair Fagerhaug** explained that the local workforce Boards and Title Programs II, III, and IV will be providing an update following and update from Workforce Connections.

**Jaime Cruz, Workforce Connections**, reported that with the upcoming removal of capacity restrictions, the one-stop centers across the state are preparing to transition to expanded in-person services. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that Workforce Connections is working with DETR to mitigate the wave of UI claimants that are expected once job-search requirements are lifted on May 1st. Mr. Cruz informed the Board of the existence of a document that is pending approval that DETR will share that will delineate how the two groups are working together, as well as of a public service announcement that will also soon be released. Mr. Cruz further indicated that Workforce Connections has released an animated video on its social platforms to address the issue of the incoming wave of job seekers.

**John Thurman, Nevadaworks**, indicated that Nevadaworks also is very involved in the project of preparing for the new requirement of unemployed citizens to actively engage in work-search activities. Mr. Thurman informed the Board of the H-1B grant, the Rural Health Care Initiative in partnership with the Nevada Hospital Association, which will be rolling out soon. Mr. Thurman informed the Board that customer counts continue to rise at the one-stop center as more and more people use the resource. Mr. Thurman indicated, however, that the number of participants in Title I services continues to remain low in comparison to previous years. Mr. Thurman suggested that this will likely change going forward.

**Ann Silver** asked when the one-stop would be fully open.

**John Thurman** responded that the center is fully open, but not yet fully staffed. Mr. Thurman indicated that state merit staff are anticipated to return once they are no longer assigned to UI activities, but informed the Board that he did not yet have a date that this will occur.

**Nancy Olsen** updated the Board on Title II, Adult Education Services, which is continuing to increase some in-person services but will also continue to expand the distance options. Ms. Olsen reported that Title II has been successful in the last year at providing distance-learning options and despite lower enrollment, performance is increasing. Ms. Olsen informed the Board that measurable skill gains, assessed by post testing and improvement of reading, language, math, et cetera, are higher than they have been in many years. Ms. Olsen informed the Board that communications have begun with DETR regarding the upcoming requirement for UI claimants to again actively seek employment. Ms. Olsen informed the Board that contact information and information on services for each of the Title II programs to help with job-search skills have been provided to DETR.

**Ben Daseler, DETR**, informed the Board that the Nevada JobConnect and Business Service Offices remain closed to the public and that some staff continue to work remotely while the majority are back in the office but are still reassigned to work on the UI backlog. Mr. Daseler informed the Board that a small team of staff are working, however, to provide limited, virtual employment services, employer

outreach, and hiring events. Mr. Daseler informed the Board of a statewide, virtual hiring event that took place on March 25th that included 474 job seekers and 55 businesses. A second event is planned on April 22nd for ex-offenders.

Mr. Daseler informed the Board that RSEA, Reemployment Services Eligibility Assessment Program has been reinstated after a one-year pause. This program is for UI claimants that have received at least one week's payment within the first five weeks of filing a new, regular UI claim. Mr. Daseler explained that eligibility is for regular UI claims, and not pandemic unemployment assistance program claims. Mr. Daseler informed the Board that all of the appointments are conducted via Zoom or by telephone and help connect claimants to job opportunities.

Mr. Daseler informed the Board that there is not yet an ETA on JobConnect offices reopening, but that there are close to 48,000 job listings currently posted on [employeeenv.gov](http://employeeenv.gov). Mr. Daseler indicated that the expectation is that the number of client visits to JobConnect offices, when reopened, will be substantially higher than prior to the pandemic due to the number of individuals who have been unemployed for a significant period of time.

Mr. Daseler informed the Board that DETR continues to work closely with Hope for Prisoners, and since July 1, 166 individuals have been enrolled in the Hope for Prisoners Leadership Program workshop.

Mr. Daseler discussed AB465, an initiative for the Solar Workforce Innovations and Opportunities program. The 2021 Mojave High School Solar RFP was released in early March with a March 29 deadline for bids. DETR will be facilitating recruitment screening and referral of candidates to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, who will be providing training and opportunities.

Mr. Daseler concluded by informing the Board that DETR is currently working with the governor's office on a reopening plan and reiterated that there is not yet a reopening date.

**Shelley Hendren** updated the Board on Title IV, the Vocational Rehabilitation Program, which helps individuals with disabilities either remove or mitigate barriers to employment. Ms. Hendren informed the Board that the tentative schedule for closing of budgets is on April 22nd. Ms. Hendren further informed the Board that SB61, the bill for the Blind Business Enterprise Program, has passed the Senate Committee and possibly moved to the floor but if not, it will make the deadline and move over to the Assembly. Ms. Hendren informed the Board that the bill draft clarifies, adds definitions, and uses terms consistently throughout the statute as well as a dispute resolution section and an attempt to shore up the state statutes with the Randolph Sheppard Act, the federal law that established the program in 1936. Ms. Hendren informed the Board that a lot of clients in the voc rehab program have paused their cases until they feel safe to either receive services or until they become employed.

**Shelley Hendren** explained survival jobs to the Board, indicating that these are jobs that are not employment goals for people, but are necessary for income while they continue to look for their goal jobs. Ms. Hendren informed the Board that the Voc Rehab Program has helped people obtain more than 100 survival jobs over the fiscal year thus far.

**Shelley Hendren** informed the Board that the Voc Rehab Program has applied for a federal competitive grant in the amount of \$8 million over five years in collaboration with the College of Southern Nevada and the Nevada Hope Bootcamp Program to create career pathways with a focus on the healthcare industry, including training programs for CNA, RN, dialysis, and phlebotomy.

**Shelley Hendren** next informed the Board that the Voc Rehab Program is working with DETR and the governor's office on a reopening plan for the voc rehab offices and one-stops sometime between May and June with hopes of being fully reopened by end of June. Ms. Hendren indicated that because the locations share space with the JobConnect offices, there is a wait for Employment Security Division partners to be able to return from working for UI in order to open the JobConnect offices, but that the Voc Rehab Program will continue to provide virtual services in the interim.

**Ann Silver** asked for clarification on why JobConnect and voc rehab services could not open due to the staff being assigned to UI. Ms. Silver opined that there appear to be enough people to enable both to occur at once given that employers are desperate to hire and there are many people currently looking for work, for training, or for upskilling.

**Shelley Hendren** clarified that voc rehab staff are not working for unemployment insurance at this time and that voc rehab has been working virtually and providing virtual services. Ms. Hendren clarified that the program was considered a non-essential service and the governor has only recently asked the program to consider a plan for reopening.

**Jenny Casselman** clarified that the governor has released the state reopening plan, indicating the state reopen fully by June 1 and that the voc rehab program will be providing in-person services in alignment with the state reopening plan. Ms. Casselman further indicated that DETR had relaxed some of the work-search requirements for individuals receiving unemployment, but as of May 1, they will be reinstated. Ms. Casselman further explained that DETR is required to have merit staff working on UI claims for the distribution of benefits. Ms. Casselman also indicated that as of May 1, there will be robust services available to help individuals align their skillset with employment opportunities in addition to working directly with employers to help them find candidates. Ms. Casselman further discussed the jobs bank through Nevada JobConnect as well as the development of a strike team of people who will be assisting individuals with resume development, job searches, re-skilling, up-skilling, and aligning them with job opportunities.

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

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

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**The April 15, 2021 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:**

[http://owinn.nv.gov/GWDB/GWDB\\_Workforce\\_Meetings/](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 Website at [http://owinn.nv.gov/GWDB/GWDB\\_Workforce\\_Meetings/](http://owinn.nv.gov/GWDB/GWDB_Workforce_Meetings/) may be requested from the Executive Director's Office at 555 E. Washington Ave. Ste. 4900, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101; or call (702) 486-8080.