

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

**BARRIERS AND UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday July 22, 2026 - 2:00 p.m.

The GWDB Barriers and Underserved Populations Subcommittee held a public meeting on Microsoft
TEAMS

Audio Conference Number: +1 775-321-6111
Phone Conference ID: 397 045 812#

1. Call to Order

Chair Neal called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Tiffany Vazquez, OWINN, called roll and confirmed quorum.

Members Present

Rick Neal, Chair
Jerrie Merritt, Vice Chair
Aubree Barnum
George Gault
Hunberto Trueba
Ken Lawson
Michael Yoder
Bharman Gulati
Dr. Tiffany Tyler Garner

Absent

Haith Johnson
Kam Green
Suzanne Oetjen

Others Present

Tiffany Vazquez

3. First Public Comment

Chair Neal stated, "This is the first opportunity for public comment. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on the agenda as an action item, we will impose a three-minute time limit. Please clearly state and spell your full name. To provide public comment on any agenda item

via telephone, the number is (775) 321-6111. When prompted, please provide the phone conference ID 397 045 812#.”

There were none.

4. Approval of April 22, 2026, Meeting Minutes - (For possible action)

Chair Neal called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. It was moved by Vice Chair Merritt and seconded by George Gault. The motion carried.

5. Leadership Transition – (Discussion/Informational only)

Chair Neal acknowledged everyone involved in giving him the opportunity to lead this subcommittee. He thanked Vice Chair Merritt for her continued role, providing a level of stability and continuity in leadership. He noted the subcommittee’s strong foundational diagnostic work and stated the primary goal moving forward is to translate these findings into actionable recommendations for the full board.

He emphasized a collaborative approach that relies heavily on member expertise. Meetings will be focused and action oriented. Subcommittee members were encouraged to provide feedback.

Vice Chair Merritt emphasized the importance of showing results.

Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner welcomed Chair Neal into his new role.

6. Goals of Subcommittee – (Discussion/Informational only)

Chair Neal discussed future goals, noting that following extensive diagnostic work, the natural next step is to develop recommendations. One option is to stay focused on identifying which barriers, if removed, would simultaneously benefit multiple target populations. He does want to stay informed about the statewide infrastructure inventory effort led by Office of Workforce Innovation (OWINN).

He mentioned a previous recommendation of leveraging existing initiatives, such as OWINN’s efforts, to inform their work. Chair Neal proposed a strategy to identify and focus on a few key barriers that would yield the highest impact, aiming to develop solid recommendations around them. Feedback was requested from members on whether to proceed with that approach or explore alternative directions.

Ken Lawson supported focusing on select, high-impact projects to prevent member burnout and maximize effectiveness. Potential areas of focus he suggested include major systemic barriers such as childcare and transportation. He noted the vouchers available for public transportation through other organizations and grant programs.

Chair Neal asked the group to consider top-tier barriers that broadly impact multiple demographic groups.

Ken Lawson also identified required attire and safety workwear for his specific industry. Programs such as corporate retail discounts and state agency vouchers already exist. He

previously signed up his company for a 30% discount with Skechers. He recommended focusing on better promotion and advertising of these available resources to help dismantle barriers.

Chair Neal highlighted Goodwill as another community partner providing vouchers for certain items, emphasizing that addressing barriers requires collaborative partnerships rather than a single entity. He will work with staff to compile a list of proposed target barriers for subcommittee's review. This will guide future guest speaker invitations and align with efforts to map out statewide workforce resources to improve situational awareness.

Dr. Tiffany Tyler Garner suggested inviting the chief economist to present an updated employment report to help subcommittee target its initiatives.

Chair Neal reiterated the strategy to prioritize cross-cutting barriers that impact multiple demographic groups simultaneously, ensuring future recommendations achieve the maximum possible impact.

7. New business from Subcommittee Members – (Discussion/Informational only)

There were none.

Chair Neal asked if any subcommittee members arrived late after roll call. There were none.

8. Second Public Comment

There were none.

9. Adjournment

Chair Neal called for a motion to adjourn. It was moved by Vice Chair Merritt and seconded by George Gault. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.