



**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 12, 2023**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Michael Allen, Amazon  
Moses Alvarez, Colorado Contractors Association  
Angela Atkinson, North Metro Denver Small Business Development Center  
Peter Brissette, DMD Consulting  
Larry Caschette, Metal Craft Industries  
Amy Clement, United Power  
Lisa Hough, AC-REP  
Tricia Johnson, Front Range Community College  
Erika Manuel, Centura Health  
Mark Miller, Pipefitters Local 208  
James Newby, CDLE  
Janet Renden, FutureForward at Bollman  
Erika Rodriguez, Colorado Laborers and Contractors Education & Training Fund

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dennis Atencio, Apex Transportation

**GUESTS**

Mark Duey, CDLE  
Melissa Jaquez CDLE  
Robert Gallegos, MSU Adult Education  
Todd Nielsen, CUWA  
Aaron Wisner, CDLE

**STAFF MEMBERS**

Yvonne Castillo, WBC Coordinator/OSO  
Belia Chavez, Case Manager  
Jodie Kammerzell, Local Area Director/WBC Administrator  
Rita McGirr, Manager  
Sonia Rodriguez, Manager  
Monica Sailas, Administrative Assistant

**INTRODUCTIONS AND QUORUM**

A quorum of members was present, and the meeting was called to order at 8:02AM by WDB Chair, Amy Clement. All attendees were welcomed, and introductions were made.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board members reviewed the minutes from November 10, 2022, meeting.

**MOTION** made to approve the November 10, 2022, meeting minutes and was seconded.

**MOTION CARRIED.** The minutes of the November 10, 2022, meeting was approved with no corrections.

### **BOARD MEMBERSHIP UPDATES**

Amy reported that board member, Rachel Hoard from DVR has accepted a new statewide manager position and is resigning from the board. Rachel's replacement within DVR has not yet been selected, but that person will replace her on the board. Also, Maureen Rudy from MSU Adult Education has resigned to take a position with a non-profit organization. She is recommending Robert Gallegos as her replacement as he will be taking the lead at the MSU Family Literacy Center.

Angela Atkinson has stepped down from the Executive Committee leaving an open seat. Board members interested in serving on the Executive Committee were instructed to contact Board Liaison, Yvonne Castillo by the end of the month to be considered.

### **CDLE UPDATES**

Guests, Mark Duey and Aaron Wisner from CDLE provided an update on the status of replacing Connecting Colorado (CC). The Denver based company who created My Colorado Journey was the selected vendor to develop a new system to replace CC. They are 50% of the way through the discovery phase of identifying the requirements that will need to be built into the new system. The team working on this project will have a better idea of a potential completion date once the discovery phase has been completed. They hope to have more information by the end of February on a timeline for the first phase roll out. Status on this project is provided at the State Workforce Development Director's meetings.

Board member, James Newby reported that there is still no update on the Wagner-Peyser NPRM at this time. They are still working on responding to the 1,000+ comments and CDLE hopes to have more information by June.

A final decision on the Business Services NPRM has not yet been made. The state proposed two options for measuring employer engagement success: 1. Employer retention, and 2. Employer penetration.

James also reported that the state has developed a partnership with Amazon to provide early access to their open positions from entry level up to management level to provide more opportunities for our job seekers. The goal is to improve the relationship and increase the utilization of the workforce system to weave in work based learning opportunities and develop career progression through Amazon.

Other updates:

- The 2022 Talent Pipeline Report has been published and is being distributed
- The office of Future of Work has updated the apprenticeship section of their website

CUWA Director, Todd Nielson reported that there was legislation that was passed last year that requires the workforce system to use virtual tools for ESL customers. There is collaboration between the Future of Work and New Americans offices to purchase two new tools to pilot that provide occupational specific ESL training and virtual ESL with live teachers. Final plans for roll out have not been finalized, but it was recommended to pilot this in Adams County. Todd will keep the board informed on this project.

### **CWDC MEETING**

Britta Blodgett from CDLE reported that the next CWDC meeting will be held in Adams County on January 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. The WBC will be hosting the meeting at the Human Services office on the 27<sup>th</sup> as well as an industry tour of a local business. There is a networking event the evening of the 26<sup>th</sup> that board members are invited to attend. Britta provided the details to rsvp for the networking event.

### **INNOVATIONS GRANT**

Jodie reported that the WBC did submit a proposal for the Innovations Grant RFP last year and we were awarded the grant. The WBC does not typically apply for these grants as it was intended for the WBC to RFP the funds to subrecipients which is not part of our practice with grants.. There was a lot of misperceptions and confusion related to this grant and in October, CWDC and CDLE informed the WBC that we could return this funding without negatively impacting future allocations. After further discussion within Adams County, the funding was returned to the state.

### **QUEST GRANT UPDATE**

WBC Case Manager Lead, Belia Chavez reported that the WBC has received the QUEST grant which is a national disaster grant for dislocated workers. The total award is \$6.6 million across the following regions: Arapahoe/Douglas, Denver, Boulder, Pikes Peak, Larimer, Weld, and the Rural Consortium with a required total enrollment of 575 participants. The grant will run from 9/26/22 through 9/30/2024. Targeted populations of this grant include:

- Individuals temporarily or permanently laid off as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Long-term unemployed individuals who have been unemployed 27 or more consecutive weeks
- Dislocated workers
- Self-employed individuals who became unemployed or significantly underemployed due to the pandemic

The grant also requires the workforce center to focus on target industries within our area that include manufacturing, construction, transportation/distribution, and healthcare and to develop sector partnership. There is more flexibility with this grant as opposed to WIOA funding and we are awaiting the final Notice of Funding Agreement from CDLE to begin the roll out.

### **DASHBOARD**

Jodie provided an overview of the fiscal data. Based on the program year we should be at 42% of our spending. The WIOA program is close at 38% with the Adult program being ahead. We are struggling in our Youth program due to staffing as we experienced a turn over in every Case Manager position last year with the last position just recently being filled. The Youth team will be attending a retreat to develop strategies to meet program goals and we are in discussion with other regions on ideas to

increase enrollments. The Wagner-Peyser program is slightly behind in spending due to turn over related to the uncertainty of the pending decision of the NPRM. A new Business Service representative has been hired and we are still trying to hire a replacement for the Migrant Seasonal Farm Worker staff member.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

WBC Manager, Rita McGirr announced that the Adams County WBC is hosting a Regional Onboarding event on January 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> for new workforce center staff in the region to learn about the workforce center system, our programs, and funding.

**OPEN DISCUSSION**

Board members discussed the current workforce challenges they are facing.

**SUMMATION AND ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20AM