



STRATEGIC WORKFORCE INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

11:00 – 12:00 PM
Wednesday, July 1, 2020
GoToMeeting®
Helena, MT

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Miller (Chair), Rebecca Morgan, Asta So, Becky Bey, Jennifer Kobza, Paul Hopfauf, Vicky Byrd

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Ken Fichtler, Grover Wallace, Rodd Lane, and Heather O'Hara

STAFF: Shannon Lewis

GUESTS: Nisan Burbridge

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Chair Baumgart called the meeting to order at 11:00.

ROLL CALL: Shannon Lewis conducted roll call and established a quorum.

AGENDA: Chair Baumgart asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

*Mr. Hopfauf moved, and Ms. Bey seconded a motion to approve the agenda.
The motion carried.*

JANUARY 30, 2020 MEETING MINUTES: Chair Baumgart asked for a motion to approve the January 30, 2020 meeting minutes.

*Ms. So moved, and Mr. Hopfauf seconded a motion to approve the January 30, 2020 meeting minutes.
The motion carried.*

NEW BUSINESS:

OVERVIEW OF MONTANA'S ECONOMY:

Chair Baumgart introduced Montana's State Economist, Barbara Wagner, to the committee and Ms. Wagner updated the committee on the current state of Montana's economy related to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. She used the web tool designed by the economists at the Department of Labor & Industry to show the committee how they can all access real-time data about industry impact, unemployment claims, and the unemployment rate. She believes there is room for optimism as the

state's economy continues to reopen, there will continue to be significant gains in reemployment.

OPEN DISCUSSION: COVID IMPACTS:

Chair Baumgart built onto Ms. Wagner's presentation by asking committee members to summarize their experience related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Industry experiences ranged from steady to disastrous to uncertain. The committee member experiences from a business perspective is reflective of the impacts related to geography and industry.

WIOA STATE PLAN UPDATE:

Ms. Lewis quickly updated the committee on the WIOA State Plan, which was approved in early June without conditions. She will keep the committee updated should there be modifications required for the plan due to the economic disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

DIGITAL ECONOMY ECOSYSTEM MODEL:

Chair Baumgart introduced Nisan Burbidge from the Montana Department of Labor & Industry who is working with an organization designing IT training consortiums focused on rural remote worker pools. The committee is interested in learning more about the project and the potential for growth of such models in Montana; unfortunately, the committee began running over, so it was decided to commit a full committee meeting to this topic in the coming weeks.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 12:11.