

MT SWIB

STATE WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD

Board Meeting
October 19, 2022

<https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/5997112516?pwd=aTdCbDM2Mm9pUDBJZEJWYTaydmJwUT09>

Meeting ID: 599 711 2516 | Password: SWIB

406 444 9999 – Dial by Telephone

SpringHill Suites by Marriott Great Falls – Big Falls Room

421 3rd St NW, Great Falls, MT 59404

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Hopfauf (Chair), Dean Bentley (Vice-Chair), Dylan Klapmeier (Designee – Governor’s Office), Senator Jason Small, Commissioner Laurie Esau, Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, Commissioner Mike McGinley, Shane Etzwiler, Paddy Fleming, David Smith, Bo Bruinsma, Amber Terry, Dale Carpenter, Heather O’Hara, Quinton Queer, Jim Wonnacott, Administrator Chanda Hermanson (Remote), Commissioner Mary Armstrong (Remote), Jason Palin (Remote), Deb Poteet (Remote)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Adam Gilbertson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Representative Ed Buttrey

STAFF: Wesley Feist

PUBLIC PRESENT: Mary Heller (MT OPI), Sarah Swanson (MT DLI), Eric Strauss (MT DLI / Presenter), David Cook (MT DLI / Presenter), Nick Moschetti (MT DLI / Presenter), Amy Watson (MT DLI / Presenter), Nick Holom (MT DLI / Presenter), Justin Toth (MT DLI), Roy Valdez (MT DLI / Presenter), Casey Schreiner (Alluvion Health), Kelly Cresswell (Reach Higher Montana)

REMOTE PUBLIC PRESENT: Katie Madsen (MT OPI / Presenter), Paul Gladen (Accelerate MT / Presenter), Aaron Larson (MT DLI), John Elizandro (MT DLI), Andy Shirliff (MT DLI), Connie Kinsey (MT DLI), Barb Wagner (MT DLI), Michelle Marsh (MT DLI), Jacque Treaster (OCHE), Emily Fuller (MT OPI), Lisa Newman (CTI), Tim Foster (Grant Associates), Deb Krantz (Job Service), Veronica “Roni” Griffith (GFCCRC), Tammi Hickey (GFCCRC), Lauren Anderson, Danny Peoples, Seth Reighard, Riley Frey, Morgan Tackes, Naiya, Hannah Oggerino, McKenna, Brady Weber, Ashley Pomroy, Jane, Mitchell Norslien, Hunter Harrington, Robbie Simpson, Daren Miller, Olivia Muir, Gene, Hannalise Anderson, Anna Smith, Andrae Thompson, Clint Banister, Nicole, CF – Sarah De Money, Taryn Wommack, Kaidin, Damon Irvin

CALL TO ORDER (9:02 A.M.): Chair Hopfauf called the meeting to order.

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

Heather O'Hara moved, and Superintendent Arntzen seconded a motion to approve the agenda.

The motion carried.

INTRODUCTIONS: Board members introduced themselves.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE UPDATE (9:20 A.M.): Dylan Klapmeier provided an overview of the Governor's agenda and high points that align.

- Title 37 Reform is a top priority for the Governor.
- The governor's office is seeking to making progress on tax reform and how it may help with workforce development, economic growth, and reduce red tape.
- A focus continues on recruitment and retention the four key industry sectors of Healthcare, Information Technology, Construction, and Manufacturing. There is also an added emphasis on teacher recruitment and retention with Superintendent Arntzen.
- The governor's office would like to build on the teacher residency program, build upon Teach Act, and increase teacher pay.
- The governor's officer would like to determine the utilization of the Trades Education and Training Credit. Data will be available in November to determine the usage of the credit. Working on more opportunities to increase awareness of the credit for future use. The credit can be used to upskill or train employees of a business.
 - Up to \$2,500 per employee
 - Up to \$25,000 per employer
 - It is tailored to specific industries, if employers are seeking the possible ability to market to additional industries, the governor's office would like to know.
- Looking to expand the tribal computer science program for use and opportunity.
- Recently OPI, OCHE, and legislators met to discuss laws and policy around education and workforce. Wanting to encourage districts and school boards to utilize opportunities that exist and can be further developed.
 - It is also a goal to encourage school districts to adopt proficiency-based models for flexibilities and work-based learning through key employers and key in key industries.
 - SWIB members are welcome to come and provide testimony if the option exists.
- Incentivizing funding for post-secondary flexibility with CTE courses and locations.
- The MUS is working on infrastructure package rankings and a push toward public/private partnership.
- School choice will be on the agenda this legislative session.
 - Proficiency Based Models and Work-based Learning are hot topics.
 - School choice and charter schools will be items to watch, complimenting economic development.
 - District flexibility is important to continue to support.

- Superintendent Arntzen added that School Board representation is missing at the SWIB. If school district flexibility is important to discuss, having their voice would help encourage utilization of flexibility and items identified.

TITLE II PRESENTATION (9:40 A.M.):

Katie Madsen, Adult Education State Director presented the Title II presentation.

- Chair Hopfauf asked what the ideal situation is where private companies and the SWIB can participate in Title II programs (namely IET). Katie provided an example of a CNA program in Great Falls with Benefis, Great Falls College MSU, and Great Falls Public Schools along with an example in the Flathead in Construction.
- Quinton Queer identified the process of TABE testing with his organization in Butte. He also identified how he works with local organizations to test and skill/train potential laborers.
- Shane Etzwiler provided an example of CDL training in Great Falls where private organizations and educational institutions made progress to train workforce, all with the cooperation with the chamber of commerce.
- Vice-Chair Bentley identified how the lineman program in Butte, with employers and Highlands College trained qualified individuals and how the program has grown.
- A conversation began about programs and collaboration in Montana among SWIB members and how pre-qualifying exams are helping and possibly hurting programs, but linking them to necessary resources.
 - Superintendent Arntzen asked what the best qualifier for any field is to build confidence in any individual, outside of the typical school path in Adult Education?
 - Katie Madsen identified the program eligibility and how the TABE can help screen. If there are struggles for individuals and are on a wait list for certain programs, Adult Education can help students build on skills to more effectively enter future career paths.
 - Superintendent Arntzen would like the SWIB to be aware of and make recommendations to make this process better.
- Jim Wonnacot identified that in house instructors at Ironworkers 732 provide instruction on math deficiencies and give credit for math knowledge.
- Wesley Feist identified that TABE possibilities is a good topic for the next Education, Training, and Upskill Committee meeting.

JULY 7, 2022 MEETING MINUTES (10:20 A.M.): Chair Hopfauf asked for a motion to approve the July 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes.

Paddy Fleming moved, and Vice-Chair Bentley seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

The motion carried.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (10:20 A.M.):

Chair Hopfauf asked for public comment.

ACCELERATE MT PRESENTATION (10:21 A.M.):

Paul Gladen, Accelerate MT Director presented the Accelerate MT Update.

- Dylan Klapmeier asked for elaboration on outreach to Tribal Colleges. Paul identified opportunities that exist with the two hired individuals working on Tribal College outreach on how to develop and deliver programs.

TITLE 37 PRESENTATION (11:00 A.M.):

Administrator Strauss introduced himself and the opportunity provided by Commissioner Esau to bring together Business Standards Division and Employment Relations Division into the Employment Standards Division. This is to streamline processes and make employer processes easier. He also discussed desire to get licensure out of the way, to get people to work.

Deputy Administrator Cook introduced himself and presented the Title 37 information.

- Senator Small asked who the primary target is for the licensing updates. Deputy Administrator Cook identified that the changes presented are for all licensed occupations and will make all licensing more streamlined. Senator Small also asked if all 150 current licensing standards will be reset and if we will take the lowest common denominator. Deputy Administrator Cook identified that the state will still use the current requirements in Montana. Programs will be compared at where they are in Montana to where the license originated. He also identified that certain trades are quite equal across the country, while others are quite different. Senator Small asked who will determine Substantial Equivalency. Deputy Administrator Cook identified that the decisions will be made collaboratively among the board/program and state.
- Heather O'Hara asked if education or experience is not preferred standard, will decisions be made by applicable board. Deputy Administrator Cook identified that yes, decisions can still be made by boards. Heather follow-up asking if rules can still be created if trends in licensing are identified. Deputy Administrator Cook identified that yes, a matrix can be used for rule making.
- Quinton Queer asked if Substantial Equivalency guidance will be provided for boards when it cannot always be determined. This also becomes an issue when boards meet quarterly. Deputy Administrator Cook identified that yes, guidance can be provided and needs to be clearer, but not too specific. Quinton asked if agreements will be signed with other states and/or we have the ability to remove agreements with other states. Deputy Administrator Cook discussed that agreements will not have to be given up, but this process will allow for the new language to usurp many current agreements. This will help get people to work faster, without jeopardizing safety.
- Superintendent Arntzen asked if fees will be reduced as part of the process. Deputy Administrator Cook mentioned that yes, 31 of the 32 boards have seen a fee decrease or not seen an increase because of efficiencies. Even printing costs have been removed, where people can now do it themselves, vs. having to pay for the administration of that process. Deputy Administrator Cook also mentioned that boards that meet infrequently have the possibility of becoming a program, rather than a board, if efficiency matters. The Superintendent offered her licensing team at OPI, should it be helpful or needed to assist.
- David Smith asked if this is proposed through one bill or multiple. Deputy Administrator Cook answered that it is a series of bills. One bill for Chapter 37, and others for individual boards and programs.

- Shane Etzwiler asked if DLI is working with Department of Defense. There was a conversation that yes, DLI is, and that they have been helpful to the Office of Public Instruction as well.

BREAK (11:30 – 11:55 A.M.)

STATE OF MONTANA'S ECONOMY PRESENTATION (11:55 A.M.)

Nick Holom provided the State of Montana's Economy Presentation.

MONTANA'S POST-SECONDARY WORKFORCE REPORT (12:35 P.M.)

Interim State Economist Amy Watson provided the State of Montana's Economy Presentation.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (1:20 P.M.):

Chair Hopfauf asked for public comment.

- Mary Heller from the Office of Public Instruction provided input that MT Ready is gaining ground. The Great Falls Public School District has 13 students ready for 2nd semester. These students are participating through many career paths and industries. This is possible due to the many partners from the private and public sector. Fort Benton and Helena are planning to get involved.

SWIB DIRECTOR UPDATE (1:30 P.M.):

Wesley Feist updated the board on the following items: Potential Youth Waiver Requests from the US DOL, the Approval of the 2022 WIOA State Plan Modifications, the Completion of the Summer 2021 US DOL ETA Desk Monitoring Review, the upcoming NGA Action Lab on Youth Apprenticeship, and the upcoming National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils meetings.

CHAIR HOPFAUF DISCUSSED COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND GOALS (1:40 P.M.):

Chair Hopfauf opened the conversation about recent committee meetings. He identified the four formed committees (Executive Committee, WIOA Committee, Education, Training, and Upskill Committee, and Workforce Policy Committee). Chair Hopfauf identified that each committee came up with goals and he worked with DLI staff to create ultimate goals for SWIB for the time ahead. Additional committee meetings will be forthcoming.

A conversation continued about “co-opitition” to bring together industries and employers for the purpose of cooperating with one another, rather than competing with one another. This is for business and employees to share successes.

BREAK (1:45 – 2:02 P.M.)

JOBS FOR VETERANS PRESENTATION (2:03 P.M.):

Nick Moschetti provided the Jobs for Veterans Presentation.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS REVIEW AND VOTE (2:30 P.M.):

Chair Hopfauf and Wesley Feist discussed the Proposed SWIB Bylaw updates that were thoroughly reviewed in coordination with the Lt. Governor.

***Commissioner McGinley moved, and Paddy Fleming seconded a motion to approve the SWIB Bylaws.
The motion carried.***

Roy Valdez and Wesley Feist discussed the Proposed Allocation Policy update and provided an overview of the current policy, the proposed changes, and the benefits of streamlining the policy for more flexibility and less redundancy.

- Vice-Chair Bentley asked if the 90% of the prior year allotment rule still exists with WIOA. Roy Valdez indicated that yes, the rule still applies to this policy and the state.
- Commissioner McGinley asked if local areas are still factored into the calculation. Roy Valdez answered that yes, they are. This is a policy that cannot change, based on federal law.

***Commissioner McGinley moved, and Heather O'Hara seconded a motion to approve the Allocation Policy.
The motion carried.***

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (2:55 P.M.):

Chair Hopfauf asked for public comment.

- Tammie Hickey introduced the work at the Great Falls Career and College Readiness Center (GFCCRC). She touted the work with the Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce and their involvement with the CDL program, helping to get the participants TABE tested and the overall assistance with the initiative.

NEXT STEPS (3:00 P.M.):

Chair Hopfauf and Wesley Feist opened the conversation for dates of future meeting times for a January / February Meeting and a May Meeting to correspond with US DOL site visit. Meetings will be held either the week of January 30 or February 13, 2023 and May 8 – 12, 2023. Dylan Klapmeier asked the reason for DOL wanting to sit in on a board meeting. Wesley Feist identified that they would like to provide technical assistance to the Youth Program and would also like to see the board in action.

- Shane Etzwiler added that Chambers across the state are ready and willing participants to help communities with workforce development and community collaboration.
- Conversation continued about the positive work in Great Falls and how exciting it is to see the city excelling in workforce and economic development.

ADJOURNMENT (3:13 P.M.)

Chair Hopfauf adjourned the meeting at 3:13 p.m.