



## **APPRENTICESHIP ADVISORY COUNCIL**

2:00 – 3:00 PM  
Monday, May 4, 2020  
GoToMeeting®  
Helena, MT

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dean Bentley (Chair), Barry Rddick, Chris Hopkins, Chris McGowan, Dale Carpenter, Margaret McManus, Scott Lemert, Mykal Jorgenson, and Vicki Dickenson

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Brock Tessman

**STAFF:** Shannon Lewis and Jay Reardon

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Chair Bentley called the meeting to order at 2:00.

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

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

***Ms. Dickenson moved, and Mr. Carpenter seconded a motion to approve the agenda.***

***The motion carried.***

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

***Ms. McManus moved, and Ms. Dickenson seconded a motion to approve the January 30, 2020 meeting minutes.***

***The motion carried.***

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS AND UPDATES:**

Chair Bentley welcomed and introduced the new council members and asked each member to give both an update on current initiatives and apprenticeship programs as well as an overview of the industry they represent. Overall, apprenticeship programs continue to grow even during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of the apprenticeship programs were able to quickly change processes and conduct education and curriculum training online to ensure that apprentices are able to complete on time. In addition, some apprenticeship programs have changed their models to meet the needs of the healthcare response to the pandemic.

**YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP GRANT APPLICATION:**

Jay updated the council on Montana's Registered Apprenticeship Program's application for a new youth apprenticeship grant. The purpose of the grant is to grow and develop youth apprenticeships across the state. The apprenticeships will focus on IT, healthcare, and construction occupations and will work with industry and education partners to develop the programs and related instruction. The goal of the grant is to move 400 young people into registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs.

**DRAFT YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP AND PRE-APPRENTICESHIP STANDARDS**

Jay Reardon gave the council an update on the state youth apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship standards. The standards were drafted to align with industry standards to ensure that youth and pre-apprentices are able to seamlessly transition into a full apprenticeship program should they choose to continue on within that occupation. In addition, all standards for youth and pre-apprenticeships must be designed with a business sponsor to ensure program alignment, which has been a priority for the Apprenticeship Advisory Council.

**COVID IMPACT TO APPRENTICESHIP AND WORKFORCE IN MONTANA:**

Council members gave an update on the apprenticeship programs they oversee and how the pandemic has impacted their programs. Largely, the programs are continuing to operate without disruption as many have been able to move online and focus on the education components of the apprenticeship. Overall, apprenticeship programs throughout the state haven't had significant disruption due to COVID; however, long-term, there are expectations that there will be disruptions if the pandemic continues to impact industry throughout the state.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Bentley adjourned the meeting at 3:00 PM.