

AWIB Questionnaire
11/23/2011
Responses from Board Members

1. What two aspects of the AWIB October meeting did you find effective in accomplishing your board member responsibilities?

1. Open discussion on the roles and responsibilities of the board and its members
2. DOL/WD budget presentation by Brynn and Project presentation by Corine Geldof
3. The Grant Update from the Division of Business Partnership was helpful to begin the process of reviewing where training dollars are being allocated by year.
4. The DOL Budget Review is helpful to see what are total dollars dedicated by the state for Training
5. Open Discussions about current issues
6. Industry Updates or Roundtables such as the update to the Health Coalition WFD Plan
7. The open dialogue is always important and informative including the roundtable comment, is excellent.
8. Very important is the acting Chairperson kept those speaking on point. Sometimes folks are allowed to ramble off into the desert as they are making their point.
9. I like seeing the “dashboard” coming into play. We have a long way to go, however I believe it helps to look back and quantify to some degree what the Board has accomplished, as well as looking at the many different things currently in play.
10. As a new member, I mostly took in information on how the system works.
11. I realized how the importance of grants and discussions of key topics is a great responsibility of the board
12. Prearrangement for travel was excellent.
13. I found the conversation more open than prior.
14. Having the binder ahead of time is helpful.

2. What two aspects of the AWIB October meeting did you not find effective in accomplishing your board member responsibilities?

1. Some of the presentations by individuals/agencies
2. The presentation from the Health Workforce Action Plan was complete on the PowerPoint without a full hour dedicated. The presentation was repetitive and not a good use of board time.
3. Why is the Board asked to constantly endorse projects with Resolutions? What is the effect, where is the follow through, and what kind of a commitment does it hold to the board?
4. Nothing comes to mind
5. Too much time is spent at times discussing why we can't get some things off the ground, rather than moving on to what we can or should be focusing our efforts on.
6. It would appear that are some outstanding items that haven't been vetted or addressed that continue to be an ongoing issue with resolving for senior members

7. From an observation standpoint, it appeared that most of the discussion was done by 4 or 5 people on the board, without an overall interaction with all the members
8. I believe it is an inhibitor to receive the documents at the meeting. There should be an email sent out at least 10 days in advance with pertinent documents to review and then receive the binder at the meeting.
9. I realize that we need the public to present to us their programs/concerns but I think as a board, we need to be careful on how this is done. If we allow every person to present, we would never get our business done. I believe that during public comment, this is when the presentations should occur with an appropriate time limit. Most boards I have worked have used either 3 or 5 minutes as the maximum time for a public presentation or comment. I know this is hard.
10. I believe at the end of each meeting we should have an "items to complete" circulated and agreed on; at the next meeting we can check our progress against it.

3. What two changes would you like to see occur at the AWIB meetings?

1. More time to discuss the projects and initiatives AWIB members are directly responsible for
2. Summary/update from the executive committee on what has been accomplished or what items they have had to address, since the last full board meeting
3. More training of Board Members could occur in break-out sessions on the second day while Eco Meets
4. More focus and direction given to the priorities of industries and emphasis directed toward grants for training those needs.
5. More discussion into the evaluation and selection of Step Grant and other Grant recipients and discussion into the evaluation process as to how effective the State Training Focus is being met.
6. Shorter and more succinct reports by DOLWD staff. Oral reports should be specific to the business of the board regarding decisions to be made; others can be submitted in written form with annual oral reports.
7. Perhaps greater emphasis on workforce investments and needs, not simply workforce development. Very little has been done on informing the board about vocational rehab, occupational safety, and other workforce issues.
8. Less agenda items screen them. That way there is more time on a few, so they get quality time.
9. I would like to see them run on-time; it didn't appear the agenda left adequate time for discussion after a presentation
10. I would like the agenda to be sent out more in advance, as a new board member, that allows me more time to research the items on the agenda and have a higher level of contribution
11. Board members make recommendations for presentations at the next meeting
12. Have an incomplete work list distributed and discuss to cause closure (items not meeting our mission statement or improvements to implement)
13. See comment in #2 about public testimony, we need to limit the public testimony time to 3 or 5 minutes per person.

14. I would very much like to see a different format for the agenda – one that identifies the Board’s task in relation to the item, e.g. the question to be resolved or discussed, so the endless reports that are given to the Board would have a context or purpose. If there are compliance requirements that the Board such as sign off on a report – put it on a consent agenda.
15. Follow-up to previous resolutions/actions/reports/etc. as a regular agenda item – the “so what” so the Board can adjust its practices if needed to be as effective as possible.
16. I’d like better consensus on the current realistic purpose of the Board (i.e. not just WIA and DOLWD issues), that could lead to addressing more general WFD questions raised and discussed. There are some very interesting issues that could benefit from a diversity of opinion and experience prior to decision-making (of course that presumes that data/information makes a difference!) There are bright people donating their time, and need to see results.
17. Would like the option of having a fourth AWIB Board Meeting to be funded and this meeting would be reserved if a major issue arises that the AWIB board needs to immediately address.
18. The meetings should be 1.5 days, the first day for the whole board and the second day, meet have day for the Executive Board to meet and all AWIB board members encouraged to participate. The only exception would be the meeting in Juneau, should be two full days, the first day for the whole board, the next day the morning for the Executive Board to meet with AWIB board members encourage to participate, and the afternoon for the AWIB board members to visit with legislators.
19. Committee meetings, if they are cancelled do not reschedule. Agenda items need to be solicited from all committee members. At times, I feel that only the chair of the committee has input and it is his/her meeting, which in my opinion the chair is the facilitator with the AWIB staff assistance.
20. Time to focus on real events vs. planning. High light good workforce programs with panels that present and take questions. This would help us visualize how programs perform and learn more about what is working.
21. Fewer talking heads. The AWIB agenda seems like a place where we have to have a report from everyone where it feels like we are just filling the agenda at times.
22. I believe the meetings are well run generally- members receive important updates from DOL experts, emerging issues and trends in the field.
23. While members occasionally have the opportunity to visit service delivery operations I believe more could be done in terms of members’ active participation.
24. Presenters should be encouraged to discuss how their topic relates to AWIB responsibilities.

4. What two topics do you feel are the most important for the board discussions at the AWIB meeting in February, 2012 in Juneau?

1. FY13 budget and priorities for DOL/WD, DHSS, EED, DCEED (legislative session update)
2. Make a decision about the RACs

3. More training of Board Members could occur in break-out sessions on the second day while Eco Meets
4. More focus and direction given to the priorities of industries and emphasis directed toward grants for training those needs.
5. Establishing and approving an implementation plan for determining state priority industries with regional priority occupations so we can advocate for and support workforce investments in the state rather than encourage a philosophy of spending to programs that are not aligned with state and regional needs
6. Gain a greater understanding of the workforce needs of employees and potential employees in the state beyond strictly training new employees, prioritize those issues and get some greater work done. Again, very little has been done on informing the board about vocational rehab, occupational safety, and other workforce issues that this board can and should influence.
7. Unfortunately I will miss this meeting.
8. Health care needs to be addressed
9. Solidify the key industries
10. Use of training resource by out of state workers
11. Training providers who do not meet our mission statement (seamless integrated training). Wasting resources and not providing an efficient path for worker.
12. Alaska hire
13. Committee purposes and organization – if the law won't be changed, it seems to me that we can change the definitions of some of those purposes to make better operational sense and give the committees something substantive to chew on – this would mean that staff would need to do more substantive preparation work to have an appropriate agenda and back-up ready for the committee's work.
14. Long range topics that might have a significant impact on the state. A number of articles lately in ADN discussing the possible impact of Shell drilling in the state. These types of topics should be discussed at the AWIB meetings. Also, inviting Fran Ulmer, appointed by President Obama to a federal commission, to discuss workforce development issues.
15. A topic should be presented, reviewed and then some type of action taken by the board or a plan of action. Important to stick to the major issues and then come to a conclusion.
16. The impact of the loss of federal funds for Alaska's workforce system. Dramatic cuts will occur and the Denali Commission's future is undecided. Federal cuts will impact higher education, secondary education, vocational education, Alaska Native education and training, ADOLWD ESD and Alaska's Job Centers, as well as opportunities for job training grants and Individual Training Accounts. There will be a significant reduction in workforce funding for many years to come. How will that impact the State?
17. Energy training. The issues that will get the most attention during the Legislative Session are the budget, developing an in-state gas pipeline and reducing energy costs through renewable sources and energy efficiency. The state has invested more than \$1.5 B over the past 4 years aimed at developing Alaska's gas, making homes more energy efficient, and developing renewable energy projects. They could invest much

more this year. If they do it would be a good time for them to consider an investment in training Alaskan's as well.

18. Review all major proposed or on-going projects that will require a strong Alaska workforce. Develop workforce strategies for these projects. Let's be pro-active, not-reactive.

5. What two topics do you feel are not productive for the board discussions at the AWIB meeting in February, 2012 in Juneau?

1. We need to move forward and approve on projects or items completed, so less time on history and more time on how to "strategically do"
2. First day of Reviews and Updates appear repetitive from our packets and I come to the meetings with having read this information ahead of time. So this time could be utilized more effectively I think.
3. The second day could be more utilized for training of members or utilize the time for strategy planning, etc.
4. RAC's - 9 out of 14 responded that RACs was not a productive discussion topic.
Specific comments pertaining to RACs:
 - ✚ Revolving discussions about Regional Advisory Committees.
 - ✚ Let's use what's there with ARDORS or whatever exists, and find a way to mandate that Regional Training Centers receiving TVEP to participate, recognize and support their needs.
 - ✚ Only one that comes to mind is RAC unless it is defined and controlled.
5. I don't feel that I have been a member long enough to answer this question effectively.
6. No comment
7. By-laws
8. Anything that has recurred on the agenda but not lead to action – give it a rest
9. Individual organization reports that have been given to the board more than once. If the board is discussing a particular workforce development issue or topic, then invite a particular organization/person to give a presentation.
10. I will leave that to the Executive Director.

AWIB Board Members that responded: 14 out of 19