



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2017

Department of Labor and Workforce Development

1111 W. 8th Avenue, Room 308

Juneau, Alaska

Teleconference Number 1-888-354-0094 Conference ID 4461969111

Thursday, February 16th

Board members and Designees in attendance

Gerad	Godfrey	Lt.Gov. Designee	x
Corey	Baxter	Organized Labor	Absent
Bruce	Bustamante	Private Sector	x
Heidi	Drygas	DOLWD Commissioner	
Greg	Cashen	DOLWD Designee	x
Meg	Nordale	Business/Industry	x
Kathy	Craft	Prof Dev Disabilities	Absent
Doug	Tansy	Organized Labor	x
Kurt	Kuhne	Private Sector	x
David	Alexander	Adult Basic Education	x
Corey	Hester	Private Sector DEED Designee	x
Kevin	Pomeroy	Organized Labor	x
Ethan	Tyler	DCCED Designee	x
Karen	Forrest	DHHS Designee	x
Cheryl	Edenshaw	Post Sec Ed/Voc/Ind	x
Carin	Smolin	Secondary Vocational Ed	x
Tabitha	Gregory	Business/Industry	Absent
Fred	Villa	University of Alaska Designee	x
Mike	Tucker	Native E/T	x
Marcus	Trivette	Private Sector	x
		Business/Industry	vacant
Dan	Domke	Public Education	x
Corey	Hester	Private Sector	x
James	Hastings	Veteran	Absent
Gary	Dixon	Organized Labor	x

Jobs Are Alaska's Future

AWIB Staff in attendance

Allison Biastock, Executive Direct, AWIB
Louise Dean, Program Coordinator, AWIB

DOLWD Staff in attendance

Ed Flanagan, Director, DOLWD/Division of Employment and Training Services (DETS)
Heather Beaty, Special Assistant, DOLWD/Commissioner's Office
Paloma Harbour, Director, DOLWD/Administrative Services Division
Conor Bell, Economist, DOLWD/Research and Analysis
Karinne Wiebold, Economist, DOLWD/Research and Analysis
Ken Mill, Assistant Director, DOLWD/DETS
James Harvey, Assistant Director, DETS
Cathy LeCompte, Director, AVTEC
Patsy Westcott, Assistant Director, DOLWD/DETS
John Cannon, Director, DOLWD/DVR

Guests

Brad Billings, Department of Education and Early Development
Chrissy Gilbert, Kensington Mine, Industry/Training Provider Panel, Guest Speaker
Brad Austin, Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 262 JATC, Industry/Training Provider Panel, Guest Speaker
Robert Sewell, Department of Health and Social Services/ Division of Public Health, SHARP Presenter
Jeff Logan, Jeff Logan & Associates

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Chair Larry Bell at 8:35 a.m.

Roll Call- Allison Biastock – Executive Director Biastock called roll and advised Chair Bell there was a quorum present for the meeting.

Opening Remarks – Larry Bell – Chair Bell thanked the committees for the work they do. He indicated the agenda was very full and that it would be busy meeting.

Welcome – Deputy Commissioner Greg Cashen – Deputy Commissioner Cashen welcomed the board members to the meeting. He thanked them for all of their hard work and commitment.

Agenda Approval

MOTION to approve agenda by Bruce Bustamante
Seconded by Marcus Trivette
Vote taken
MOTION carries

Department of Labor and Workforce Development Budget Update – Paloma Harbour – Director, DOLWD, Administrative Services. . Director Harbour provided an overview of the DOLWD budget. She indicated that state general funds account for approx.16% of the department's workforce development budget. She provided copies of the new TVEP distribution amount that reflects the drop in the anticipated Unemployment Insurance program receipts, which is reflected the \$1.3 million reduction in the governor's budget for this program.

Department of Labor and Workforce Development Legislative Update – Debbie Banaszak, DOLWD legislative Liaison. Ms. Banaszak reported to the board that there were two pieces of worker compensation legislation, HB 69 and SB 2, that the department was carrying, and that there are other pieces of priority legislation such as the TVEP reauthorization that the department is following.

Department of Labor and Workforce Development Economic Update and Non Resident Hire Report - DOLWD, Research and Analysis Economist Conner Bell gave an economic and employment update and forecast. Karinne Wiebold, Economist, gave an overview of the 2015 Non Resident Hire Report.

Committee Reports

Larry Bell - Executive Committee – Chair Bell reported the executive committee has met to discuss the ongoing administrative needs of the board, approved RESOLUTION 17-02 urging the use of PLA's for work the USACE will be advancing, and reviewed several resolutions and policies coming out of other committees that will be action items on today's agenda.

Kevin Pomeroy – Legislative Committee – Chair Pomeroy reported the committee was scheduled to meet once, but failed to get a quorum. He reminded members that the board operates under Roberts Rules, which state that business cannot be conducted without a quorum of members present, and encouraged members to let staff know if they will not be able to attend a meeting.

Allison Biastock – Policy and Planning Committee – Chair Baxter was not able to make the meeting. Executive Director Biastock reported the committee met and discussed policy 200-2016 for establishing a timeframe for grantees to respond to findings or administrative concerns from AWIB's program monitoring. The policy is an action item later today.

Doug Tansy – Assessment and Evaluation – Chair Tansy thanked his fellow committee members for their efforts and participation. In January, the committee reviewed nominations for the David G. Stone Award and selected winners in each category. The names were forwarded to the executive committee for approval. The committee considered and approved RESOLUTION 17-03 supporting an increase in Alaska's maximum weekly benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Program. The committee considered then approved the WIOA required Request for Interest (RFI) for operation of the Alaska Job Centers.

Marcus Trivette – Workforce Readiness Employment Placement – Chair Trivette reported the committee has met twice since the October 2016 board meeting. The committee continued a discussion related to barriers to employment experienced by individuals with prior convictions. The committee also approved RESOLUTION 17-01 urging Alaska's congressional delegation to defend Medicaid Expansion, opposing any repeal efforts.

Alaska Commission on Post-Secondary Education

Kurt Kuhne – AWIB representative on Alaska Commission on Post-Secondary Education. Kurt reported that his role on the ACPE assures there is a workforce development connection between post-secondary education and workforce development.

Executive Director Biastock indicated Cathy Kraft is the AWIB representative on the vocational rehabilitation council.

AVTEC Update – Cathy LeCompte, AVTEC, Executive Director – director LeCompte, who began late last year, provided her information about her background to board members. She also provided an overview of AVTEC and the best practices they use for following students' progress.

Announcement of David G. Stone Award Recipients – Chair Bell provided background information for the David G. Stone Awards. There are three categories for the awards: K-12 Instructor/Administrator, Post-Secondary Instructor/Administrator and Employer. The recipients of the 2016 David G. Stone award are:

- K-12 Instructor/Administrator of the Year - Adrienne Voss, Instructor, King Career Center, Anchorage
- Post-Secondary Instructor/Administrator of the Year - Wendell Whistler, Apprenticeship Coordinator, Kornfeind Training Center Fairbanks
- Employer of the Year – Kaladi Brothers Coffee, Anchorage

Chair Bell shared that AWIB staff are working with the winner's nominators on a more formal presentation of the award in each of the winner's home communities.

Discussion Items

One Stop Operator Procurement Process – Doug Tansy, Chair, AWIB Assessment and Evaluation committee gave an update on the one stop operator procurement process. The committee recommended issuing a request for interest prior to a request for proposal. The executive committee approved the Request for Interest (RFI) and it was released last week. The results of the RFI will indicate whether a full RFP will be developed and issued. AWIB staff will continue to work closely with USDOL, and State of Alaska procurement officers in this process

Barriers to Employment – Marcus Trivette, Chair, Workforce Readiness Employment Placement Committee, gave an update on barriers to employment. At the October 2016, board meeting the committee was asked to act as the task force identified in 2014 AWIB RESOLUTION 14-09 related to barriers to employment. In their January meeting, WREP committee members agreed to recommend the following action steps to the full board for their consideration: Advance a "ban the box" initiative in Alaska; Assess barriers to employment within the state's occupational licensing process and develop recommendations for improvement; Develop and distribute educational materials related to this issue that can be shared through outreach to employers and professional organizations. The board agreed that the WREP committee should continue to examine these three avenues for addressing barriers to employment.

RESOLUTION 16-06 - Chair Bell provided an overview of RESOLUTION 16-06, which was taken up by the executive committee at the request of our US Department of Labor contacts. This resolution allowed for WIOA funding to be transferred between the Adult and the Dislocated Worker programs as necessary for the Division of Employment and Training Services. Prior to the executive committee taking the resolution up, a copy was sent to all board members, who were invited to provide comments or ask questions.

Action Items

Policy 200-2016 – Louise Dean, AWIB Staff presented Policy 200-2016 to the board for approval. The policy establishes a time frame for grantees to respond to the WIOA monitor report administrative concerns or findings. Policy 200-2016 gives clear guidelines to grant recipients for responding to the reports.

MOTION to approve Policy 200-2016 by Fred Villa

Seconded by Marcus Trivette

Discussion – There was much discussion about an appeal process for grantees. Ed Flanagan, Director, DETS, following some research, noted that there his division does have an appeals policy (Policy 07-513, Sanctions for non-Compliance) related to WIOA grantees wherein there are prescribed actions a grantee can take to appeal a finding.

Vote taken

MOTION carries

RESOLUTION 17-01 – Marcus Trivette, Chair, Workforce Readiness Employment Placement Committee discussed the resolution. The resolution supports the continuation of Medicaid expansion. Chair Trivette noted that healthcare is the only major industry in Alaska that is anticipated to grow next year, and the federal dollars Medicaid expansion brings to the AK healthcare system are likely supporting many jobs in this sector.

MOTION to support RESOLUTION 17-01 by Kevin Pomeroy

Seconded by Meg Nordale

Vote taken

MOTION carries

RESOLUTION 17-02 – Chair Bell discussed the significant amount of military construction anticipated to occur at Eielson, Fort Greely, Fort Wainwright, Clear Air Force State and JBER in the coming years. He turned the presentation of RESOLUTION 17-02 over to Kevin Pomeroy, Chair, Legislative Committee. Chair Pomeroy indicated skilled Alaskan contractors and workers are the most qualified to do this important work and most likely to maintain projects schedules and budgets. Members of the congressional delegation have already encouraged the Corps to use PLA's and Alaska hire for these projects.

MOTION to approve RESOLUTION 17-02 by Larry Bell

Seconded by Marcus Trivette

Discussion – Marcus indicated he has worked on projects with PLA's as a union contractor and will sustain from the vote. Meg Nordale is also a union contractor and will sustain from the vote

Vote taken

MOTION carries

RESOLUTION 17-03 – Doug Tansy, Chair, Assessment and Evaluation committee, gave an overview of RESOLUTION 17-03. The resolution urges Alaskan policy makers to increase the maximum weekly benefit amount under the state's Unemployment Insurance program. The maximum weekly benefit amount has not been increased in nine years, and Alaska's maximum weekly benefit ranks 39th in the nation. Unemployment Insurance helps keep skilled workers in Alaska. The resolution was clarified to state that any increase in program cost be covered following the same equation currently used for the program costs, 73% from the employer, and 23% from the employee.

MOTION to support RESOLUTION 17-03 by Kurt Kuhne

Seconded by Bruce Bustamante

Discussion – Fred Villa inquired if there was currently a bill (a piece of legislation is forthcoming). Meg Nordale discussed the additional burden to employers associated with increased contributions and asked that those be kept in mind.

Vote taken

MOTION carries

Public Testimony – No one gave public testimony.

SHARP Program Presentation – Dr. Robert Sewell, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. Dr. Robert Sewell gave an overview of the SHARP program. SHARP is a program designed to provide support for services in the healthcare sector. These supports can include loan repayments, direct incentives, scholarships, loans for service, and resident support. All these elements help attract and retain a quality healthcare workforce in Alaska.

Industry/Training Provider Panel - Chrissy Gilbert, Kensington Mine; Brad Austin, Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 262 JATC. Chair Bell introduced the panelists. Ms. Gilbert is the human resources manager for Kensington mine. Kensington is an active gold mine operated by Coeur Alaska, Inc., and is located in Southeast Alaska. The Mine is currently looking to increase its resident hire, looking into an electrical and a mechanical apprenticeship program, and has been coordinating with the DOLWD Job Center in Juneau. Mr. Austin is the Training Coordinator/Instructor for Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 262 JATC. Brad detailed the Local 262's apprenticeship program.

Regional and Industry Updates from all AWIB members – Board members gave updates from their regions and industries.

DOLWD Training Updates and WIOA Activities/Statewide Apprenticeship Plan Ed Flanagan, DOLWD/DETS Director gave the board an update of the Division of Employment Training Services. Director Flanagan notes that this division covers the Alaska Job Center network and its 16 location across the state, as well as WIOA and other grants. DETS has advanced several apprenticeship programs in the last year, including those in healthcare, aviation and the maritime industry.

ADJOURN

MOTION to adjourn by David Alexander
Seconded by Bruce Bustamante
Seconded by
VOTE taken
MOTION