



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

*Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) Meeting*  
**May 10-11, 2018**  
**AVTEC**  
**Seward Alaska**

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

**Thursday-Friday, May 11-12, 2018**

***Board members and Designees in attendance***

Heather	Parker	Lt.Gov. Designee	x	Both days
Corey	Baxter	Organized Labor	absent	
Bruce	Bustamante	Private Sector	x	Both days
Heidi	Drygas	DOLWD Commissioner		May 11
Greg	Cashen	DOLWD Designee	x	Both days
Meg	Nordale	Business/Industry		May 11
Kathy	Craft	Prof Dev Disabilities	x	Both days
Doug	Tansy	Organized Labor	absent	
Kurt	Kuhne	Private Sector	x	Both days
David	Alexander	Adult Basic Education	absent	
Corey	Hester	Private Sector	x	Both days
Deborah	Riddle	DEED Designee	x	Both days
Kevin	Pomeroy	Organized Labor	x	Both days
Brittney	Cioni-Haywood	DCCED Designee	x	Both days
Karen	Forrest	DHHS Designee	x	
Cheryl	Edenshaw	Post Sec Ed/Voc/Ind	x	
Carin	Smolin	Secondary VocationalEd	x	Both days
Tabitha	Gregory	Business/Industry	x	Both days
Fred	Villa	University of Alaska Designee	absent	
Mike	Tucker	Native E/T	x	Both days
Marcus	Trivette	Private Sector	x	Both days
Brenda	Paccaro	Business/Industry	x	Both days
Dan	Domke	Public Education	x	Both days
William	Huber	Veteran	x	Both days
Gary	Dixon	Organized Labor	absent	
Bryan	Zak	Non Voting Member	x	Both days
Ethan	Burkowitz	Non Voting Member	x	Both days

**AWIB Staff in attendance**

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

**DOLWD Staff in attendance**

Heather Beaty, Special Assistant, DOLWD/Commissioner’s Office  
Kym Mauseth, Administrative Services, DOLWD  
Niel Fried, DOLWD/Research and Analysis  
Shawna Harper, Assistant Director, DOLWD/DETS  
Cathy Lecompte, Director, AVTEC  
Mark Dale, Acting Director, DOLWD/DVR

**Guests in attendance**

Bill Lapinskas, Superintendent, State of Alaska, Spring Creek Correctional Facility – Friday, May 11  
John Bailey, Acting Regional Administrator, USDOL, ETA  
Carol Padovan, USDOL, ETA  
Violet Jackson, USDOL, ETA

**Introduction**

**Call to Order** ..... AWIB Chair Larry Bell  
Chair Larry Bell called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

**Roll Call**..... AWIB Executive Director Allison Biastock  
Executive Director Biastock called roll. A quorum was present for the meeting.

**Welcome** ..... Chair Larry Bell  
Chair Bell thanked the DOLWD staff for joining the meeting. He thanked AVTEC Director, Cathy LeCompte and her team for hosting the AWIB in Seward. Chair Bell indicated the members would have an opportunity in the afternoon to tour the campus and learn more about the training programs AVTEC offers.

Chair Bell welcomed special guests John Baily, Acting Regional Administrator for the USDOL Employment and Training Administration. He also welcomed Federal Program Officers Carol Padovan and Violet Jackson from Region 6 ETA. Carol serves as program officer for Alaska. Mr. Bailey is on the meeting agenda to discuss the USDOL ETA priorities.

Chair Bell announced there would be a board and community reception in the evening that showcases the culinary program at AVTEC and is sponsored by NECA/IBEW.

**Agenda Approval**..... Chair Larry Bell  
MOTION to approve the agenda by Bruce Bustamante  
Seconded by Dan Domke  
Vote taken  
MOTION carries

**Welcome** .....DOLWD Deputy Commissioner Greg Cashen  
Deputy Commissioner Cashen thanked AWIB members for attending the meeting. He shared the department's accomplishments and efforts to develop Alaska's workforce and to support local hire and economic development. He also thanked Director LeCompte for the hosting the AWIB meeting. Deputy Commissioner Cashen welcomed Administrator Bailey and Federal Program Officers Padovan and Jackson from Region 6 ETA.

**DOLWD Research and Analysis**

**Alaska Economic Update, and a Look at Youth Employment**.....Neil Fried, Economist, Research and Analysis

Mr. Fried provided an economic update for Alaska. He indicated communities not tied to oil and government sectors are doing well. He indicated the national unemployment rate has changed to 3.9%. The national unemployment rate has an impact on the migration rate depicted by the number of people moving in and out of the state. The biggest gain in the migration rate is among 20-35 year olds coming into Alaska. The prime working ages are 20-64 but that population group is getting smaller in the state.

Mr. Fried also addressed youth employment, indicating there is a lot of friction in youth unemployment rates. The youth are in and out of the labor market due to training and education programs and other factors. Retail is a large youth employer, but on the decline due to online e-commerce. The 20-29 age group had a huge migration into the state and fewer 16-19 year olds are working.

**Committee Reports**.....Committee Chairs

The committee chairs gave an update for their committee activities since the February 2018 board meeting. The reports are as follows:

**Executive** .....Larry Bell

Chair Bell reported the executive committee has met monthly since the February board meeting. An agenda item at each meeting was the ongoing review of the Technical and Vocational Education Program, or TVEP's, reporting requirements. In March, the ExCo asked the Assessment and Evaluation committee to review the recommendations. In April, following the Assessment and Evaluation committee's work on the TVEP recommendations, the ExCo also sought the review of the TVEP fund recipients as a part of their process.

In March, the ExCo, following board and public review, considered and approved the final revised WIOA Combined Plan. Following the plan update process, the executive committee determined the board should discuss a WIOA plan strategy at each of our regular business meetings leading up to the next plan revision anticipated to occur in 2020. RESOLUTION 18-03 In Support of the Alaska LNG Project Gasline Workforce Plan was considered by the ExCo earlier this month following its adoption by a joint WREP and Policy and Planning committee

**Workforce Readiness & Employment Placement** .....Marcus Trivette

Chair Trivette reported since the February 2018 board meeting, the WREP committee held two joint meetings with the Policy and Planning committee to review the Alaska Gasline Workforce Development Plan. Current Members of the Workforce Readiness, Employment, and Placement Committee include Mike Tucker, Bruce Bustamante, David Alexander, Cheryl Edenshaw, Deborah Riddle, Britteny Cioni Haywood, and Bill Huber.

During the first joint committee meeting on March 30 the committee reviewed the department’s recently released workforce plan for the Alaska LNG project. The meeting provided an opportunity for members to bring up any questions and comments for the department to consider.

At the second joint committee meeting on April 18 the committees reviewed the department’s revisions to the plan based on member feedback, and considered and adopted RESOLUTION 18-03 In Support of the Alaska LNG Project Gasline Workforce Plan. That resolution was then forwarded to the ExCo for their consideration. The resolution is an action item on the agenda tomorrow.

**Legislative** ..... Kevin Pomeroy  
The legislative committee has not met since the last meeting.

**Policy and Planning** ..... Allison Biastock  
Executive Director Biastock reported for Chair Baxter. The Policy and Planning committee includes Kevin Pomeroy, Meg Nordale, Corey Hester, Carin Smolin, and Heather Parker. Policy and Planning – as Chair Trivette mentioned, met twice, jointly with WREP, since the last board meeting. The committee considered the Alaska LNG Project workforce plan, and in April voted to adopt RESOLUTION 18-03 In Support of the Alaska LNG Project Gasline Workforce Plan – which is an action item tomorrow. On behalf of Chair Baxter, ED Biastock thanked the Policy and Planning committee members for their efforts and time.

**Assessment and Evaluation** ..... Allison Biastock  
Executive Director Biastock reported for Chair Tansy. Since the last full board meeting, the Assessment Evaluation Committee met on March 20 and April 3. On behalf of Chair Tansy, ED Biastock thanked committee members Fred Villa, Kurt Kuhne, Dan Domke, Tabitha Gregory and Brenda Paccaro for their efforts.

The AWIB executive committee has been reviewing the TVEP reporting requirements for the last several months. The executive committee tasked the assessment and evaluation committee to consider and review their recommendations regarding TVEP reporting.

Assessment and Evaluation first met in March to review the recommendations and to provide comments and feedback. The committee needed additional time to review the recommendation, so the committee met again in early April to complete their review and to finalize their proposed revisions to send back to the Executive committee.

Chair Bell will present the TVEP recommendations to the board tomorrow during action items.

**Industry and Regional Updates: Group One**

Board members provided industry and regional updates. Highlights include:

Mayor Ethan Berkowitz reported it was a very successful bond season with 100 million in bond project on the street. Bonds include the Anchorage school district and port rehabilitation. He expects a robust tourist season.

Bruce Bustamante reported in the Municipality of Anchorage real estate investment is soft but the values are holding.

Brittney Cioni-Haywood reported the upcoming China trade mission is May 19-30. The group is

***Jobs Are Alaska's Future***

travelling to China to meet economic partners.

Kathy Craft reported housing in Fairbanks is fairly reasonable, but utilities are the highest on the road system. UAA has been designated as the lead health campus and is working closely with the Board of regents. The board want the programs doubled by 2025. They are working on developing a health website for real time health data.

Dan Domke reported that the FNSB school district career and technical education program conducted a survey of what is being taught and what students are interested in to see how that aligns with the job market. Dan urged the importance of keeping a workforce lens on efforts like 65 x 2025.

Karen Forrest reported that with expanded Medicaid, \$880 million in additional healthcare services has been supported. Alaska has also received \$18 million in funds to combat substance abuse has been brought in for substance abuse programs. The department has been forced to close beds at state operated facilities due to the nursing shortage.

**Div. of Employment Training Services (DETS) Update...**Shawna Harper Assistant Director, DETS

Assistant Director Harper presented the DETS update to the board. Ms. Harper gave an overview of the DETS programs and the services provided by the job centers. The program updates included: WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth; Wagner-Peyser Job Center Services; Adult Basic Education; Mature Alaskans Seeking Skills Training; Alaska Construction Academy; State Training and Employment Program; and Unemployment Insurance. She also provided a grants/projects update on the Disability Employment Initiative (DEI); Linking to Employment Activates Pre-release (LEAP); Sector Partnership National Emergency Grant (SP-NEG) and Apprenticeship Accelerator Grant. The continuing grants include the State Apprenticeship Expansion Grant and the American Apprenticeship Initiative Grant. The division is looking at the National Health Emergency Dislocated Worker Demonstration grant to address the opioid crisis and system replacement for ALEXsys and ICM.

**Div. of Vocational Rehabilitation Update.....**Mark Dale, DVR, Acting Director

Director Dale gave an overview of the activities in the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. The major activity the last quarter was preparing the onsite monitoring and technical assistance review by the US Department of Education; Rehabilitation Services Administration.

**WIOA Plan Strategy Discussion .....**Allison Biastock & Shawna Harper

Following a brief representation on the goals and strategies outlined in Alaska's Combined WIOA Plan, the board members broke into three groups to discuss strategies for serving selected priority populations under WIOA. The groups were; returning citizens, veterans, and those with low income. The groups reported the following information to the members:

RETURNING CITIZENS

Strategies/Actions:

- Employer involvement in regulatory process and legislative process
- Campaign outreach to smaller organizations/companies
- Leverage resources coordination

## VETERANS

Barriers to serving this population:

- Translating military experience to private sector experience
- Education: military experience for credit/post-secondary experience
- Family is not always included in the equation (inclusion of support group)
- Time gap post service (1<sup>st</sup> job/ can be a year or more)
- Self-reporting (post incarceration)

Strategies/Actions:

- Maintain level of job fairs for vets
- Building and strengthening relationships with university (educational institutions)
- Outreach and community resources and support for service members' families and support groups

## LOW INCOME

Barriers to serving this population:

- Lack of transportation
- No one source of information for services
- How will they learn about job opening notices?
- Skilled/unskilled
- Child care and senior care funding is critical

Strategies/Actions:

- Single contact – *Navigator*
- Resource connections
- Social media
- Pool of available employees – populate jobs
- Training:
  - Language
  - Minimum skill set
  - Computer
  - Social media
  - Employability soft skills

**Public Testimony – There were no participants for public testimony**

**Industry and Regional Updates: Group Two** Board members provided industry and regional updates. Highlights include:

Tabitha Gregory reported the telecommunications industry is addressing broadband service in high cost areas of the state. Deputy Commissioner Cashen stated Governor Walker is supportive of broadband and an education super highway. Ms. Gregory indicated there is a new hotel in Valdez which will be opening the end of May – Totem Hotel and Suites.

Corey Hester reported the Great Alaska Aviation Gathering was one of the largest to date. He has recently partnered with Excel Alaska to hold a 10-day aviation camp to bring youth into Anchorage to pursue aviation related activities.

Bill Huber reported there is second Fisher House being built by the hospital on JBER. Due to F22 and missile field related building activities in the Fairbanks area, the construction trades are in demand. Alaska has the highest population of veterans per capita and he believes that Alaska has the best VA system in the United States.

Kurt Kuhne reported in southeast the tourist industry is expanding. There are more restrictions with fishing such as shorter seasons.

Brenda Pacarro reported that Donlin Gold has the final Environmental Impact Statement and is ending the 30-day comment period. Cook Inlet Tribal Council help pay for interns and are in the midst of hiring 30 interns for 10 weeks from Alaska, Hawaii and Alabama.

Heather Parker reported this was the first time she was at AVTEC. She shared that the Governor and DEED have launched an initiative to increase broadband access for public schools. Education Superhighway will work with the state to assess connectivity, with the ultimate goal of bringing high speed broadband to schools across the state.

Kevin Pomeroy reported there was a good winter tourist season in Fairbanks. He has noticed the impact of new people in the area because of the Dalton Highway project.

**DOLWD Budget Update** .....Kym Mauseth, Budget Manager, Administrative Services  
Ms. Mauseth provided an overview of the DOLWD budget. The FY2019 budget highlights includes and \$141.4 UGF savings resulting from continued lease space reductions; and a reduction in TVEP funding for all recipients due to a reduced amount going into the UI fund.

**DOLWD Legislative Update**.....Tally Teal, DOLWD Legislative Liaison  
Ms. Teal provided a presentation to the AWIB focusing on DOLWD supported legislation. She also spoke about bills that will impact the department.

**USDOL, ETA, Priorities**.....John Bailey, Acting Regional Administrator, USDOL  
Employment and Training Administration

Mr. Bailey reported he has attended three state workforce board meetings in his position and all of the states are on board with the WIOA mission. He really enjoyed his visit to the Alaska Military Youth Academy and is impressed with the work they are doing. The USDOL has been slow in filling appointee positions. At the regional level last year, he had ten vacancies and now has seven.

A milestone for Alaska was getting in the WIOA State Plan finalized, and completing performance negotiations. One of the areas that does not get attention is that Alaska is one of the top performers in the area of unemployment insurance. Mr. Bailey provided very positive feedback on the AWIB's level of engagement that he witnessed at the meeting today.

Mr. Bailey indicated there is going to be a shift in how waivers are done. He wants the board to look at how it does business and how can ETA help the board do business. He wants the ETA to be partners and said the board can request a technical assistance site visit.

Deputy Commissioner Cashen thanked Mr. Bailey for the ETA’s support and partnership, noting that Governor Walker has met with and invited USDOL Secretary LaCosta to Alaska.

**AVTEC Tour with Cathy LeCompte, Director, AVTEC**

Director LeCompte and her staff escorted members through various AVTEC program classrooms and learning spaces, including the maritime instructional simulators. Board members were able to connect with program instructors and students during the tour.

**Friday, May 11, 2018**

**Call to order .....Chair Larry Bell**

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. There was a quorum present.

**Industry and Regional Updates: Group Three**

Board members provided industry and regional updates.

Deborah Riddle reported Commissioner Johnson has been working hard on the Alaska Education Challenge. There are over one hundred stakeholders that participated in the challenge, and the process resulted in thirteen recommendations.

Carin Smolin reported the cruise season has arrived in Juneau and it is a 90% increase from 2017. The Southeast conference supported HB 412. There was a 100% graduation rate of students who took two or more career pathways courses in the JDSD.

Marcus Trivette reported Alaska General Contractors is forecasting a 4% uptick in construction jobs. In the Fairbanks region, retail jobs have been lost, and homes appear to be selling quickly.

Mike Tucker reported Knik tribe is building a small 32 unit low-income subdivision in Wasilla. They are applying for a large workforce development grant with Alaska Works Partnership.

Meg Nordale reported it is very busy in the construction industry and her organization is working to support every level of workforce development. She also indicated 90% of UAF students had jobs at the time of spring break.

Mayor Bryan Zak spoke about opportunity in Alaska, highlighting the visitor industry. He noted that the largest cruise ships have been seen this season in Homer; there is currently one ship every two weeks in port.

**Discussion Items**

**Career and Technical Education Plan Addendum Update ..... Allison Biastock**

Executive Director Biastock reported the CTE Plan Addendum workgroup meets monthly. The group has developed online surveys (general, business and industry); reviewed elements of the addendum and existing strategy implementation.

**One-Stop Job Centers MOU Update ..... Allison Biastock**

Executive Director Biastock reported the One Stop Job Centers MOU is being executed in two phases: Phase One – operational elements of the MOU and Phase Two – required infrastructure cost sharing. A signature draft of Phase One of the MOU has been transmitted to partners and is



executed with a majority of them. We are actively engaging with collocated partners on Phase Two of the MOU, and intend to finalize an agreement regarding cost sharing in the near term.

**Alaska Commission on Post-Secondary Education Update** ..... Kurt Kuhne  
Mr. Kuhne provided an overview of the Alaska Commission on Post-Secondary Education. He indicated any program over 40 hours of training needs to be authorized by ACPE. The ACPE is also responsible for the Alaska Student Loan Corporation. The ACPE does community outreach by providing career guides around the state and via online resources.

**Statewide Vocational Rehabilitation Committee Update** ..... Kathy Craft  
Ms. Craft showed a video illustrating assistive technology that was provided to a mental health trust beneficiary. She also provided a brief update on the activities of the Statewide Vocational Rehabilitation Committee, which recent met.

**Alaska Healthcare Workforce Development Plan Update**..... Kathy Craft  
Ms. Craft provided an update on the Alaska Healthcare Workforce Development Plan. She indicated the updated action agenda looks as the years 2017-2021. The University of Alaska Board of Regents has a statewide goal of doubling the number of health graduates by 2025. There are currently 874 graduates. The University of Alaska Anchorage College of Health is tasked to lead statewide health program planning and development. Current programs, which will be expanded in response to industry need, are social work and human services; nursing and certified nursing assistants; allied health and oral/dental health.

**Action Items**

TVEP Recommendations.....Larry Bell

Chair Bell gave an overview of the TVEP reporting requirement review process, which began in early July 2017 because of the legislature’s request that the AWIB undertake a review of program. The AWIB’s review process focused on the program’s reporting requirements. Some of the current TVEP statutes and regulations were set up with language implying that program funds would be awarded via a competitive grant process – given that is not the case and grants are to named recipients in statute, the AWIB also plans to recommend that the department consider updates/improvements to the program statute and code to better reflect actual fund administration practices. Chair Bell reviewed the recommendations in the document. He indicated if the board approved the recommendations, they would be forwarded to the DOLWD.

Chair Bell asked for a MOTION for the board to approve the TVEP recommendations

MOTION to approve the AWIB TVEP recommendations by Bill Huber  
Seconded by Bruce Bustamante  
Vote taken  
MOTION carries

AK Gasline Workforce Development Plan..... Marcus Trivette  
RESOLUTION NUMBER 18-03 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE Alaska LNG Project  
Gasline Workforce Plan

Marcus Trivette, Chair, Workforce Readiness Employment Placement Committee provided an overview of the AK Gasline Workforce Development Plan and RESOLUTION NUMBER 18-03.

Chair Trivette indicated all board members received a copy of the plan for review when it was released, and the WREP and Policy and Planning Committees jointly met in March and again in April to consider the Alaska LNG Project Gasline workforce plan. Following a review of the plan and an opportunity for comments and feedback, the joint committee adopted RESOLUTION 18-03 In Support of the plan. The resolution was forwarded to the executive committee for their review and approval.

Commissioner Drygas thanked the chair and members of the committees for their resolution and plan. She relayed that the gasline project is critical and will create almost 20,000 jobs. She indicated that the plan is going to be a living document and the department will work on through the leadership committee.

MOTION to support RESOLUTION NUMBER 18-03 In Support of the Alaska LNG Project Gasline Workforce Plan by Kevin Pomeroy  
Seconded by Kurt Kuhne  
Vote taken  
MOTION carries with unanimous support

Commissioner Drygas thanked the AWIB for their work on and support of RESOLUTION 18-03

**Industry Employer Panel**..... Raibow Fiberglass and Boat Repair,  
David Phillips, Owner;  
State of Alaska, Spring Creek  
Correctional Facility  
Bill Lapinskas, Superintendent;

Spring Creek Superintendent Lapinskas indicated new employees receive 1080 hours of direct supervision with 270 hours around police academy training. There are currently 21 correctional officer vacancies. Methods used for community engagement/recruitment include work of mouth, open houses and the use of Workplace Alaska. The GED graduation rate at Spring Creek is at the top of the nation. DOC also shared that there is a dog-training program in which Spring Creek takes in shelter dogs, trains them, and puts them up for adoption.

Deputy Commissioner Cashen asked if they work with the Job Center. Mr. Lapinskas said that they did, and Spring Creek also works with the ironworkers and the NCCER certification program. Brenda Pacarro asked about cultural programs for Alaska Native inmates, Mr. Lapinskas noted they do have some, but welcomed input.

Mr. Phillips had to leave the meeting and was unable to present.

**Closing Remarks**

Deputy Commissioner Cashen indicated his appreciation for a great meeting and for member’s engagement. He thanked everyone for their public service and the support of the resolution for the LNG plan. He recognized the retirements of Ed Flanagan, DETS, Director and John Cannon, DVR, Director.

ED Biastock thanked AVTEC for hosting the meeting, members, and staff who attended.

Chair Bell also thanked everyone for their involvement with the meeting.

**Adjourn**

MOTION to adjourn by Bruce Bustamante

Seconded by Marcus Trivette

Vote taken

MOTION carries

Next AWIB meeting – October, 2018 – Video Conference