

Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) Business Meeting **October 29, 2020 via Microsoft Teams Anchorage, Alaska Teleconference Number 1-888-354-0094 Conference ID 4461969111#**

Thursday, October 29, 2020

Board members and Designees in attendance

Kevin	Meyer	Lt. Gov.	X
Tamika	Ledbetter	Commissioner	X
Duane	Mayes	DOLWD Designee	X
Deborah	Riddle	DEED Designee	X
Laura	Russell	DHSS Designee	X
Julie	Anderson	DCCED Commissioner	Absent
Amy	Demboski	DCCED Designee	X
Kathy	Craft	UAA AK Rep	X
Cheryl	Edenshaw	Post Sec Ed/Voc/Ind	X
Carin	Smolin	Secondary Vocational Ed	X
John		Adult Basic Ed Designee	X
Arth	Brown III	Native E/T Organization	X
Brenda	Pacarro	Business/Industry	X
Larry	Bell	Business/Industry	Absent
Greg	Campbell	Business/Industry	X
Peter	Frank	Private Sector	Absent
Patrick	Rose	Private Sector	X
James	Hastings	Veteran	Absent
Marcus	Trivette	Private Sector	X
Bruce	Bustamante	Private Sector	X
Scott	Eickholt	Organized Labor	X

Jobs Are Alaska's Future

Corey	Baxter	Organized Labor	Absent
Ryan	Andrew	Organized Labor	X
Anthony	Ladd	Organized Labor	X

AWIB Staff in attendance

Louise Dean, Executive Director
 Greg Cashen, Assistant Director
 Anne Velardi, Program Coordinator
 Mary Rowland, Grants Administrator
 Rut Ocasio-Lopez, Grants Administrator
 Xavien Phillips, Program Coordinator
 Shane Bannarbie, Program Coordinator

DOLWD Staff in attendance

Dan Robinson, Chief, DOLWD/Research and Analysis
 Cathy LeCompte, Director, AVTEC
 Patsy Westcott, Director, DETS
 James Harvey, Assistant Director, DETS

8:30 Introduction

Call to Order..... AWIB Acting Chair Marcus Trivette
 Chair Larry Bell was excused
 Chair Marcus Trivette called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM

Roll Call..... Louise Dean, AWIB Executive Director
 Executive Director Dean called roll. A quorum was present for the meeting.

Welcome..... Acting Chair Trivette
 Acting Chair Trivette thanked everyone for their participation. He indicated there's a busy schedule for the half day meeting. Due to the COVID pandemic the business meeting today is being held via Microsoft Team. He reminded members to mute their microphones to reduce background noise and to do their best to speak clearly. The agenda for the meeting was condensed from previous meetings. For the sake of time the board members will not be providing regional updates. The department reports were submitted in writing with the exception of Dan Robinson, Chief of Research and Analysis. Greg Cashen will also give an AWIB grants unit update.

Agenda Approval..... Chair Marcus Trivette
 MOTION to approve the agenda by Greg Campbell
 Second by Kathy Craft
 Discussion – Brenda Pacarro has a conflict she will need to be excused at 10AM
 Vote taken
 MOTION carries

Welcome..... Commissioner Ledbetter

Commissioner Ledbetter thanked everyone for coming to discuss important issues during unprecedented times. Changes continue to present challenges. It is evident there's still a need to help Alaskans. The pandemic has changed the ways we do business which is currently happening now by having this meeting virtually. It is important to put our heads together to better serve the participants. We have the statutory responsibility that training will be different. There's the opportunity to expand the scope used for applicants to meet their needs.

Commissioner is pleased to see Resolution 20-02. She thanked everyone for their work and for reviewing the State Training and Employment Program (STEP) Request for Grant Application (RGA). The recommendations are valuable.

Also, she thanked Chair Bell for his outstanding job.

8:45 DOLWD Research and Analysis Economic Update Dan Robinson, Chief, Research and Analysis

Dan Robinson provided an economic update for Alaska. He reported COVID-19 has presented both permanent and non-permanent changes. It is an extreme event and it will change the workforce. Research and Analysis produces some of the core workforce data, works with Alaska Housing to produce housing data and creates detailed population data. He provided a rundown of COVID-19 damage and some history from April. COVID-19 affected oil prices and job losses. He compared Alaska to other states. He compared COVID-19 to the Spanish flu and mentioned it is 10x's higher. For a period of time numbers decreased but are still high. There are a lot of unemployed at this time of year and that is unusual. COVID-19 put into motion a 'work from home model.' He mentioned TRENDS article is the main way to get the economic data out to the public. He provided data with projections and growth over a decade by the number of jobs. He mentioned some themes in high growth occupations which are: resource extraction, senior care, IT and Specialized computer skills, marijuana and a little bit of agricultural.

Comment: Acting Chair Trivette stated that there's uncertainty in the 2021 tourism industry. Small business are at risk. The demand for employment is not going away, there will be the need for small business assistance and Federal assistance will be huge. There are also age differences to consider those who are at retirement age. Patterns continue to change. There's a reduced rate of retirement and more data to come.

Kathy Craft: New jobs and replacements are important. Those growth industries. There's possibly no needs for accountants right now but in 10 years there could be 80 openings as retiring people leave the workforce. The Trends growth – replace retirees on these occupations.

Director Maze: seniors are out of work. That is a big loss. He put forth an example.

9:15 Committee Reports.....Committee Chairs

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

Executive.....Acting Chair Trivette
Acting Chair Trivette thanked Meg Nordale, Daniel Domke, Brenda Pacarro and Corey Baxter for their making the time to attend the monthly meetings. He reported since the last board meeting the Executive Committee has met on a monthly to discuss ongoing administrative needs

of the board and several resolutions and policies coming out of other committee. The vice chair seat is currently vacant. Some of the discussions items are as follows:

- Approved the Alaska Maritime Education Consortium Action Agenda
- Discussed and passed Resolution 20-02 Supporting Alaska Maritime Education Consortium Action Agenda
- Discussed and approved Resolution 20-03 In Support of National Apprenticeship Week
- Discussed and approved the 2021 AWIB calendar
- Discussed and approved the document Incentivizing Local Alaska Hire which provides ideas and recommendations for local Alaska hire. Feedback was gathered from all of the committees and vetted through the ExCo
- Discussed and approved recommendations for changes to the State Training Employment Program (STEP) Request for Grant proposal

All of these will be an action item later on in the meeting.

Workforce Readiness & Employment Placement..... Marcus Trivette
The committee members include Bruce Bustamante, Cheryl Edenshaw, Deborah Riddle, Greg Campbell and James Hastings. Chair Trivette reported the committee reviewed the STEP RGA. The modification recommendations were forwarded to the ExCo for review and approval. The committee provided ideas and recommendations to increase Alaska Local Hire. The recommendations were forwarded to the ExCo. In addition, the committee reviewed the Alaska Maritime Education Consortium Agenda and the Resolution 20-02 Supporting the Alaska Maritime Education Consortium Action Agenda. All of these items are on the agenda under action items.

Assessment and Evaluation..... ED Dean
Executive Director Dean thanked everyone for their input and stated that her report aligns with Acting Chair Trivette's report. All the committees worked on the same items.

Legislative.....Brenda Pacarro
Chair Pacarro indicated the committee meets at the call of the chair, and has not met since the last board meeting.

Policy and Planning..... Corey Baxter
Chair Baxter thanked the committee members and put forth that the RGA was reviewed and is an action items today as well as the Alaska Resident hire.

AWIB Update.....ED Dean
Executive Director Dean reported the AWIB has been working closely with the ExCo and other committees over the STEP RGA and Alaska Hire both of which are on the agenda today. Assistant Director Cashen will provide a report on the grants unit.

Acting Chair Trivette asked about the status of the Reimagine Grant. Executive Director Dean said it was a highly competitive grant and that only a minimal of states received the award. Unfortunately, we were not successful in obtaining the grant.

10:15 - Break

10:30 Elections.....ED Dean
Executive Director Dean indicated Brenda Pacarro put forth a consideration and obtain the chair seat. She mentioned that this year elections went over differently than what transpired in the past.

Brenda Pacarro thanked everyone for their hard work and would be happy to serve and work together.

Calendar.....ED Dean
Executed Director Dean reported each year at the October meeting a draft calendar is provided with all the important dates that include the board meeting dates, committee dates and State holidays. The start of the legislative session is not included yet because it's currently not available. The calendar will be updated once it becomes available.

MOTION to approve calendar by Kathy Craft
Second by Patrick Rose
Discussion
Vote taken
MOTION carries

10:25 Incentivizing Alaska Local Hire.....ED Dean
Executive Director Dean stated earlier this year the AWIB was tasked with identifying ways to incentivize local Alaska hire and to create new job growth in order to employ more Alaskans. The AWIB is a diverse board with member representation from private and public education, labor and industry, native corporations, and state government entities. All other departments are looking at this issue as well. Feedback was gathered from the committees and forwarded to ExCo for review and approval.

MOTION to approve the document for Incentivizing Local Alaska Hire by Cheryl Edenshaw
Second by Arth Brown
Discussion
Vote taken
MOTION carries

10:35 STEP RGA.....ED Dean
Executive Director Dean indicated there were questions regarding the STEP RGA after grants were awarded. Grants staff asked grant recipients for recommendations on the application and RGA. There were four recommendations put forth from the committees which are:

- Should applicants be required to have a “match” for the grant
 - Most of the committees were not in favor of requiring a match. Assessment and Evaluation recommended a 50% or less match requirement
- Should there be a cap on the amount of funds a “for profit” training provider receives?
 - The committees recommended not to require a cap on for profit training providers because the state is so small, a for profit training center might be the only option to provide training
- Should there continue to be a per participant training dollar limit? For example a training provider might have a participant who uses less than the \$5,000 cap, but another participant might need more than \$5,000

- The committees agreed to keep the \$5,000 cap but allow the balance a participant that didn't use the entire amount to be used on another participant on a case by case basis
- Should there still be a one STEP application limit for training providers? For example the University of Alaska can only submit one application which is divided between campuses and training programs. Could the \$400,000 maximum be divided between campuses and training programs allowing for each campus to have an application
 - It was recommended that the University and other agencies can have more than one grant application but cannot exceed the maximum funding amount which is currently \$400,000. Also, it was recommended that the staff and committees define entity

Discussion took place as to whether or not to allow organizations to apply for more than one grant. Kathy Craft stated it appears there's support for entities to apply for the maximum amount. She provided an outline regarding UAA being three separate entities and recommended they can apply for the full amount of \$400,000.

Arth Brown indicated the Assessment and Evaluation committee wanted to know how entity is defined.

Kathy Craft requested a delay in voting until entity is defined.

Scott Eickholt encouraged members to move the motion forward then have another motion to add the recommendation to define entity.

Arth Brown suggested to make an amendment to move as presented bullets one through three.

Acting Chair Trivette stated there should be an amendment to the motion. He highly recommended an amendment to the motion to define entity.

MOTION to approve the amendment to approve bullets one through three as presented by Patrick Rose
 Second by Scott Eickholt
 Discussion
 Vote taken
 MOTION carries

Kathy Craft put in a motion that single entities are allowed to apply for the full amount and an entity is defined as having its own DUNS number. Rut asks the question what if an entity doesn't have their own DUNS #. The motion was rescinded.

Scott Eickholt understands there's a need to be clarity on the definition of entity and asked how it's been done in the past.

Acting Chair Trivette indicated previously entities were allowed to apply for more than one application. Assistant Director Cashen mention this issue has been looked at in the past. Some JATCs have two local agencies and some have three. Four hundred thousand dollars is a lot of money when you have 5.5 million to award. It can open up a can of worms the more we get into this. This is up to the board however ultimately it is up to the Commissioner.

Arth Brown said when they are asked to review the STEP applications they go by what is written in the application. The rule wasn't written down it was a verbal rule. If the concern is every applicant applies for a DUNS number and the full amount even if we define entity, it won't impact that one entity will get more of the pie.

Kathy Craft mentioned historically the University was allowed to apply separately.

Patrick Rose indicated by adding a DUNS number would limit who could apply and that is starting to cancel out organizations. Also, he indicated we are getting away from the purpose of the grant. Arth Brown suggested a DUNS number or a unique State of Alaska EIN number.

Acting Chair Trivette suggested if staff could work on a definition for entity. Executive Director Dean stated the RGA will go through the committees, the ExCo and then the Commissioner before it's published.

Motion to move bullet four and define the definition of entity back to committees and ExCo to review and approve and provide recommendations to Commissioner by Arth Brown
Second by Kathy Craft
Discussion
Vote taken
MOTION carries

10:45 Public Testimony

There were no participants for public testimony.

10:45 Alaska Maritime Education Consortium Action Agenda.....ED Dean

Executive Director Dean reported the Alaska Maritime had a Workforce Development plan of 2014 which was presented to AWIB and approved. Now they have the Alaska Maritime Education Consortium Action Agenda and has been vetted through the committees.

Acting Chair Trivette mentioned these are very important and thanked everyone for their hard work.

MOTION to approve the Alaska Maritime Education Consortium Action Agenda Motion to by Cheryl Edenshaw
Second by Greg Campbell
Discussion
Vote taken
MOTION carries

RESOLUTION 20-02 Supporting Alaska Maritime Education Consortium Action Agenda..... ED Dean

Executive Director Dean presented the document to the board indicating Resolution 20-02 supporting the Alaska Maritime Education Consortium Action Agenda has been vetted through the committees

MOTION to approve Resolution 20-02 Supporting the Alaska Maritime Education Consortium Action Agenda by Arth Brown
Second by Greg Campbell
Discussion

Vote taken
MOTION carries

11:00 Public Testimony

There were no participants for public testimony.

11:05 Supporting Nation Apprenticeship week.....ED Dean

AWIB supports this addition. This has been sent to Deputy Commissioner Munoz and a proclamation will be put forth from the Governor.

MOTION to approve Resolution 20-03 supporting National Apprenticeship Week by Scott Eickholt

Second by Cheryl Edenshaw

Discussion

Vote taken

MOTION carries

11:15 AWIB Grants Unit Update.....AWIB Assistant Director Greg Cashen

Assistant Director Cashen provided an update on ACA/TVEP/STEP state funded programs as well as WIOA Youth, WIOA Statewide Projects and the apprenticeship programs. He outlined the grantees and grant award amounts. He thanked the board for their time in reviewing the applications. In addition, he indicated TVEP is up for reauthorization next legislative session.

Acting Chair Trivette asked if they can receive a summary of each of the grants.

11:20 Other Business

None

MOTION to adjourn by Kathy Craft

Second by Patrick Rose

Discussion

Vote taken

MOTION carries

11:22 Adjourn