

**Vermont State Workforce Development Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date/Location:** Friday, May 26, 2023, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm, Sally Fox Conference Center, Waterbury, VT, 05676 and via Microsoft Teams

**Video Record of the Meeting:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MifFjN-OKM>

**Members Present:** Corey Mathieu, Michael Posternak, Chris Loso, Adam Grinold, Steven Dellinger-Pate, Heather Bouchey, Joyce Judy, Ellen Kahler, Tom Longstreth, Sophie Zdatny, Monica Greene, Scott Giles, Steven Dellinger-Pate, Kumulia “Kase” Long, Michael Harrington, Margaret Pinello-White, Nathan Piper (proxy), Matt Mckenney (proxy), Rick Bugbee (proxy), David Culver (proxy), John Young (proxy), Linda Schadler (proxy)

**Members Virtual:** Rebecca Kapsalis, Brian Kerns, Jill Olson, Grant Spates, Justin Davis (proxy), Jessica Vintinner (proxy)

**Guests in Attendance:** Dustin Degree, Franklin Cody, Cameron Wood, Alison Lamagna, Rhoni Basden, Maj. Gen. Gregory Knight, LTC Robert Burke, CSM Casey Bell, Patricia Moulton

**Guests Virtual**: Jerry Baake, Tiffany Walker, Alysia Ordway, Tiffany Walker

**Minutes By:** Abigail Rhim

Chair Grinold began by welcoming new members to the SWDB. This includes Kase Long and Corey Mathieu. Scott Farr is also a new member, however, he was represented today by David Culver. He then provided an update on the Special Oversight Committee on Workforce Expansion and Development (SOCWED). The group has been working with PCG to analyze Vermont’s workforce system. Recommendations on system improvement will come to fruition before the next legislative session.

Tori Biondolillo then reviewed today’s agenda. This includes presentations from the Vermont National Guard and Vermont Works for Women. Tori and Abby will then review the SWDB’s strategic plan, with the goal of approving of the strategic plan by the end of the meeting.

Major General Gregory Knight spoke on the Vermont National Guard and recruitment. He highlighted the current vacancies in the Vermont National Guard, and all the benefits that the program has to offer. He noted that it is a part time job that comes with many great incentives. He also addressed the stigma that comes with being in the Vermont National Guard and how to break down this narrative. He stressed his urge to work more collaboratively with Vermont employers, state agencies, and workforce development stakeholders to get more Vermonters in the Vermont National Guard and working in Vermont.

Rhoni Basden and Alison Lamagna discussed Vermont Works for Women’s Equity in Infrastructure framework that they created in order to address Vermont’s opportunities to increase funding, build Vermont’s workforce, and provide equitable pathways to Vermonters. Their presentation addressed their development approach, rollout, and programmatic opportunities. The full Equity in Infrastructure framework can be found here: [Equity in Infrastructure Framework (adobe.com)](https://indd.adobe.com/embed/de1024e9-8628-484a-ae72-7cc2d626bfe1?startpage=1&allowFullscreen=true)

Adam Grinold then provided a brief overview of the development of the SWDB’s strategic plan.

Abby Rhim highlighted the year of development surrounding the strategic plan, including multiple board meetings, many committee meetings, and the creation and collaboration of multiple working groups.

Tori Biondolillo then reviewed each portion of the strategic plan. The priority areas of review included:

1. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

2. Workforce System Alignment

3. Workforce Supports

4. Workforce Education and Training

5. Size and Quality of Workforce

After reviewing the strategic plan, Tori answered questions from both board members in the room and those attending the meeting via Microsoft Teams.

Adam Grinold then called a motion looking to approve the discussed strategic plan. Motion was made by a board member in the room. The motion was seconded by another board member in the room. Adam then asked the group for any further discussion. He asked all those in favor of the strategic plan to raise their hand or speak out. Motion moved, seconded, and approved unanimously by voice of vote and show of hands, both in person and virtually.

Adam then approved the meeting minutes from the February 16th board meeting. Motion moved, seconded, and approved unanimously by voice of vote and show of hands, both in person and virtually.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Abigail Rhim.

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Abigal Rhim, Deputy Director, State Workforce Development Board