



North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board

Northcentral Technical College
1000 W Campus Drive, Wausau
Health Sciences Building - Room 104A

Thursday, March 14, 2024 • 10:00 a.m.

Minutes

WDB Members Present: Brad Gast, Jodi Gruhn, Jeremy Higgins, Ron Karl, and Tim Norlin

WDB Members Present by Zoom: Angie Close, Angela Eberhardt, Paula Erickson, Paul Herold, Anthony Negani, Patty Noland, Casey Nye, Kristine Porter, Lisa Sobczak, and Ron Zimmerman

WDB Members Absent: Thad Brockman, Al Chaney, Dave Eckmann, Diane Sennholz, and Andy Thompson

WDB Staff Present: John Cokl, Peter Gelhar, Rob Golla, Brian Kalish, Jane Spencer, Jennifer Reinert, and CJ Tangedal

Others Present: Brian Wolfe, Colt Nicklaus, Mitchell Rupp, and Logan Krueger

1. **Call to Order-** Murphy called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. **Announcement of Quorum-** There was quorum.
3. **Acknowledgement of Guests** – Murphy welcomed the guests present at the meeting in-person and Zoom.
4. **Approval of Agenda** – Nye moved to amend agenda to reorder item #9 to occur after agenda item #6; it was seconded by Norlin. Motion carried.
5. **Approval of Minutes from December 14, 2023** – Higgins moved to approve the minutes from December 14, 2023; it was seconded by Gast. Motion carried.
6. **Review Fiscal Year (ended June 2023) Audit Results:** Logan Krueger from Vesta CPA Firm reviewed the Fiscal Year audit results, which was a clean audit.
7. **Program Presentations:**
 - Current State of the Local Education Workforce: Peter Gelhar and Mitchell Rupp presented a PowerPoint that focused on the school districts functioning as employers and their hiring needs.

8. Announcements from the Chief Elected Officials – Spencer gave the update on behalf of the CEOs. They approved the PY23 Job Center Agreements, that has gone out to WIOA partners to sign. The CEOs discussed the upcoming April elections, as some of them are not running again and some are running contested; therefore, there is expected to be several new CEOs. The CEOs will hold their elections and elect a new liaison to the Executive Committee as Craig McEwen has chosen not to run again. The CEOs have scheduled a special meeting on April 4th to accommodate the deadlines for the 2024-2028 Local Plan submissions.

9. Announcements from the Vice chair – Murphy welcomed the three newest board members, Conny Edmondson, Angela Eberhardt, and Jodi Gruhn.

10. Approval of Treasurer’s Report – Norlin moved to approve the treasurer’s report as presented; it was seconded by Close. Motion carried.

11. Approval of Program Year 2024 WIOA Provider Contract Renewals – Spencer and Kalish reviewed the mid-year review of NCWWDB’s contracted provider, Forward Service Corporation. The results were presented to the Executive Committee, which was approved. It will also go to the CEOs for approval. Zimmerman moved to approve Forward Service Corporation as the PY24 WIOA Provider; it was seconded by Erickson. Motion carried.

12. Workgroup/Program Summaries

- **Executive Committee** – Murphy reported that at their last meeting they reviewed and approved the annual employer contribution to 401K retirement plan. They also reviewed the mid-year monitoring report for Forward Service Corporation and approved the PY24 contract renewal.
- **Program Updates** – Spencer updated the group on the Local Plan schedule and process. Spencer will update the group when the document is ready for review and comment. Spencer explained the new way the performance results will be presented based on the direction from DWD. The difference between the data is a YTD model vs a rolling four-quarters model. Program Year 2023 performance is on track, but final results will be available at the end of the fourth quarter.

Colt Nicklaus reported they had 47 new enrollments in WIOA programs - 12 adults, 12 youth, and 23 dislocated workers.

Spencer highlighted a few items in her Executive Director report. The Talent Development Conference will be held in La Crosse on April 8th and 9th. Spencer introduced Jennifer Reinert, NCWWDB's newest employee. Reinert was hired to serve as the Reentry Coach for the new Department of Labor grant, Wisconsin Pathways Home 4.

- **Partner Reports**

- **OSO** – Kalish reported at their March 5th meeting, they discussed how to use the \$2,000 remaining in the budget. There will be a couple of hiring events taking place. June 4th will be the annual OSO partnership meeting.
- **CWIMA** – Conny Edmondson reported they are working on their Expo which will be held on April 23rd and 24th. The event is intended to help local manufacturers get automated equipment on their shop floors. They have signed the articulation agreement between NTC and UWSP with a stackable credential that allows individuals to work their full-time job while getting an education. They have begun the planning process for the Heavy Metal Tour 2024.
- **WATEA** – No Report

13. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.