



## North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board

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Northcentral Technical College  
1000 W Campus Drive, Wausau  
Room E101

Thursday, December 12, 2024 • 10:00 a.m.

### Minutes (Approved)

**WDB Members Present:** Jodi Gruhn, Jeremy Higgins, Dan Kinsella, Casey Nye, Michael Tautges and Amy Yessa.

**WDB Members Present by Teams:** Al Chaney, Angie Close, Angela Eberhardt, Paula Erickson, Kate Ferrell, Paul Herold, Matthew Murphy, Patty Noland, Kristine Porter, and Eva Scheppa.

**WDB Members Absent:** Thad Brockman, Dave Eckmann, Conney Edmondson, Ronald Karl, Anthony Negani, Tim Norlin, Diane Sennholz and Andy Thompson.

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

**Others Present:** Brian Wolfe, Colt Nicklaus, Kathy Kloes and Kristin Derrie.

- 1. Call to Order-** Chaney called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.
- 2. Announcement of Quorum-** There was quorum.
- 3. Approval of Agenda** – Murphy moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Erickson.  
Motion carried.
- 4. Approval of Minutes from September 12, 2024** – Gruhn moved to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2024, meeting; seconded by Close. Motion carried.
- 5. Approval of Treasurer’s Report** – Close moved to approve the Treasurer’s report as presented; seconded by Herold. Motion carried.
- 6. Announcements from the Chief Elected Officials** – Tautges reported the CEO’s approval of two new Board members - Dan Kinsella and Amy Yessa. Tautges welcomed both to the Board. Tautges highlighted the CEO’s top two concerns for finding enough people, in all the counties, to work in health care and the trades. Counties are completing their 2025 budgets. A main concern is the cost-of-living adjustment and the ability to offer wages and

benefits substantive enough to retain quality employees. Counties are seeking ways to work together to avoid poaching staff from each other.

**7. Announcements from the Chair** – Chair Chaney and Director Spencer invited Amy Yessa and Dan Kinsella to introduce themselves to the Board. Each provided an overview of their background and experience. Eva Scheppa, with Family Health Center of Marshfield, also introduced herself. Eva will represent the healthcare sector. Kate Ferrel, from Nicolet College, is back on the Board representing the Wisconsin Technical College System. All present and continuing Board members briefly introduced themselves as well.

**8. Program Presentation: WIOA Program – Business Solutions** –Kalish presented an overview of the program side of the Workforce Development Board and Gelhar presented on the Business Service side of the Board and how those two pieces work together. Programs and Business Services have separate roles but work together toward the same goal, getting individuals into family-supporting jobs.

**9. Workgroup/Program Summaries**

- **Program Updates** – Kalish reported DWD completed their monitoring of the NCWWDB Title One programs in November. He offered a reminder that the Program Year runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, so we are early in the program year. Performance numbers for quarter one will continue to go up as the year progresses.

Nickolas reported from Forward Service Corporation with information from the WIOA Update, included with the meeting packet.

Spencer added that some Job Center leases will be up for renewal with possible changes under consideration. Also, DWD and Nicolet Library Federation have partnered to create Job Pods, mini job resource centers offered to libraries throughout Wisconsin. Two libraries are participating in our region: Eagle River and Wausau. These Job Pods enhance our workforce services by offering another access point to reach the population. Spencer also highlighted the Re-Entry program, a partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections at the Adams and Wood County Jails. The Wisconsin Pathways Home is a newer grant

with the U.S. Department of Labor, working with former inmates released from the State institutions. Support to Communities, opioid crisis grant ended in August. DWD has a new opioid grant. NCWWDB is partnering with the Northwest Board, applying to the DWD for consideration of the rural grant. A decision will likely be announced next week. The Wisconsin Workforce Boards hosting the Talent Development Conference (TDCon25) April 15-16 in Milwaukee. Board members are encouraged to attend.

## 10. Partner Reports

- **OSO** – An All-Staff Training was held for OSO in October.
- **CWIMA** – None. Edmondson not in attendance
- **WATEA** – Yessa reported on their ongoing Industry 4.0 Training for automotive technicians. The overall goal is to advance the knowledge of auto technicians in the area, beyond what a technical school would typically offer. This is partnership with Carquest Technical Institute. They offer three days of training a month from now until March 2026, with A, B, and C level tracks for technicians. Classes are free to attend. Employers pay their staff wages to attend the classes. So far, all classes have been full except for one. Also partnering with MSTC on a Commute to Career Shuttle, transporting students through June of 2025. Both would like this collaboration to continue and possibly expand.

**Executive Committee** – Chaney announced Spencer’s plan to retire in April 2025. Spencer has served the organization for over 20 years and began her career as an Adult Program Coordinator. Chaney shared these will be big shoes to fill. He offered his appreciation for her stellar work and wished her well. Spencer thanked her team and the Board for their support.

**11. Adjournment** – Erickson moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Higgins. The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

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*Minutes approved 03/13/2025*