

Governor's Workforce Cabinet

Thursday, October 21, 2021

Indiana State Library
315 W. Ohio Street
History Reference Room
Indianapolis, IN 46204

MEETING MINUTES

Present: State Representative Bob Behning, Jená Bellezza, Jody French, Megan Glover, Anne Hazlett, Joyce Irwin, Dr. Katie Jenner, Mark Kara, Kimberly Opsahl, Fred Payne, Paul Perkins, Rebecca Schroeder, and Senator Jeff Raatz.

Absent: Amy Brown, Commissioner Rob Carter, Maurice Coates Jr., President Sue Ellspermann, President Chuck Johnson, Chair Teresa Lubbers, President Ronald Rochon, Tony Vespa.

I. Welcome and Call to Order – Chair Fred Payne

The meeting was called to order by Chair Payne at 10:03 a.m. ET.

II. Roll Call

P.J. McGrew called the roll for Workforce Cabinet members; a quorum was not present at the beginning of the meeting.

III. Approval of the Minutes and Bylaws

Without a quorum, Chair Payne deferred the approval of the August 19, 2021, minutes to the next GWC meeting in December.

IV. Chair Report

- a. Commissioner Payne chaired the October meeting due to the absence of Commissioner Lubbers. Commissioner Payne discussed the current state of the state's workforce and economy. Additional federal unemployment assistance expired in early September and the number of weekly claims has lowered to approximately 3,200 with a current 4.1% unemployment rate.
- b. Indiana launched the Hoosier Talent Network a few months back as a new resource for job seekers to be matched with employment opportunities that align with their skills. The state is currently seeking out employers to sign up for the Hoosier Talent Network now that a solid base of users has been established.
- c. The state has been working with Camp Atterbury officials to place approximately 7,000 Afghan refugees into jobs and homes. Commissioner Payne provided some statistics on the average size of families, gender breakdown, etc. Officials are looking to resettle the refugees in South Bend, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, and Bloomington at this time. DWD has worked with the employer community to find employment opportunities for refugees looking to locate here in Indiana.

V. Executive Director Report

- a. Director McGrew shared a brief update on the Indiana Career Accelerator Fund. An announcement has gone out seeking provider applications for the new program. The opportunity for students to apply for the program is slated to be opened later in the year once a solid base of eligible providers has been approved.
- b. PJ shared a brief update related to the completion of the CTE redesign process. He announced that preliminary enrollment numbers show over 45,000 enrollments in Next Level Programs of Study courses for this year. Overall CTE enrollments are also set to be at their highest level in recent years, somewhere at or slightly above 130,000.
- c. Director McGrew followed up on Commissioner Payne's comments and the ensuing discussion to highlight his continued focus on trying to increase the state's labor force participation rate. While the unemployment rate continues to remain low, PJ echoed earlier comments on finding ways to reengage various populations in the workforce to improve the state's labor force participation rate.

VI. Overview of the Office of Equity, Inclusion & Opportunity

- a. Presentation by Karrah Herring, J.D. the Chief Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunity Officer for the State of Indiana.
- b. Director Herring provided an overview of the work done so far by the office since her appointment, including the launch of the state's first equity website and data portal.
- c. Karrah also shared some information about the mission and vision of the Office and some goals for the upcoming months.
- d. The office is making a few new hires to expand their capacity and has brought on Joseph Pinnell, Deputy Chief and Executive Director of Workforce Engagement, who will be most involved in workforce related matters.
- e. One specific project the office will be focused on is completing Regional Equity Reports. Director Herring indicated that there may be some opportunity for collaboration with the Cabinet on that work in the months ahead.

VII. Statewide Career and Technical Education Comprehensive Needs Assessment

- a. Tony Harl presented an update on matters relating to career and technical education, including the upcoming statewide comprehensive needs assessment.
- b. Tony overviewed how the CTE Action Team that met in 2018 was instrumental in several key items, including the CTE redesign.
- c. The redesign of CTE pathways is now complete and there have been 66 career pathways developed as part of Next Level Programs of Study.
 - i. Many schools and career centers have adopted NLPS early, during the current school year.
 - ii. Official implementation will begin with the 2022-2023 school year.
 - iii. Course titles and descriptions for 2022-2023 are being released this Friday.
- d. Tony provided an overview of the new CLNA process that the Office of CTE has unveiled, which CTE districts are in the early stages of completing. The new CLNA process provides many opportunities, with 5 different activities outlined below:
 - i. Regional collaboration meetings

- ii. Program of study size, scope, and quality
 - iii. Student performance
 - iv. Equity lab
 - v. Recruitment, retention, and training survey
- e. Tony next discussed how the Governor's Workforce Cabinet will be forming a committee to do a statewide comprehensive needs assessment of Indiana's CTE system.
 - i. The committee will review statewide policies and may provide suggestions for legislative changes.
 - ii. The committee will cover several topics related to Labor Market alignment, including agreeing on a definition of "high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand" and reviewing CTE funding metrics.
 - iii. The committee will also discuss work-based learning, CTE delivery policies, and a variety of other topics. Tony asked that Cabinet members consider if they might be interested in serving on the committee and indicated that communication will be sent out following the meeting to assess interest from various members.

VIII. Communications Plan Update

- a. Joel Cooper, Director of Data Analytics and Insights, and Francesca Jarosz Brady, Senior Vice President for VOX Global, presented an update on the Education Value Campaign.
- b. The project has focused on examining Hoosier attitudes toward education beyond high school in light of declining post-secondary enrollment numbers in the last few years.
- c. Methodology used:
 - i. Primary research
 - ii. News articles
 - iii. Survey of 1,500 Indiana residents
 - iv. In-depth interviews with participants
 - v. Breakdown of interviewees by category
- d. Joel and Francesca detailed some of the insights that have been gathered so far and the remaining aspects of the project that are yet to be completed. They also shared some of the preliminary recommendations VOX is thinking through. VOX will share a final report with CHE and GWC staff in December. The Cabinet will be kept informed of the ongoing project and action items that stem from the report's findings.

IX. Other Business

- a. There was no other business to discuss.

X. Adjournment

- a. Hearing no questions or further discussion, Chair Payne adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.