

Governor's Workforce Cabinet

Thursday, April 21, 2022

Indiana Govt. Center South – Wabash Hall

302 W. Washington Street

Indianapolis, IN 46204

MEETING MINUTES

**Present:**

Jená Bellezza, Rep. Bob Behning, Commissioner Rob Carter, Maurice Coates, Jr. (virtual), Tony Denhart, Dr. Sue Ellspermann, Jody French (virtual), Anne Hazlett, Joyce Irwin, Dr. Katie Jenner, Chuck Johnson (virtual), Mark Kara, Chairman Ryan Kitchell, Commissioner Chris Lowery, Rebecca McCuaig, Kimberly Opsahl (virtual), Paul Perkins, Senator Jeff Raatz, Dr. Ronald Rochon (virtual), Dr. Steve Rogers, Rebecca Schroeder, Dr. Steve Thalheimer, Tony Vespa

**Absent:** Amy Brown, Megan Glover, Chris LaMothe, Commissioner Fred Payne

**I. Welcome and Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ryan Kitchell at 10:00 a.m. ET.

**II. Welcome Newly Appointed Members**

Chair Kitchell introduced himself as the Chairman for the Governor's Workforce Cabinet (GWC). He then introduced the four newly appointed members of the GWC:

- Rebecca McCuaig, Accelerate Indiana Municipalities
- Dr. Steve Rogers, Director of Walker Area Career Center
- Steve Thalheimer, Superintendent of Elkhart Community Schools
- Chris Lowery, Commissioner, Commission on Higher Education

**III. Approval of the Minutes**

Chair Kitchell asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 17, 2022. So moved by Joyce Irwin; Dr. Katie Jenner seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously via a voice vote.

**IV. Ratify Submission of WIOA Combined Plan Updates and Modifications**

Mike Barnes, Chief Workforce Officer with the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, presented an update and timeline for the WIOA Combined Plan:

- a. February 24<sup>th</sup> – The WIOA Combined Plan was submitted for public comment. Four comments were received during the 30-day window.
- b. March 29<sup>th</sup> – GWC Policy Committee met and approved plan for submission.
- c. March 31<sup>st</sup> – The updates and modifications to the WIOA Combined Plan were submitted to the U.S. Dept. of Labor (USDOL).
- d. April 21<sup>st</sup> – At today's meeting the Cabinet is being asked to accept and ratify the Policy Committee's approval of the submission of the WIOA Combined Plan.

- e. July 1<sup>st</sup> – The state will await feedback from DOL during the upcoming weeks. Full approval is scheduled to be received by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Chair Kitchell asked for a motion to ratify the Policy Committee’s approval of the submission of the WIOA Combined Plan. So moved by Dr. Katie Jenner; Jená Bellezza seconded the motion. The submission of the WIOA Combined Plan was ratified by the Cabinet on a unanimous voice vote.

**V. Discussion – Member Feedback to Inform Upcoming Cabinet Priorities**

Chair Kitchell next turned to an open discussion where members were each given 3-5 minutes to discuss what they see as current strengths of the Cabinet, opportunities for improvement, and areas they would like to see the Cabinet focus under new leadership.

Cabinet member feedback centered on several key themes during the discussion. These themes included moving future Cabinet meetings to different locations around the state, forming smaller working groups to focus on key priorities, working to have a more significant voice from the employer community, and clarifying the Cabinet’s goals.

**VI. Other Business**

- a. Chair Kitchell deferred remaining member feedback to future 1-on-1 conversations and the next Cabinet meeting in June.

**VII. Adjournment**

- a. Hearing no questions or further discussion, Chair Kitchell adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m. ET.