

Governor's Workforce Cabinet

Thursday, June 16, 2022

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

MEETING MINUTES

Present:

Rep. Bob Behning, Jená Bellezza, Commissioner Rob Carter, Maurice Coates Jr. (virtual), Tony Denhart, Dr. Sue Ellspermann, Jody French (virtual), Megan Glover, Joyce Irwin, Dr. Chuck Johnson, Mark Kara, Ryan Kitchell, Chris LaMothe, Commissioner Chris Lowery, Rebecca McCuaig, Kim Opsahl, Commissioner Fred Payne, Dan Peterson, Paul Perkins, Dr. Steve Rogers, Senator Jeff Raatz, Dr. Ronald Rochon (virtual), Dave Shane, Dr. Steve Thalheimer, Tony Vespa

Absent: Anne Hazlett, Dr. Katie Jenner, Loren King, Rebecca Schroeder

I. Welcome and Call to Order – Ryan Kitchell, Chair

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ryan Kitchell at 10:00 am ET.

II. Welcome Newly Appointed Members

Chair Kitchell introduced the new Executive Director for the Governor's Workforce Cabinet (GWC), Whitney Ertel. He then introduced the newest GWC board members:

- Loren King – CEO and co-founder of Trinitas
- Dan Peterson – Vice President of Industry & Government Affairs for Cook Group, Inc.
- David Shane – retired CEO of Lacy Diversified Industries

III. Approval of the Minutes and Bylaws

Chair Kitchell asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 21, 2022. So moved by Joyce Irwin; Dr. Sue Ellspermann seconded the motion; minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Chair Report

Chair Kitchell provided an update on his meetings with members since taking over as GWC Chairman. He outlined four main themes of feedback and some initial actions that have been taken:

- a. **Moving Cabinet meetings around the state** – the August GWC meeting will be held in Lafayette and subsequent meetings will occur in each of the 12 workforce board regions.
- b. **Clarifying Cabinet metrics and goals** – members were reminded of the GWC's previously stated goals, including as part of the State Workforce Plan.

- c. **Forming employer-led working groups** – all members have been placed into a working group that will focus on a certain subject area. Each working group will meet over the next several months to formulate recommendations that will be presented later this fall.
- d. **Increasing the employer voice on the Cabinet** – the Governor’s Office has appointed several additional employers to the Cabinet and Chairman Kitchell indicated a couple more are currently in process. Each of the working groups will be led by an employer to help ensure that recommendations are in line with employer needs.

V. Region 12 Overview – Employ Indy

- a. The Cabinet heard an overview of the Region 12 workforce board, which covers Marion County. This presentation served as the first of what will be a series of updates from all 12 regional workforce boards.
- b. Cabinet member Joyce Irwin introduced Angie Carr Klitzsch, the Executive Director of Employ Indy. Angie presented an overview of Employ Indy’s goals, vision and mission. She covered many of the initiatives that Employ Indy is involved in and where they have seen success. She concluded by covering some challenges and ways the state can be involved in helping further their impact to Hoosiers in Region 12.

VI. Employer Spotlight – Cook Group

- a. Cabinet member Dan Peterson, the vice president of industry and government affairs for Cook Group Inc, gave an overview of the company’s innovative workforce efforts.
- b. Cook Group is an international company formed in 1963 that today employs nearly 7,000 Hoosiers.
- c. Dan shared information about the “My Cook Pathway” program at Cook, including the success they have seen and how it has been continually improved over time. He also discussed other initiatives, including their recent investment in a new medical manufacturing facility on the Eastside of Indianapolis.

VII. Working Groups

- a. Chair Kitchell asked for some concluding remarks from Director Ertel. Ertel asked that members use the remainder of the time allotted to convene into their assigned working groups for a 15-minute introductory discussion.

VIII. Adjournment

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