

Governor's Workforce Cabinet

Thursday, August 19, 2021

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

MEETING MINUTES

Present:

Jená Bellezza, Mark Kara, Fred Payne, Chair Teresa Lubbers, Paul Perkins (virtual), Rebecca Schroeder, Megan Glover, State Representative Bob Behning, Tony Vespa, Amy Brown, Jody French, Joyce Irwin, Dr. Katie Jenner, Dr. Ronald Rochon, Anne Hazlett, David Rosenberg, Dr. Ronald Rochon, Kimberly Opsahl, and Rob Carter.

Absent:

Senator Jeff Raatz, Maurice Coates Jr., Sue Ellspermann, Chuck Johnson

I. Welcome and Call to Order – Chair Teresa Lubbers

Meeting called to order by Chair Lubbers at 10:00am ET.

II. Roll Call

P.J. McGrew called the roll for Workforce Cabinet members; a quorum was present.

III. Approval of the Minutes and Bylaws

Teresa Lubbers motioned to approve the meeting minutes from June 17, 2021. So moved by Joyce Irwin; Jená Bellezza seconded the motion.

IV. Opening Address

- a. Governor Eric J. Holcomb addressed the Cabinet members and expressed his appreciation for their dedication and hard work. He emphasized the importance of the Cabinet's work and the real progress being made across Indiana to skill up Hoosiers to find meaningful employment and meet the needs of employers. The Governor specifically highlighted the Workforce Ready Grant and its recent landmark of serving over 50,000 Hoosiers and having over 25,000 completions.

V. DWD: Connecting Workforce to Opportunities

- a. Fred Payne, Commissioner of the Dept. of Workforce Development presented on several DWD projects centered on connecting Hoosiers to jobs. DWD is focusing on moving from a program centered focus to a people centered focus and ensuring workforce initiatives are data driven.
- b. Commissioner Payne provided a snapshot of the ways DWD has been able to successfully serve various Hoosiers during the past year.
 - i. 650,000 with informational services

- ii. 36,000 with direct case management
 - iii. 21,000 with job training
 - iv. 102,000 with job placement
- c. He then discussed the high number of current job postings and some of the strategies DWD is working on to connect individuals with those opportunities. This includes the newly launched Hoosier Talent Network and an ongoing Applied Workforce Data Project that is seeking to better utilize data to match individuals with opportunities.

VI. CHE: Connecting Postsecondary to Opportunities

- a. Chair Lubbers opened with the state's big goal of having least 60% of Hoosiers have education and training beyond a high school diploma by 2025. Currently 48.3% of Hoosiers have earned a credential beyond high school.
- b. She then discussed CHE's strategic plan, "Reaching Higher in State of Change." Key metrics from the plan include:
 - i. Educational Attainment
 - ii. Career Relevance and Preparation
 - iii. Economic Impact
- c. Current challenges to raising educational attainment include:
 - i. College-going enrollment decline
 - ii. Skepticism of higher education
 - iii. Need for affordability
 - iv. Skilled workforce availability
 - v. Closing equity gaps
- d. Commissioner Lubbers emphasized the assets Indiana has to assist students with pursuing higher education through numerous Financial Aid Programs:
 - i. Indiana is ranked 1st in the Midwest and fourth in the nation in providing financial aid
 - ii. 21st Century Scholars
 - iii. Workforce Ready Grant
 - iv. You can. Go Back.
- e. She closed by discussing several of the areas CHE remains focused on to continue supporting greater alignment from K-12 to workforce.
 - i. Increase accessibility for students to earn college credit in high school through dual credit and the Indiana College Core
 - ii. Strengthening the teacher pipeline through focusing on teacher diversity and credentialing
 - iii. Continuing to emphasize FAFSA Completion
 - iv. Workforce Ready Grant
 - v. Cross-sector data dashboard

VII. GWC Connecting CTE to Opportunities

- a. GWC Executive Director P.J. McGrew presented an update on recent activity from the GWC.

- b. The GWC launched the Employer Connector Tool, which is an online tool for employers to connect with CTE students. P.J. presented a slide with an example on how to use the portal and mentioned the tool has received some initial coverage and usage.
- c. Next PJ explained some of the background for the CTE Redesign process and what the process has entailed over the last nearly two years. He thanked members of the Cabinet and their teams who have been instrumental in the process.
- d. P.J. then discussed some of the next steps:
 - 1. All districts will be completing a Certified Local Needs Assessment over the fall and winter months
 - 2. Office of CTE staff will be continuing to develop additional trainings and resources regarding the transition to new courses. All new courses for the 2022-2023 school year will be released in October.
 - 3. Efforts will be made to develop broader employer engagement moving forward to ensure courses are in line with desired skills and competencies.
- e. PJ concluded by discussing the GWC Dashboard, which will be a focus of the Cabinet over the next several months. The purpose is to highlight key data points across the Pre-K through career continuum that are critical to an individual's success throughout their learning and career journey.

VIII. DOE: Connecting K-12 to Opportunities

- a. Secretary of Education Katie Jenner presented for the Department of Education and emphasized that the keyword today has been "alignment."
- b. Secretary Jenner began by overviewing some of the Department's focus since a transition in leadership in early 2021 and then discussed the agency priorities moving forward.
 - i. Early 2021 – first 7 months undertook extensive listening effort with numerous stakeholder groups; built and developed internal leadership team; analyzed data on student achievement, educator pipeline, etc. They then developed pillars, strategic priorities and tactical solutions.
 - ii. The 3 Pillars of the Department are:
 - 1. Student Learning and Opportunity
 - 2. Educator Talent, Quality, and Value
 - 3. System Alignment & Capacity
 - iii. Secretary Jenner then talked through some strategic priorities and tactical examples within the 3 pillars.

IX. Measurements of Success

- a. Governor Holcomb offered some remarks regarding the work of the agencies who presented at the meeting and the Cabinet as a whole. He talked through some of the progress Indiana has made during his time as Governor, but how important continual progress in the education and workforce space continues to be for Indiana's short- and long-term success. The Governor again thanked the Cabinet members for their time and dedication to the work of the Cabinet.

X. State Plan Interim Progress

- a. P.J. discussed the State Plan progress, stating that it has been approximately 1 year since the Cabinet received federal approval. He provided an update on some activities within each of the 5 main overarching goals of the Strategic Plan.
 - i. Focus on meeting the needs of individual Hoosiers
 - ii. Integrate state systems to facilitate greater success
 - iii. Align programs to create a healthy, engaged and talented citizen
 - iv. Maximize resources for impact-driven programs
 - v. Foster impactful relationships between businesses, community partners and government agencies.

XI. Adjournment

- a. Hearing no questions or further discussion, Chair Lubbers adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.