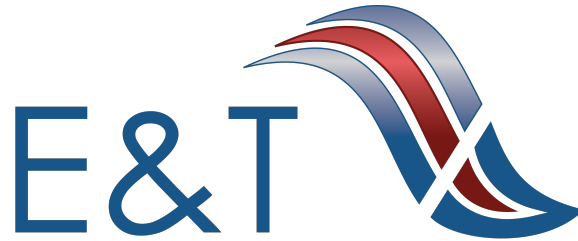




NASWA Employment and Training Committee

**Committee Meeting  
September 18-19, 2018  
Birmingham, Alabama**





NASWA Employment and Training Committee

**Employment & Training Committee Meeting**  
**Sheraton Birmingham Hotel**  
**Birmingham, AL**

**Tuesday, September 18, 2018**  
**East Meeting Room M**

- 12:00 p.m. *Hosted Lunch*
- 1:30 p.m. Welcome and Introductions  
*Richard McPherson (OK), Chair*  
*Fitzgerald Washington (AL)*
- Alabama Showcase
- 2:45 p.m. Roundtable Session
- WIOA Waivers
  - Funding and Allocation Issues
  - Transition Planning
  - Branding
  - Returning/Incarcerated Citizens
- 4:15 p.m. Committee Business and 2019 Goals
- Minutes of Prior Meeting
  - Workgroups
  - 2019 AY Goals
- 5:00 p.m. *Meet and Greet Reception in Registration Hall*

**Wednesday, September 19, 2018**  
**East Meeting Room O**

- 7:30 a.m.     *Hosted Breakfast*
- 8:30 a.m.     Joint Session with NASWA Equal Opportunity Committee
- 10:00 a.m.     Break
- 10:15 a.m.     Joint Session with NASWA Unemployment Insurance Committee on RESEA
- 11:45 p.m.     *Hosted Lunch*
- 1:15 p.m.     Workforce Summit & UI Directors' Conference Begins

## Attendee List

### Members:

#### Stephen Smith, AL

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### **Hayley McKee, WY**

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## Attendee List

### Guests:

#### Gay Gilbert, USDOL

USDOL Office of Unemployment  
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### Staff:

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## *ASSOCIATION YEAR 2018 REPORT*

*Scott Eychner (MT), Chair*

*Richard McPherson (OK), Vice-Chair*

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### **BACKGROUND**

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The Employment and Training (E&T) Committee provides state workforce agency administrators a forum to share information and solutions on emerging issues related to the major workforce development programs, to provide advice on and assist with development of NASWA's legislative and other priorities, and to provide advice to and receive updates from Federal policymakers, researchers, and partners. The most frequently discussed programs are:

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs,
- Wagner-Peyser Act Employment Services program,
- Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments (RESEA) for UI claimants,
- apprenticeship programs,
- WIOA partner programs (Vocational Rehabilitation, Adult Basic Education, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, SNAP, Child Care, Medicaid),
- Trade Adjustment Assistance, and
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit, Foreign Labor Certification, and services for veterans and other special populations.

### **MEETINGS**

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**The Committee held three in-person meetings during the 2018 association year.** The first meeting was held November 15th-16<sup>th</sup>, 2017, in Nashville, TN, the second was held February 26th-27<sup>th</sup>, 2018, in Washington, DC in conjunction with the 2018 NASWA Winter Policy Forum, and the third meeting was held in Missoula, MT, in July 2018, in conjunction with meetings of the National Association of Government Labor Officials and the National Governors Association's state liaisons and board chairs groups.

**The Committee also held virtual meetings to supplement the in-person meetings and encourage additional member engagement.** These included:

- **August 31, 2018:** Speed Mentoring Session
- **June 12, 2018:** Apprenticeship Update and Discussion with John Ladd, USDOL/ETA
- **May 24, 2018:** TANF and Performance with Kelly Desjardins, APHSA
- **April 18, 2018:** Speed Mentoring Session



Information on past and future meetings, including meeting minutes, can be found on the NASWA website, via the [Meetings tab](#) or the [Committee tab](#).

## GOALS AND WORKGROUPS

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During a planning session at the Committee's first 2018 meeting, Committee members decided to shift the focus from general WIOA implementation to more strategic work. To this end, the Committee agreed on several areas of focus, and elected to stand up workgroups around four of the areas (workgroups are marked with an asterisk). At the Committee's second meeting, two additional target areas were identified and they also appear here. The Committee has also had a longstanding *Performance Measurement Workgroup*.

- *\*Apprenticeship programs* (OH, AL, TN, CO, NASWA, MD, MO)—John Weber, OH, Lead
- *\*The National Labor Exchange (NLx)* (ND, UT, NV, TX, KS, NASWA, TN)—Liz Carver, UT, Lead
- *\*The NASWA WIOA Information Technology Support Center (WITSC)* (ID, MA, OR, MS, NASWA, NH)—Roy Valdez, ID, lead
- *Continuous improvement* (including WIOA waivers) (TX, CO, MD, WI, VA, FL, MT, SD)—Jason Vaden, TX, Lead
- *NASWA Workforce Summit planning* (MO, VA, TX, MT, FL)—Scott Eychner, MT, Lead
- *Vocational Rehabilitation partnerships* (full Committee)
- *Unemployment insurance* (full Committee)
- *Performance measurement* (full Committee and includes WLMI Committee members)—Adam Leonard, TX, lead

## STATUS UPDATE

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Some of the highlights of the Committee's work this year:

- At the February meeting in DC, members hosted Gay Gilbert, USDOL Unemployment Insurance Administrator. Members applauded her involvement in promoting reemployment policies for *Unemployment Insurance claimants* and celebrated the recently-passed RESEA provisions that create a permanent RESEA program in the Social Security Act. Members used the opportunity to discuss with Ms. Gilbert particular areas where state flexibility will be key, particularly regarding targeting the services and serving remote claimants. Subsequently, NASWA staff developed a set of questions for states to exchange information on RESEA and released the responses in early September. They are available on the NASWA website [here](#) (do not share outside NASWA).
- **The Apprenticeship Workgroup** developed a policy statement on apprenticeship which was adopted by the NASWA Board and shared with policymakers on the Hill, with USDOL, with the Task Force on Apprenticeship, and with partner organizations. Members of the Workgroup set up a virtual call for the Committee on apprenticeships, to get an update on federal play in this area from John Ladd, Director of the Office of Apprenticeship. Also,

members hosted Laura Ginsburg from the Office of Apprenticeship at the summer meeting in order to discuss new federal apprenticeship initiatives and provide her insights from the state perspective.

- Members of the ***Continuous Improvement Workgroup*** met in May to review the status of state waiver activity, based on information gathered by NASWA, NGA and USDOL. The call was designed to give participating states insights on priority waiver areas and actions other states are taking. The Committee also hosted federal staff at the summer meeting to, in part, discuss WIOA waiver policies. It is likely the Committee will hold additional virtual sessions related to WIOA waivers in the 2019 association year.
- The Committee invited Carol Dobak, Acting Commissioner of the Rehabilitative Services Administration, US DofEd, to its February Committee meeting in DC, to discuss ways to promote greater ***Vocational Rehabilitation partnerships*** and ensure coordinated cross-agency guidance at the federal level. Subsequently, NASWA staff met with staff from the CSAVR (Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation) to determine how to leverage assets of both organizations to promote integrated state programming. One result of these partnerships is a session at the NASWA Workforce Summit that will include Ms. Dobak and several state E&T directors to discuss VR-workforce partnerships. Members anticipate holding one or more virtual calls in 2019 with their VR and local workforce counterparts to continue to explore challenges and opportunities in this area.
- Numerous Committee members worked with NASWA staff to propose, plan, and volunteer as presenters and moderators for seven workshops at the ***2018 NASWA Workforce Summit and UI Directors Conference***.
- ***The Performance Measurement Workgroup*** held a virtual call for all members on TANF reauthorization in May, during which Kerry Desjardins from NASWA's sister organization, APHSA (The American Public Human Services Association), gave an update on TANF policy and TANF reauthorization, and participated in a discussion on performance provisions included in the House bill.
- ***The Committee's WITSC Workgroup*** met on February 9<sup>th</sup> via teleconference to hear a presentation by Pam Gerassimides, NASWA WITSC Director, which included an overview on WITSC's mission and the current strategic plan and activities. Workgroup members are now available to WITSC as a quick feedback channel, helping to link NASWA's work across these the Committee and this key area of *NASWA Services*.
- At the July meeting in Montana, members received an update from Charlie Terrell, NASWA NLx Director, on the status of the National Labor Exchange (NLx). This education session will help frame future ***NLx Workgroup*** activities.
- ***The Committee engaged key federal partners*** at its meetings this year, to receive updates and, more importantly, provide them state input on challenges and policy development:

- *Christine Quinn, Regional Administrator, USDOL/ETA*
- *Nick Lalpui, USDOL Region IV Administrator*
- *Kim Vitelli, Deputy Administrator, Office of Workforce Investment*
- *Laura Ginsburg, Office of Apprenticeship, USDOL*
- *Gay Gilbert, Unemployment Insurance Administrator (temporarily also overseeing workforce, UI, regional offices, and policy/research)*
- *Amanda Ahlstrand, Administrator of the Office of Workforce Investment*
- *Carol Dobak, Acting Deputy Commissioner (delegated the authority to perform the functions and duties of the Commissioner), Rehabilitative Services Administration, and Christopher Pope, RSA WIOA Implementation Team Facilitator*

### **NASWA HELPING HAND**

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Committee members continued to support each other by responding to other states' needs for information on WIOA and workforce system practices. Numerous Committee members respond to the information requests via a web form, and responses are forwarded to the requesting state as soon as they arrive at NASWA. To help inform all Committee members, such responses are compiled and distributed. Members interested in a "NASWA Helping Hand" may contact Committee liaison Yvette Chocolaad at [yhocolaad@naswa.org](mailto:yhocolaad@naswa.org) for more information.

### **BOARD ACTION**

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None.