



Employment & Training Committee Meeting
June 5-6, 2024
Burlington, VT
Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions (*Stephanie Beckhorn, Director, Employment & Training, Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity*)**
 - Chair Stephanie Beckhorn welcomed everyone to the meeting and led the attendees in a round of introductions.

- II. **States' Use of Artificial Intelligence (*Dana Politis, Associate Commissioner of Workforce Development, New York State Department of Labor; Vicki Mockler, Director, Division of Employment and Workforce Solutions, New York State Department of Labor; Marilyn Pitzulo, Associate Chief, Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Division of Workforce Strategy; Baden Almonor, Director of Career Services, New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development*)**
 - Dana Politis and Vicki Mockler delivered a presentation on New York State's development of its Virtual Career Center, which enables individuals to develop job seeker profiles, be matched with relevant jobs, and utilize a career planner tool. The presentation also included information on New York's use of Coursera, SUNY Microcredentials, a new Hiring Company Platform, virtual reality headsets, and CDL simulators to enhance their service offerings.
 - Marilyn Pitzulo then presented on Indiana's new Pivot platform, which leverages AI to match individuals with relevant job opportunities.
 - Baden Almonor presented on New Jersey's recently-launched My Career NJ platform, which uses AI to assist jobseekers with finding relevant job and training opportunities.
 - Committee members asked several questions and discussed related work in their respective states.

- III. **Workforce Innovation Awards (*Kelly Folks, Director of the Division of Employment and Training, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment; Stephanie Mufic, Business Innovation & Strategy Unit Manager, Division of Employment and Training, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment; Mike Lang, Director of Workforce Development Strategy and Innovation, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Workforce Development Division; Ismaila Maidadi, Director of Employment Connections, Washington State Employment Security Department; Gary Kamimura, Policy Manager, Washington State Employment Security Department*)**
 - Kelly Folks and Stephanie Mufic presented on Colorado's Fast Track Hiring Events initiative, which was awarded NASWA's 2024 Workforce Innovation Award for Business Development.
 - Mike Lang presented on recent partnership efforts between Minnesota's SNAP and Workforce Development programs with a particular focus on the relationship between SNAP and WIOA Title III.

- Gary Kamimura and Ismaila Maidadi presented on Washington State’s Economic Security for All program, which is a workforce-focused poverty reduction program that supports low-income individuals in pursuit of sustained self-sufficiency with a focus on equity.

IV. Strengthening Workforce and Vocational Rehabilitation Partnerships (*Stephen A. Wooderson, Chief Executive Officer, Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR); Tonia D. Ferguson, Esq., Director of Legislative Affairs, Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR); Demetria S. Veasy, Assistant Director, Division of Employment and Training Services, Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development*)

- Stephen Wooderson and Tonia Ferguson delivered a presentation covering: (1) an overview of CSAVR, its mission, principles, and strategic priorities; (2) the organization’s major policy priorities; and (3) key issues facing state Vocational Rehabilitation leaders.
- Demetria Veasy then presented on recent partnership efforts between the Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development’s Vocational Rehabilitation Division and Employment and Training Services Division.
- Committee members had the opportunity to ask questions and share related work in their respective states.

V. Committee Business Session

- NASWA staff provided an update on upcoming Committee Meetings and solicited ideas from Committee Members for potential Summit workshop ideas.
- NASWA staff also highlighted several recent policy engagement efforts, including: (1) NASWA’s response to USDOL’s NPRM on National Apprenticeship System Enhancements, (2) NASWA’s ongoing engagement with Senate HELP Committee staff regarding WIOA Reauthorization, and (3) the WIOA Reauthorization Guiding Principles and Recommendations letter that was shared with Congress. NASWA staff also provided information on an NPRM regarding E&T Services for Noncustodial Parents in the Child Support Program and mentioned that APhSA is looking to partner with NASWA and its members on a potential response to the proposed rules.
- NASWA staff concluded the session by mentioning a few E&T Committee leadership opportunities that are available, including: (1) a future Vice-Chair position and (2) two Co-Chair positions for NASWA’s Registered Apprenticeship & Work-Based Learning Group.

VI. Site Visit to Burlington American Job Center

- Attendees participated in a site visit to the nearby American Job Center in Burlington, VT. The session was hosted by the Vermont Department of Labor, and several leaders of both the Department and the local AJC welcomed attendees, provided an overview of the AJC’s operations, discussed relevant workforce issues in the state, and answered questions from Committee Members.

VII. Vermont Showcase (*Jay Ramsey, Director of Workforce Development, Workforce Development Division, Vermont Department of Labor; Cindy Robillard, Associate Director for Programming and Strategic Partnerships, Workforce Development Division, Vermont Department of Labor*)

- Jay Ramsey provided an overview of: (1) the Vermont Department of Labor’s operations; (2) ongoing capacity building efforts; (3) recent policy developments, including the overhaul of the State Workforce Development Board, a new Office of Workforce Strategy, an extended “workforce expansion pilot” program, and a restructured registered apprenticeship system; and (4) other recent initiatives like improved AJC Network Resources, improved coordination efforts with other agencies, and a renewed focus on on-the-job training programs.

VIII. State Roundtable Session (Session 1 of 2)

- Attendees discussed recent initiatives, promising practices, and challenges with their peers. Topics of discussion included: (1) Wagner-Peyser Staffing Act Final Rule Implementation; (2) Green Jobs Initiatives; (3) Ideas for NASWA Summit Workshops and Future E&T Committee Meeting Sessions; and (4) Recent State Initiatives.

IX. Federal Partner Update (*Kim Vitelli, Administrator, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration, Office of Workforce Investment; Renata Adjibodou, Administrator, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration, Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance*)

- Kim Vitelli provided updates on several recent and upcoming policy, funding, and technical assistance initiatives.
 - The policy update covered: (1) the ongoing effort in Congress regarding WIOA Reauthorization, (2) USDOL’s ongoing review of WIOA state plans, and (3) a forthcoming technical update to TEGL 10-23 regarding Reducing Administrative Barriers to Improve Customer Experience in Grant Programs Administered by the Employment and Training Administration.
 - The funding update covered: (1) Round 2 of the Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Programs; (2) Critical Sector Job Quality Grants; (3) Round 6 of the Workforce Opportunity in Rural Communities program; (4) Rounds 4 and 5 of the Workforce Pathways for Youth program; (5) a forthcoming new round of the Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants Program; and (6) a forthcoming reentry funding opportunity.
- Renata Jones Adjibodou provided an update on the TAA program and mentioned that the Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance will likely be issuing new guidance on TAA while the program is in termination status.

X. Infrastructure Workforce Development (*Stephanie Beckhorn, Director, Employment & Training, Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity; Emily Adair, Special Assistant for Workforce Development, Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry*)

- Stephanie Beckhorn presented on the recently-launched Build Michigan’s Infrastructure Workforce Program. The presentation included background on the process leading up to the launch of the program, collaboration with other agencies, an overview of the Governor’s Executive Directive, and ongoing efforts to implement the program.
- Emily Adair presented on Pennsylvania’s Commonwealth Transformation Program and ongoing efforts to implement the program, including how the state is leveraging Local Workforce Development Boards.
- Committee members had the opportunity to ask questions and share related work in their respective states.

- XI. National Labor Exchange (*Amber Gaither, Director of the National Labor Exchange; Paul Daniels, Research Hub Manager, National Labor Exchange*)**
- Amber Gaither presented on the National Labor Exchange and how it can support states in their workforce development efforts.
 - Paul Daniels presented on the NLx Research Hub, which included an overview of its mission, applicable use cases, and ongoing projects.
 - Committee Members had the opportunity to ask questions about the National Labor Exchange and the NLx Research Hub.
- XII. State Roundtable Session (Session 2 of 2)**
- Attendees continued the discussion on recent initiatives, promising practices, and challenges with their peers. Topics of discussion included: (1) Wagner-Peyser Staffing Act Final Rule Implementation; (2) Green Jobs Initiatives; (3) Ideas for NASWA Summit Workshops and Future E&T Committee Meeting Sessions; and (4) Recent State Initiatives.