

South Dakota Workforce Development Council (SDWDC)  
Meeting Minutes  
December 9, 2015  
Western Dakota Technical Institute, Dakota Lecture Hall  
800 Mickelson Drive, Rapid City, SD

Vice-Chair Bohnet called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. (MST). Kari Porph called the roll. A quorum was present.

**Members Present:** Vice-Chair Tom Bohnet, Marcia Hultman, Tiffany Sanderson, Eric Weiss, Mike Rush, Cal Geis, Randy Stainbrook, Randy Hanson, Lee Anderson, and Mark Rogers.

**Members Absent:** Chairman David Giovannini, Warren Lotsberg, Aaron Scheibe, Scott Peterson, Jim Borszich, and Lance Weaver.

**Others Present:** Director Bill McEntaffer, Kari Porph, Deb Halling, Kendra Ringstmeyer, Lacey Anderson, Laura Trapp, Ann Bolman, Catherine Greseth, Hollie Stalder, Ronda Lynch, Linda Lockner, Rocky Jensen, Ericka Leveque, Kayla Kinard, Debra Farrar, Priscilla Noble, Laura Hawley, John Bolger, Savannah Williamson, Michelle Hosman, Jim Scott, Stephenie Rittberger, Kara Palmer, Kelly Smith-Keller, Mark Northrup, Darin Seeley, Gloria Pluimer, and Maureen Henson.

Randy Hansen made a motion to approve the September 22, 2015, meeting minutes. Tiffany Sanderson seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED.**

Dr. Ann Bolman, President of Western Dakota Technical Institute (WDT) provided information on WDT. WDT offers 25 programs. Thirteen of the programs have industry or program certifications. WDT works closely with Black Hills State University on articulation agreements to provide pathways for students to further their education. The average students graduating from WDT with an Associate of Applied Science Degree make on average only \$2,000 less than students with a Bachelor's degree.

Eric Weiss provided an update from the Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services. The Division of Rehabilitation Services hired a Business Specialist to provide technical assistance and provide resources to businesses for a single point of contact. The Ability for Hire website went live in August, and the campaign includes television commercials, hard copy brochures, radio, and social media outreach to businesses ([www.abilityforhire.com](http://www.abilityforhire.com)). A packet of information was provided to council members with resources and information for hiring individuals with disabilities.

Catherine Greseth provided an update from the Workforce Diversity Network of the Black Hills. The Workforce Diversity Network of the Black Hills is a business-led organization that serves as a link between employers and individuals with disabilities, who have the desire and qualifications to work.

Dr. Mike Rush, Executive Director and CEO of the South Dakota Board of Regents (BOR), gave a presentation and asked the Council's commitment to support the 65 percent post-secondary attainment goal approved by BOR in October (contingent upon working with our partners). The goal is to have 65 percent of South Dakotans aged 25 to 34 having earned some type of postsecondary credential by 2025. Research shows a direct correlation between personal income, the Gross Domestic Product, and levels of education. A better way to count the number of individuals having some type of education is needed. Higher education possibly will be required for jobs, such as apprenticeships, by 2025.

Cal Geis made a motion to approve the Council's support of the 65 percent postsecondary goal approved by BOR. Randy Hanson seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED.**

A business panel consisting of Rapid City Regional Health, Golden West Telecommunications, and Black Hills Corporation provided information, issues, challenges, and best practices on their businesses.

Maureen Henson, Chief Human Resource Officer at Regional Health provided an update. Over the last year, they have rebranded themselves as a fully-integrated healthcare system. The major objective is to help their patients and communities live well. Their major goals are to retain, develop, and attract quality staff. This can be a challenge with the shortage of individuals in the healthcare field. To address their healthcare and workforce shortage, they will be conducting a job fair in January. Along with the job fair, they have teamed up with Project Search, a program working with the local high school to provide developmentally challenged students with work experience. This will allow students to get a high school diploma and have the opportunity to learn the whole scope of life survival.

Darin Seeley, an employee at Black Hills Corporation explained the challenges they face with finding experienced workers. One area they are exploring is the female population. In a male-dominated industry, reaching out to students both female and male might help with job retention.

Savannah Williamson, an account manager at Golden West Telecommunications. Golden West has approximately 350 employees with 150 of those being in Rapid City and the rest spread throughout South Dakota. One of the biggest challenges they face is finding housing in the communities where their employees live. They want their employees to have a sense of community in which they serve, so require employees to live in the area where they work. Mitchell Technical Institute is a good source for finding employees and Golden West also provides an on-the-job training program.

Belle Fourche Development provided updates on projects they had funded through the Community Incentive Grant program. They were provided funds for the construction of three basements to be built with energy rating standards in Belle Fourche. Governor's Houses will be placed on the basements and sold. Once the houses are sold and

expenses paid, funds will be placed in a revolving loan fund, which will continue to add homes in Belle Fourche. Career & Technical Education (CTE) high school students will build two homes per year. The project is well underway with one house already sold. CTE students have been assisting with building and are learning a great deal about the trade.

The Black Hills Community Development Corporation was provided funding to provide courses to develop the workforce and additional certifications and training programs. Black Hills Community Development Corporation was not present at the meeting.

Director Bill McEntaffer provided the director's report. Director McEntaffer provided a handout with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) guidelines for the Workforce Development Council. South Dakota's Council was grandfathered in from the Workforce Investment Act (WIA); two Council members' terms expire in July. WIOA requires Council members to be in the workforce. Director McEntaffer asked for the Council to contact him if they had names of possible Council members.

Director McEntaffer provided time for comments on the development of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) State Plan and Eligible Training Provider List. The Council will meet at a later date to approve the State Plan prior to submission to USDOL.

Department of Labor and Regulation staff provided a packet and information on WIOA. DLR staff presented on the Youth program, Adult and Dislocated program, and the Data and Performance Management programs.

Cal Geis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:38 p.m. (MST). Mike Rush seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,



Marcia Hultman  
Cabinet Secretary