MINNESOTA
GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Minutes: Minnesota Governor's Workforce Development Board Meeting

Agenda Time: Quarter 3, August 12, 2026, from 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.
Location: River's Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud, Minnesota
Meeting Type: Regular
Meeting Facilitators: Surya Iyer, GWDB Chair, DeLinda Washington, GWDB Vice Chair
Quorum Present: Yes

Meeting Goals

- **Understand Minnesota's labor-force growth challenge:** Explore its regional and industry impacts and where the Board can add value.
- **Strengthen recommendations for Q4 action:** Provide direction on committee, CareerForce, and WIOA evaluation work before final recommendations.
- **Connect members to upcoming Board work:** Clarify how current efforts fit together, what decisions are ahead, and where members can contribute.

Call to Order

- Chair Surya Iyer called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. A quorum was present.

Updates

- Chair Surya Iyer and Vice Chair DeLinda Washington welcomed members and reviewed the meeting's goals. Members were encouraged to share their expertise through Board committees and workgroups.
- The Chair welcomed new GWDB staff members and noted recent updates to staff positions and classifications aligned with organizational and operational needs. Board leadership also outlined the meeting's focus on labor force growth, strengthening recommendations for Quarter 4 action, and connecting members to upcoming Board work.
- The Taskforce on Workforce Development System Reform published its interim report in February. The Task Force is on hiatus until early September when it will reconvene to discuss final recommendations for the upcoming January 2027 report. The Task Force is currently seeking one member from the GWDB; eligibility criterium is they must also represent a local workforce development board.
- Deputy Commissioner Maureen Ramirez provided an update on Interagency Alignment Task Force (IWA) committee work. The IWA is focused on formalizing adoption of recent recommendations such as Celebrate Caring Careers Month, CaringCareersStartHere.com, RN apprenticeships and education committee recommendations for aligning and strengthening education pathways.

Reports and Presentations

- The Board reviewed the Labor Force Growth Plan, which aims to identify opportunities to expand Minnesota's labor force through analysis of demographic and labor market data, validation with partners, and development of actionable recommendations. Members discussed key workforce trends, including slowing population growth and an aging workforce, and explored strategies to support labor force growth through migration, talent retention, workforce participation, and barrier reduction.
- Vice Chair DeLinda Washington moderated a panel discussion on Minnesota's labor force growth challenges and opportunities. Discussion focused on strategies to attract and retain workers, support workforce participation among key populations, and address barriers to employment.
- The Board received an update from the Sector Partnerships Committee on its work related to sector partnerships, in-demand sectors and occupations, and job quality metrics. Members discussed considerations for updating the state's in-demand occupations methodology, including the role of labor market data, employer input, equity, and long-term workforce needs.
- The State and Local Coordination Committee provided an update on the Workforce Center Performance Framework. Members reviewed and provided feedback on the framework's purpose statement, priorities, definitions, and proposed approaches to performance measurement for CareerForce centers.
- The Innovative Service Delivery Committee reported on recent work related to workforce data, data quality, and emerging recommendations to strengthen Minnesota's labor market information infrastructure.
- Michael Prideaux, DEED Performance and Technical Management, presented a proposed WIOA evaluation examining employment and wage outcomes associated with credentialed training. Members provided feedback on the evaluation's research question, methodology, and implementation timeline.

Board Actions

The Board approved the following actions:

1. Approve the Quarter 2 2026 meeting minutes.
2. Approve the Quarter 2 2026 staff report.
3. Approve Job Quality Metrics.
4. Approve Gail Cruikshank as Vice Chair of the Sector Partnerships Standing Committee.

All motions were approved as recorded in the official motion log.

Attendance

Voting

Name	Voting Role
1. Bernie Burnham	Labor Organization Rep #6
2. Bernie Perryman	Legislator, Subcommittee on Committees of the House of Representatives
3. Brian Zirbes	Business Rep #9
4. Carol Anderson	Business Rep #15
5. Crystle Illa	Business Rep #12
6. Deb Broberg	Business Rep #8
7. Deborah Gleason	Business Rep #20
8. DeLinda Washington	Business Rep #22 - Vice Chair
9. Erik Johnson	Business Rep #24
10. Gabriel Mooney	Business Rep #11
11. Gail Cruikshank	Business Rep #21
12. Hannah Alstead	Labor Organization Rep #1
13. Irene Fernando	Local Elected Official (County)
14. Jennifer Thiesen	Business Rep #2
15. Matt Lewis	Business Rep #4
16. Melissa McLean	Business Rep #3
17. Michael Berndt	Career and Technical Education Representative
18. Naveen Aggarwal	Business Rep #14
19. Nicole Mattson	Business Rep #7
20. Pete Johnson	Legislator, Subcommittee on Committees of the House of Representatives
21. Robert Stark	Business Rep #1
22. Sam Heimlich	Labor Organization Rep #3
23. Sandy Pulles	Community-based Org. Rep. #1
24. Scott Cummings	Business Rep #16

Name	Voting Role
25. Surya Iyer	Business Rep #5 - Chair
26. Troy Haugen	Business Rep #10
27. Willie Jett II	Commissioner, MN Department of Education

Non-Voting

Name	Role
1. Erica Lester	Community-based Org. Rep. #2
2. Jill Stewart-Kellar	School-based Service Learning
3. Mary Niedermeyer	Community-Based Org. Rep. #3
4. Natalie Draper	Public Libraries Rep

Public and State of Minnesota Staff

1. Brad Haaskamp
2. Cameron Macht
3. Colleen Harris
4. Danielle Robinson
5. David Campana
6. Della Ludwig
7. Ilya Pidkalyuk
8. Jeanna Fortney
9. Katie McClelland
10. Kevion Ellis
11. Maureen Ramirez
12. Michael Prideaux
13. Mindi Watson
14. Nicole Hochsprung
15. Shayla Drake
16. Sherene Judeh
17. Sky Bramel
18. Sonji Davis