

Minutes: Minnesota Governor's Workforce Development Board Q4 2025 Meeting

Agenda Time: 11/12/2025 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Saint Paul Event Center, Saint Paul, Minnesota

Meeting Type: Regular

Meeting Facilitators: Surya Iyer, GWDB Chair, DeLinda Washington, GWDB Vice Chair and Scott Schulte, Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards (MAWB) Chair

Call to Order

Time: 10:08 a.m.

Called by: Surya Iyer, GWDB Chair

Quorum Present: Yes

Business Meeting

Approval of Previous Minutes

Motion: To approve August 13, 2025, Quarter 3 meeting minutes

Moved by: Rep. Bernie Perryman and seconded by: Rob Stark

Outcome: Approved

Approval of Quarterly Report

Motion: To approve quarterly report

Moved by: Rep. Bernie Perryman and seconded by: Sam Heimlich

Outcome: Approved

Meeting Goals

- Increase awareness of state and local initiatives aligned to WIOA State Plan goals.
- Conducting key votes needed to advance and align statewide workforce development strategies and legislative priorities.
- Strengthening cross-functional relationships between the board, local partners and the Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards (MAWB).

Updates

- GWDB Chair Surya Iyer and Vice Chair DeLinda Washington opened the meeting and led a memorial moment in honor of GWDB member Roy Smith, Co-Chair of the Trades Subcommittee.
- The Board was informed that the vote for proposed changes to the GWDB bylaws is postponed to the first quarterly meeting of 2026, pending completion of the Attorney General's Office review.
- MAWB provided an update from its business meeting, including adoption of the 2025–2026 state and federal legislative platform and discussion of priorities for 2026.
- MAWB voted to adopt a state legislative priority advocating for the Workforce Development Fund and to create a platform statement supporting policy changes that increase local areas' ability to deliver uninterrupted, high-quality services through grant funding while maintaining accountability.
- MAWB members discussed upcoming considerations, including the election year, ongoing budget challenges and anticipated workforce retirements.
- The key deliverables for the GWDB in 2026 have been identified. These will aid the board in staying on track with the state plan modification timeline and in providing timely recommendations to the legislature.

Task Force on Workforce Development System Reform

- The Task Force shared its problem statement and scope of work, which focuses on assessing whether workforce programs are efficient, coordinated, and responsive, as directed by state statute.
- Members discussed the complexity of the existing system and the challenges of reforming an active, multi-program system.
- The Task Force will use a rating scale to identify areas of consensus and opportunities for improvement.
- Meeting participants were invited to complete a post-meeting survey to provide feedback and help inform Task Force priorities.

IWA Update

- The Interagency Workforce Alignment aims to strengthen coordination across agencies and improve workforce system outcomes. Staff highlighted development of an Inventory of Workforce Supports to improve statewide alignment, with a focus on high-need sectors such as health care and education.
- Efforts include partnering with GWDB committees to reduce duplication and coordinate initiatives.
- Updates were also provided on the Workforce Outcomes Pilot, which will identify common outcome measures across agency programs, and on IWA communications and caring professions programming.

Legislative Updates

Pending and Paused Programs

- Appropriated funds are being delayed due to the ongoing government shutdown.

- WIOA reauthorization is currently stalled.

Changes

- A federal policy change that expands Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) work requirements goes into effect on December 1, 2025.
- The State Dislocated Worker Program is receiving a 53% reduction and reflects a downward trend from 2016 – 2025. At the same time layoffs are increasing across the state. In response, The Minnesota Job Skills Partnership Board has voted to provide an additional \$11 million out of their reserves with \$7 million earmarked for local areas.

Voting Items

Statewide Strategy Discussion

Motion: To approve and adopt the Minnesota Statewide Workforce Development Strategy as presented.

Moved by: Surya Iyer and seconded by: Naveen Aggarwal

Outcome: Approved

State Plan Goal 2: Sector Partnerships

Motion: To approve and adopt the proposed Sector Partnerships definition and strategy as the common framework for the State of Minnesota and to authorize GWDB staff to develop and implement resources to ensure alignment with this framework.

Moved by: Jeffrey Rainey and seconded by: Deb Broberg

Outcome: Approved

High-Quality Jobs Framework

Motion: To approve and adopt the proposed High-Quality Jobs Framework for Minnesota, establishing a shared set of priorities to strengthen job quality across Minnesota's workforce system.

Moved by: Jennifer Thiesen and seconded by: Shannon Bryant (designee for GWDB member Scott Olson, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Chancellor)

Outcome: Approved

MAWB Member Spotlight

- MAWB welcomed members and highlighted impactful work emphasizing alignment, cross-functional collaboration and strengthening the workforce development system, including training and services in Drive for Five sectors.

State Plan Goal 3: Innovative Service Delivery Panel Discussion

- Panelists discussed the distinction between technology literacy and technology fluency, emphasizing the importance of adaptability for both jobseekers and the workforce. They identified emerging high-use technologies and potential regulatory changes, considering how these could impact employment.
- Disruption was framed as a catalyst for innovation and new opportunities, rather than solely as a source of job loss.
- A need for heightened cyber awareness and consistent cybersecurity practices was highlighted.
- Discussed effective workforce preparation and collaboration between business, government and local workforce partners, including fostering cultures of continuous learning and technological readiness.
- Panelists emphasized that AI can create efficiency in existing work but cannot replace the collective knowledge and experience of Minnesota's workforce.

Next Meeting

Date: 02/11/2025

Time: 10: a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Minnesota Humanities Center, St. Paul, MN

Appendix: Attendance

Board Members

1. Barry Davies
2. Bernie Perryman
3. Brian Zirbes
4. Carol Anderson
5. Cate Duin
6. Deb Broberg
7. DeLinda Washington
8. Erica Lester
9. Gabriel Mooney
10. Gail Cruikshank
11. Jeffrey Rainey
12. Jennifer Thiesen
13. Lori Carrell
14. Mary Niedermeyer
15. Matt Lewis
16. Matt Varilek
17. Melissa McLean
18. Michael Berndt
19. Misun Bormann
20. Naveen Aggarwal

21. Nicole Mattson
22. Nola Slagter-Johnson
23. Pete Johnson
24. Robert Stark
25. Samuel Heimlich
26. Sandy Pulles
27. Scott Cummings
28. Shannon Bryant
29. Steven Kalina
30. Surya Iyer

Non-Board

1. Adesewa Adesiji
2. Ahmed Mohidin
3. Becky Zoubek
4. Bob Libal
5. Brad Hasskamp
6. Colleen Harris
7. David Campana
8. Jeanna Fortney
9. Jennifer Eccles
10. Karl Ohrn
11. Katie McClelland
12. Kelly Miller
13. Kevion Ellis
14. Mike Lang
15. Munna Yasiri
16. Nolan Thomas
17. Patti Balacek
18. Reggie Worlds
19. Rita Beatty
20. Sarah Arentson
21. Shayla Drake
22. Sherene Judeh