

SPECIAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT MINUTES

Meeting Date/Location: Monday, April 10, 2023, 3:30 pm, virtually via Microsoft Teams

Members Present: Adam Grinold, Kendal Smith, Rep. Michael Marcotte, Sen. Alison Clarkson, Jay Ramsey

Guests Present: Candace Phinney, Ronald Painter, Nancy Snyder, Mel Arsenault, Alysia Ordway, Michael Lawrence, Adele Soto, Cameron Wood, Dustin Degree, Abby Rhim

Video Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqaQJ051V2A>

Minutes By: Abby Rhim

- Meeting called to order.
 - All committee members and PCG members introduced themselves.
- Review and approval of agenda.
 - Motion made to approve the agenda as drafted by Senator Clarkson, seconded by Jay Ramsey and approved unanimously.
- Review and approval of minutes from the [March 13, 2023](#) meeting.
 - Motion made to approve the minutes by Senator Clarkson, seconded by Jay Ramsey and approved unanimously.
- Review and discussion of consulting team's progress to date on Phase 1: Review of Vermont landscape.
 - Alysia noted the First Lady's recent visit to Vermont. She highlighted the federal grant opportunities that Vermont might consider applying for in the future.
 - Alysia provided an update on the group's overall research questions. In an aim to answer these questions, so far, PCG's work has consisted of conducting background desk reviews (reports, webpages, etc.), facilitating interviews and developing a database of financial investments. She then reviewed the materials included in the desk review and asked if anything was missing. She added that the CTE governance report recently submitted has not but will be included in PCG's research. Alysia also noted that not all interviews have been completed.
 - Jay noted federal grants that support affinity groups could be added to the reviewal.
 - Alysia shared the general stakeholder feedback collected. This included:
 - Prominent gaps in the public sector workforce.
 - Communication was cited as a cause of frustration.
 - Need to share vision and clearly defined lanes.
 - Vermont Department of Labor wears many hats.
 - Cultural values or perceptions are getting in the way of uniting to solve the issues.
 - Jay voiced that many objectives are stated in the WIOA State Plan. He asked what the solution could be if objectives are already identified?
 - Senator Clarkson stressed the importance of measures. Focused leadership is needed in order to communicate how everyone in the workforce space is doing.
 - Alysia clarified the stakeholder summary to explain that not only do partners in the system want to know what the goals and metrics are but how their specific resources and services might contribute to reported outcomes.
 - Jay added the importance of reporting on metrics that matter to Vermont specifically, not necessarily just what the federal government wants to know.
 - Alysia then highlighted specific examples of good work that is already ongoing or just beginning.
 - Kendal asked for clarification on how positive examples were selected. She highlighted that for example, the Community College of Vermont collaboration with the Department of Corrections in newly underway and outcomes are unknown. While this partnership is exciting, it is important to

note that findings are not conclusive. Senator Clarkson agreed. She noted that with this program, it might be that officers upskill and leave their positions.

- Alysia then reviewed general feedback collected from different groups. This included:
 - Businesses & Industries
 - Economic Development
 - Higher Education
 - State Agencies
 - Training/Service Providers
 - Other
- Prioritizing remaining activity to complete the Vermont review.
 - Alysia asked the group what they would like PCG to prioritize moving forward? She noted that she would like to follow up with VDOL to discuss career centers. She also highlighted that PCG has not gathered the perspective of beneficiaries from the workforce system.
 - Kendal suggested speaking with DCF to discuss the benefits cliff.
 - Alysia then reviewed a list of additional sources that have not responded yet or who were recommended by another interviewee. Members of the SOCWED then divided outreach responsibilities to specific contacts.
- Public comment.
 - Nobody from the public present.
- Next meeting.
 - The SOCWED will meet on Monday, May 8th from 1-2 pm, virtually. The group will ideally meet in person, in June.
- Adjourn.

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