

## SPECIAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT MINUTES

**Meeting Date/Location:** Friday, December 8, 12:30 p.m., Vermont State House Room 10, virtually via Microsoft Teams

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

**Guests Present:** Amanda Wheeler, Michael Harrington, Rik Sehgal, Dustin Degree, Lynne Cleveland Vitzthum, Mathew Barewicz, Rowan Hawthorne, Edye Graning, Lindsey Hedges

**Minutes By:** Amanda Wheeler

**Video Recording:** <https://aoa.vermont.gov/content/special-oversight-committee-workforce-expansion-and-development>

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- Meeting called to order, introductions by committee members and guests present.
- Senator Clarkson moved to approve agenda, seconded by Jay Ramsy, unanimously approved.
- Senator Clarkson moved to approve minutes, seconded by Kendal Smith, unanimously approved.
- Committee began discussing the PCG report and aspects of it to be drafted into legislation for the 2024 legislative session.
- Kendal suggested starting with the State Workforce Development Board (SWDB) and suggested reducing it to 26 – which is the smallest number possible based on Jay Ramsy’s assessment of requirements.
  - Chair Marcotte agreed that reducing the full Board size is important but that subcommittees should remain. Other committee members agreed. This would be an opportunity to bring others in who are not on the Board.
  - Adam Grinold noted that the board is more than just the Core Partners, and we should be empowering the Board beyond WIOA.
  - Committee in agreement that there should be an Executive Committee so the group can make decisions for the Board, which is similar to what exists with the Operating Committee.
- Senator Clarkson began discussing the Executive Director of the SWDB. She would like to see a process similar to the Judicial Nominating Board. She thinks it is important to have the ED grounded in workforce expertise.
  - Kendal Smith agreed on the expertise but noted that she wasn’t overly enthusiastic about the list idea and suggested a compromise of having the qualifications articulated in statute while retaining the Governor’s ability to manage the hiring process.
  - Adam Grinold understands both sides and thinks it is important to define the job description that articulates the level of knowledge desired.

- Committee began discussing the models proposed by PCG.
  - Committee agreed that Model 2 seemed to be the most feasible while elevating aspects of Model 3.
    - Committee agreed that data is important but is a longer-term discussion. The Committee also noted that data is important to track return on investment.
- Committee discussed aspects of Model 2.
  - Adam Grinold noted that regional teams should be included in the Committee’s recommendation. Regions could drive local need up to the state (i.e. “here’s what we need...here are the opportunities...” The State could then share best practices with other regions across the State.
  - Jay Ramsey noted the regional teams could interface with the SWDB.
  - Kendal Smith noted this could be similar to the RFP process for relocation grants.
  - Committee agreed that having CTE Boards and RDCs being included in this regional effort is critically important.
  - Committee discussed a scaled version of this which was passed in Act 183 and appropriated funds to VDOL for this work. They could use this as a jumping off point.
- Public Comment
  - N/A
- Next Steps: The Committee will reconvene on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am via Microsoft Teams. The committee discussion will be focused on budget, more details regarding Model 2, and data reporting requirements.

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