

SPECIAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT MINUTES

Meeting Date/Location: Tuesday, December 19, 9:00 a.m., virtually via Microsoft Teams

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

Guests Present: Amanda Wheeler, Rik Sehgal, Rowan Hawthorne, Michael Harrington

Minutes By: Amanda Wheeler

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

- 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 Adam Grinold, unanimously approved.
- The Committee began discussing what information they would like to include in legislation as part of the final report from the Committee.
 - Members discussed the composition on the Board and agreed that there should be enough guidance to ensure the intent of the Committee is clear but that we should not be overly prescriptive but agreed that the Board should be demographically diverse.
 - Chair Marcotte noted that we may want to include that the Board should represent rural areas of the state.
 - Senator Clarkson agreed and noted that consideration should be given to the size of the business as well (i.e. since many VT businesses have 20 or fewer employees).
 - The Committee discussed the makeup of the Executive Committee.
 - It was agreed that the Executive Committee should have a private business majority but that the appointment process should happen through the SWDB's bylaws.
 - Members agreed that it was important to have the education system represented on the Executive Committee.
 - The Committee discussed the qualifications of the SWDB Executive Director and agreed that the roles and responsibilities should include the WIOA requirements but also keeping the pulse on federal funding coming to the State for workforce that goes directly to agencies/departments (i.e. CHIPS Act, IJJA, etc.).
 - Senator Clarkson suggested the Executive Committee recommend names to the Governor for consideration for the Executive Director. Kendal Smith

suggested that we should prescribe the requirements of the ED in statute and include that the Executive Committee *may* make recommendations to the Governor for consideration. The Committee agreed.

- The Committee discussed the SWDB's budget, which is currently ~\$280,000 (GF). Senator Clarkson noted that she feels the budget is not adequate for the roles being discussed and suggested that a budget of \$300,000 - \$350,000 is more realistic.
- Adam Grinold noted the current funding allows federal dollars to be used for more of the work of the SWDB. Historically, we have chosen not to do that for known and good reasons. There are funds out there that the State, so far, has not chosen to invest in supporting the system with and has chosen to allocate those funds differently. It is important for the legislature and others to know that it has been by choice to date.
- Chair Marcotte noted this will be an ongoing conversation and that we should be thinking about comingling state and federal funds.
- The Committee discussed reporting requirements and agreed that the report should be due in October to allow the Administration and legislature enough time to review before the session begins.
- Jay Ramsy noted that if these changes take effect on July 1, it realistically could be a year before the new Executive Director is onboarded when taking into consideration the job search, hiring, onboarding (especially if they are not familiar with the workforce system in Vermont).
- The Committee agreed that a Task Force is necessary to further study the data management models recommended by PCG.
- Public Comment
 - N/A
- Next Steps: The Committee will reconvene on Thursday, December 28th at 11:00am via Microsoft Teams.