



STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

Approved Minutes

DATE: April 9, 2026
TIME: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Department of Workforce Services
5735 S. Redwood Road, Taylorsville, UT 84123
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/enu-ixea-vko>
Or dial: (US) +1 516-268-6796 PIN: 240 363 432#

**BOARD
MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Brian Vermouth
Danielle Pederson(Rep for Alesha LeMmon)
Deanna Hopkins
Gary Harter
Greg Paras
Matt Loo
Megen Ralphs
Rich Fullmer
Sarah Brenna
Stacey Taylor
Steven Olson
Tannen Graham
Danielle Pederson
Whitney Harris

**BOARD
MEMBERS
EXCUSED:**

James Jackson
Shawn Newell

**BOARD
MEMBERS
PRESENT
(VIRTUAL):**

Angella Pinna
Casey Cameron
Celina Sinclair
Jeremy Haslam
Kendall Thomas
Lauren Navidomskis
Shawn Milne
Sherry Stevens
Spencer Loveless
Tyler Low
Vic Hockett

**BOARD
MEMBERS
ABSENT:**

Debra Fiori
Jeff Worthington
Laurel Timmins
Lucio Gallegos
Michelle Hill

**BOARD
STAFF
PRESENT:**

Elizabeth Carver
Alexia Murphy
Amira Mijic
Cheyenne Wall
Lindsay Cropper
Natalie Garrett
Nycole Tylka

**OTHER
ATTENDEES:**

Aaron Thompson
Benjamin Crabb
Chris Williams
Helen Hanson
Joshua Rodeback
Leah Labato
Weston Miller
Zac Whitwell
Jason Wood
Marilyn Cannon
Kevin Burt

**BOARD
STAFF
EXCUSED:**

Heather Mousley

**OTHER
ATTENDEES
(VIRTUAL):**

Ben Baldonado
Dave Fogerty
Amie Graff
Michael Jeanfreau
Allison Keller
Gwendolyn Kervin
Worley Pace
Henry Pernichele
Tashina Williams

QUORUM: Yes



Welcome and Opening Business

Megen Ralphs

- A. Acknowledgments and Introductions
 - a. Meeting called to order 1:03 P.M.
 - b. Megen introduced Brian Vermouth to the board
 - i. Brian is the Utah Electrical Training Alliance
 - c. Board vacancies
 - i. If you have any recommendations let Nycole, Liz or Megen know
 - ii. Jordan Leanord resigned
 - iii. Industries open:
 - 1. Including agriculture and manufacturing, as well as an elected official position
 - iv. Reps from central southeastern Utah would be good and wouldn't hurt to have another from the northern side of the state
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 9, 2026
 - a. Motion to approve: Tannen Graham
 - b. Second: Matt Loo
 - c. All in favor
 - d. No opposed

Department of Labor and Planning

Casey Cameron

- A. Commissioner Cameron thanked the board for everyone's great work and continuing to serve on the board. The hard work is showing and is being recognized. She also thanked Megen for chairing the board and for all the service she has put in.
- B. Department of Labor updates:
 - a. Department of Labor has asked states to look at combining their WIOA and Perkins plans
 - i. There is a push to align all the workforce systems. They want us all to work together across the state.
 - ii. Utah already does well with collaborating. This is going to take it to another level of coordination.
 - b. Reach out to Megen, Liz or Greg if you have further questions
 - c. Megen commented that we are all familiar with the information from the WIOA plan the board voted on between last meeting and this meeting.
 - i. **Action item:** Due to new initiatives the board is asked to approve an amendment to the WIOA plan. The amendment will add the Perkins funded State office of Education plan into the WIOA combined plan. The board will need to vote prior to the end of the month. Watch your emails for further information on voting

Legislative Updates

Kevin Burt

- A. Kevin shared the 2026 Legislative summary
 - a. The 2026 legislative session saw a higher number of bills introduced but fewer bills passed, signaling an effort to be more selective with legislation



- b. 2026 was the lowest percentage of bills being passed
- B. Critical DWS Appropriations
 - a. One Big Beautiful Bill Act
 - i. Effects SNAP as funding requirements are being shifted from federal to state dollars.
 - ii. The department received an ongoing appropriation of \$13,300,000 to cover the shifted cost.
 - iii. SNAP benefit is 100% funded federally but the administrative costs are not. The administrative costs are calculated based on the state SNAP error rate. The higher the error rate the amount of administrative costs shifted to the state are increased.
 - 1. Utah was below 6% so we have a smaller portion of shifted costs.
 - 2. The National average error rate is 10.28%.
 - 3. Any mistake made by anyone including customers during the process counts in the error percent
 - b. Funding for homeless services was received during the session.
 - i. The following projects were funded:
 - 1. Emergency Shelter and Housing
 - 2. Services to address high utilizers
 - 3. Mental health and behavioral health
 - 4. Phase II investments
 - ii. The new homeless coordinator is working with the department.
 - 1. Tyler Clancy
 - iii. Additional focus on addressing the reasons for homelessness
 - c. Critical Legislation
 - i. House Bill 68-Housing and Community Development Amendments
 - 1. Centralizes housing programs policy, and funding under a single state agency- The governor's Office of Economic Development
 - ii. House Bill 308-Homeless Services Amendments
 - 1. Moves the state homeless Coordinator from the Governors of planning and budget (GOPB) to the Department of Workforce Services
 - d. Legislation / Failed to Pass
 - i. Kevin went over some of the failed bills to give everyone an idea of proposed legislation
 - 1. House Bill 88 - Public Assistance Amendments
 - 2. House Bill 287 - Immigrant Driving Amendments
 - 3. House Bill 571 Immigrant Amendments
 - e. Legislation / Passed (Rapid Fire)
 - i. House Bill 248 - Family Law Modifications - Provides ability to provide some of the child support collected when an individual is receiving financial assistance to the family instead of funding being retained by the State.
 - ii. House Bill 396 - Public Project Subcontractor Amendments - some impacts to UI.



1. It was asked if there would be any communication from the UI going forward?
 - a. Every Employer in the state of Utah has to report quarterly to DWS
 - b. This will tack on a penalty to the money owed back
 - c. We want to encourage, not punish
- iii. House Bill 454 - Public Assistance Fraud Amendments
- iv. Senate Bill 18 - Criminal Offense Modifications

Workforce Win

Nycole Tylka

- A. Workforce win video
 - a. As a department we like to highlight success stories and to give the community an idea of what we do
 - b. Nycole shared a success story video with the group

Service Project

Nycole Tylka

- A. The board does a service project each year. This year the board is partnering with the Department of Workforce Services service project.
 - a. The service project this year will support the Governor's initiative on improving literacy.
 - i. Book drive fundraiser for new and gently used books
 1. These will be distributed throughout the state
 2. We are opting for the board to start in July at the next meeting and end in October at that meeting
 3. Megen would like to get pictures with the board with the books
 4. You can bring books whenever to the office
 - a. Let Nycole know so she can coordinate with local staff
 5. If you are not able to come in October let Nycole know and we will make a plan to get the books to someone in your area
 - ii. Cash option
 1. There will be a QR code to donate money instead of books. We will use the money to purchase additional books.
 - iii. If books aren't k-12, it was suggested that we can take them to the prisons

Workforce Development Outreach Report

Zac Whitwell

- A. Zac shared details from the outreach report
 - a. One of the services we have to offer are onsite job fairs
 - b. We also do a virtual job fair every other month
 - i. Low cost and low effort
 1. If you have anyone interested on the back page on the map get in contact to get information for the VR job fair
 2. Megen commented that it is a very simple and slick process. Cheapest PR you will find.
 3. Gary asked if Zac had some stats for the VR job fairs from the employers
 - a. We see a demand from both employer and employees



- b. Next time we will show a trend of consistency of companies and what employers are there
- c. School Board Conference
 - i. Lindsay, Amie and Megen went and gave a VR presentation and it was very successful.
- d. Employer workshop with hiring those with disabilities
 - i. There are 17 different industries
 - ii. Connect with Leah to get information on how to participate in these
- e. Military veterans affair
 - i. Next week on the 18th with 10-2 and Hill Airforce Base in Layton
- f. New apprenticeship opportunities

Committee Report Out

Committee Chairs

- A. Apprenticeships
 - a. Whitney shared that we have a candidate for commissioner that we are offering. If this candidate denies there is another candidate in line.
 - b. The employer apprenticeship incentive program has launched
 - i. This provides a \$2500 cash incentive for new registered programs
 - ii. This will run until June 30th or until funds have been exhausted
 - c. The Apprenticeship Navigator position has been filled
 - i. Anna Turner - She has been working as a WIOA Youth counselor. She will be covering the Northern part of the state
- B. Youth & Career Pathways
 - a. Career Pathways and Youth committees met together for their last meeting. The youth report out is a joint report out for both committees.
 - b. Matt commented that the youth committee recently met with career pathways to learn more about what they do
 - i. Matt learned that one of the gaps with this age group is problem solving, critical thinking and time management
 - 1. There are opportunities here to give them a chance to strengthen these skill sets
 - a. Megen asked Ben how he measures these statistics around the gaps?
 - i. There was a study that came out in March from USU and they surveyed over 200 employers across the state of their perspectives on current workers
 - ii. Ben comes in July for an economic update and will have some youth statistics
- C. Serving Individuals With Disabilities
 - a. Steven shared that they have a new business coordinator
 - b. Steven went over recent events and upcoming events
 - i. These are in your packet so feel free to share with others
 - 1. 52nd Golden keys happening later this year. Tomorrow is the deadline



2. 14 work ability work fair
3. Lunch and learns for resumes

D. Operations

- a. More information to come on fall events for operations in July
- b. Gary commented that they like to have about 5 people at their certifications
 - ii. 19 affiliates need to be recertified
 1. We may be reaching out to you if it is near your area
 2. About 2 hours long
 3. Natalie will be reaching out and send out a list
 - a. List of affiliates and schedule to get people signed up
 - iii. Price and Tooele career one stop is coming up. Please reach out to Natalie if you are interested.
 1. 4-5 hour commitment

Closing Business & Public Comment

Megen Ralphs

- A. July 9, 2026 meeting will be at South County
- B. Reminder for conflict of interest forms
 - a. Cheyenne will be reaching out to you if you need one
 - b. We will have a notary in July
- C. WIOA plan
 - a. Keep an eye on your emails
- D. No public comment
- E. Motion to adjourn
 - a. Tannen Graham motioned to adjourn
 - b. 2nd Gary Hater
 - c. Meeting adjourned: 2:20 P.M.

UPCOMING SWDB MEETINGS: Thursday, July 9, 2026, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Thursday, October 8, 2026, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Thursday, January 7, 2027, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
jobs.utah.gov/edo/statecouncil/index.html