



GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

500 E. Third Street, Room 200
Carson City, Nevada 89713
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MEETING MINUTES

**Governor's Workforce Investment Board (GWIB)
Information Technology Sector Council
Wednesday, October 8, 2014
8:30 a.m.**

Some members of this Subcommittee may have attended the meeting and other persons may have observed the meeting and provided testimony through a simultaneous videoconference and teleconference conducted at the following locations:

Place of Meeting: **Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation**
2800 East St. Louis Avenue, Conference Rooms A-C
Las Vegas, NV

Nevada Job Connect
Reno Town Mall
4001 S. Virginia Street
Reno, NV

Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation
500 E. Third Street, SAO Auditorium
Carson City, NV

Council Members Present: Michael Frechette, Arnold Lopez, Robert Nielsen, Steven Zink, Dr. Warren Hioki, Felicia Gonzales, Linda Montgomery, Michael Walsh, Kimberly Moody, Christina Whatley, Wesley Harper, Mary Siero, Randy White, Zach Miles, Heather Wilde.

Council Members Absent: Jhone Ebert (excused), Lindsey Niedzielski, Justin McVay, Missy Young (excused), Melissa Scott (excused), Michael Thomas, Michael Bradshaw (excused), Dr. Dana Ryan.

Ex-officio Members Present: John Thurman, Safi Haider, Gloria Chua.

Ex-officio Members Absent: Peter Bacigalupi, Derick Jones.

DETR WSU Staff Present: De Salazar, Coralie Peterson, Ansara Martino, Odalys Carmona

Others Present: Judy Turgiss (Nevada Workforce Development Center), Paul Chu (Workforce Connections).

**Please note that all attendees may not be listed above.*

I. Welcome, Introduction and New Members Michael Frechette, Chair
GWIB Information Technology Sector Council

The Chair of this Council, Michael Frechette, called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m., welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending this meeting. Mr. Frechette introduced and welcomed three new members, Zach Miles and Mary Siero, as well as noting the attendance of Heather Wilde, whose membership for the GWIB Information Technology Sector Council is currently being processed by DETR. He then asked Coralie Peterson, Administrative Assistant for DETR’s Workforce Solutions Unit, to call roll.

II. Roll call and Establishment of a Quorum Coralie Peterson, Administrative Assistant
Workforce Solutions Unit, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR)

Coralie Peterson called roll and informed the Chair that a quorum was present.

III. Verification of Posting.....Coralie Peterson

Michael Frechette asked Coralie Peterson to verify that the agenda for this meeting was posted according to Nevada statute. Mrs. Peterson verified that the agenda was posted according to NRS 241.020.

IV. **First Public Comment Session** Michael Frechette
Members of the public will be invited to speak before; however, no action may be taken on a matter during public comment until the matter itself has been included on an agenda as an item for possible action. Public comment may be limited to three minutes per person at the discretion of the chairperson.

Mr. Frechette announced the First Public Comment Session and invited members of the public to speak. No comments were made. Hearing none, Mr. Frechette moved to address Item V.

V. **Discussion/Possible Action** – Approval of July 9, 2014 Meeting Minutes.....Michael Frechette

Mr. Frechette asked for approval of the July 9, 2014 Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Linda Montgomery and was seconded by Wesley Harper. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. **Discussion/Possible Action** – Coding Class Information.....Kimberly Moody, Coodinator
Career and Technical Education Curriculum and Professional Development Division
Clark County School District

Mr. Frechette invited Kimberly Moody to provide Coding Class information. Ms. Moody stated that last year the Clark County School District (CCSD) participated in an event sponsored by Code.Org entitled an “Hour of Code.” She mentioned that this event included the participation of many schools at all levels, kindergarten, middle and high schools, during which one of the local schools won a competition.

She said that they have been working in connection with this organization (Code.Org) to implement some of their initiatives in the school district, and in the upcoming year, the Clark County School District will offer a both a high school and a middle school course specifically to address coding.

Ms. Moody said that the “Hour of Code” will be held again December 8-14, 2014, and the school district is currently making arrangements to participate in this event as well. She said that the goal is to arouse the interest of students and develop their skills in this area at an earlier age, at the elementary and middle school levels, while also “casting a wider net,” to involve *more* students. Once students reach the high school level, they will find a full computer science pathway available. Ms. Moody said that these efforts should increase both the visibility and student interest in coding classes.

Mr. Frechette asked Ms. Moody about courses at high school and middle school level for the coming year, and she responded that in the current year *some* elementary and middle schools are using the course, and in the upcoming year (2015-16) more middle and high schools will be using the specific curriculum developed by Code.org.

Linda Montgomery volunteered to act as a partner with the school district in some way on their coding initiatives, and Ms. Moody thanked her and said she would communicate this to the committee organizing an upcoming December 13, 2014 meeting. Mr. Frechette added that professionals presenting directly in this way within the school system will help in raising student interest. Ms. Moody was asked and answered questions from the sector council members about the activities offered for each of the school grade levels in the area of coding. Linda Montgomery mentioned that she had participated with two entities, Workforce Connections and Southwest Career Technical Academy, for example, where kindergarten students played a game such as Angry Birds, in which the application develops the code behind the game and an introduction of that code was then given to the students.

Dr. Warren Hioki stressed the need to create awareness of the higher levels of communication when teaching the lower levels of the digital world, to spark an interest at an earlier age in coding, as it drives both communication and IT systems, and involves much more than game systems. Heather Wilde said that programs such as the Hour of Code are beneficial in determining which young persons have the aptitude to benefit from additional training and may result in better designers in future. Mr. Frechette commented that interest in code is important, but another part, which may be missing, is an understanding of mathematics applicable to the digital world, such as the hexadecimal system. Ms. Moody said that Code.org has developed a coding curriculum tailored to 8-9th grade students, which she has not yet seen, but she can share the comments made by the sector council members with the teachers from Code.org. When she concluded her remarks, Mr. Frechette moved to Address Item VII.

VII. For Possible Action – New Business and Future Agenda Items.....Michael Frechette

Mr. Frechette mentioned the prior year’s efforts, turning first to the Microsoft IT Academy pilot, which he said is moving forward, and he asked Kimberly Moody if she or Jhone Ebert had the metrics for measuring the success of the program. Ms. Moody responded that they should have this information by the end of the semester. He thanked her and said that when the metrics are obtained, the council can then decide if this program should be expanded.

Mr. Frechette went on to state that, in a desire to adhere to the Strategic Plan in helping unemployed and underemployed obtain work, he wanted to discuss the possibility of a PMBOK Project Management Training Boot Camp pilot program with sector council members to see if they would like to consider this as a new initiative. He said that he had envisioned the pilot in the following manner: establish a Working Group, work with DETR to identify candidates (10-15) and obtain funding for the project management course, incorporate 2-3 days soft skills training, assign a mentor from a volunteer company, and have private companies sign up to sponsor a 90-120 day internship in their company where the candidate would serve as a project coordinator.

Council member Wesley Harper said that the goal is to get those who are unemployed or underemployed into long-term, high-quality jobs. He also said that if 6-8 employers can be found that are willing to pay for this skill set on an internship, the expectation is that the host company will keep the interns permanently.

Mr. Frechette said that a key reason in choosing project management for a pilot was that of all the IT disciplines, the skills developed in this training would be the most transferable. He said that his company, Bowhead Technical Solutions, will step forward to sponsor one of the internships, and he asked for the sector councils to assist in soliciting support from other corporate sponsors. He said that if the mentors and internships are assisted through private industry, hopefully assistance in training or stipends can be obtained through DETR.

Linda Montgomery said that she would be happy to use a project intern in her company for an upcoming installation. She also said that she focuses on the statistics in IT jobs, and said that recently she found 451 current project management open job listings in Las Vegas advertised on Indeed.com, so even if the sponsor companies cannot commit to hire the pilot candidates when their internships end, there would be many other job opportunities for these trained individuals. Heather Wild suggested that using Caliber Talent Management would be helpful in profiling the appropriate pilot candidates. Arnold Lopez suggested broadening the scope of the pilot to include existing employees to allow them advancement opportunities, and Mr. Frechette asked him to comment further on the mechanics of how that would work in the pilot in the next meeting. Linda Montgomery said that while project management is a good choice, another industry area could be cyber-security, which is another high demand area in the IT industry.

Mary Siero mentioned that her company had been looking for a cyber-security professional for 9 months and were unable to find a candidate with all the desirable credentials. They ultimately hired a person with a lower-level security certification on a contract basis, and she would share updates on how that arrangement worked out at a future meeting. She further said that she also supported the Project Manager Boot Camp Pilot Proposal, as did Dr. Warren Hioki, saying that in all the areas of IT, project management shows the highest demand. Dr. Hioki also emphasized the need for soft skills training.

Mr. Frechette asked if the sector council members were willing to provide a motion for the Project Manager Boot Camp Pilot Program concept. Wesley Harper raised a motion to investigate the logistics of putting together a pilot program with the purpose of moving the unemployed and underemployed into high-quality jobs. He further stated that this would include: 1) getting corporate sponsors for internships, 2) a training program that provides appropriate certification for the internship, 3) soft skills training, and 4) a mentor. Kimberly Moody seconded the motion. All were in favor, none were opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Frechette then asked for volunteers to sit on a Working Group to investigate the logistics and feasibility of the pilot program mentioned.

The Working Group formed at this meeting included the following members: Dr. Warren Hioki (Lead), Mary Siero, Heather Wilde, and Michael Frechette. Linda Montgomery volunteered to participate in marketing sponsorship for the project to companies, and Wesley Harper volunteered to take assignments from the Working Group.

Mr. Frechette asked Mary Siero and Zach Miles, as new members, to each provide the sector council members with brief histories of their work backgrounds. When they had concluded their comments, Mr. Frechette thanked them again for their participation and then asked Christina Whatley, to update the council members on the P 4 Initiative.

Ms. Whatley said that Nellis Air Force Base has formed a public and private partnering initiative group, who get together with community and government leaders to brainstorm ideas to help each other. One of the ideas being put forth this year is education, transition assistance, re-training, and job placement for veterans.

She said the Air Force specifically is anticipating a decrease in funding in some of the program areas and they want to partner, in particular, with the local community in southern Nevada for any type of education and transitional assistance that can be provided to veterans.

She said in a previous meeting, she became aware that DETR is using some of the same program resources and are appealing to the same customers as is the military; however, the transitional training provided by the Air Force is *mandatory* through their process, in an effort to have veterans be seen and counselled, to give them the best possible outcome.

Linda Montgomery commented that she participated in one of the four Working Groups within the P 4 Initiative addressing employment services. She said they had determined that there was no *one* source to connect veterans to job opportunities, so they decided to leverage the Green Zone, which is an existing organization, endorsed by the Governor and well recognized by the employer community, to develop a Business and Veterans Employment Services vehicle to connect veterans with jobs/employers (which could possibly be a website or a center). She said that this will be discussed further in an upcoming meeting between the Green Zone and DETR, including DETR Deputy Director Dennis Perea, the Cannery General Manager Patrick Hughes, DOL Veterans Employment and Training Service Director Doreen Owens (or her Deputy Director), and Las Vegas Representative for the Green Zone Tony Forbes. Mrs. Montgomery said the meeting is scheduled to take place on October 16, 2014 at 9:00 a.m., with further information to be provided. Mr. Frechette thanked them for their service, and added an administrative note, that if any information needs to go the council, he asked that it be sent to DETR, to the attention of either Ansara Martino or Coralie Peterson, for distribution to all the sector council members.

Wesley Harper commented that GOED is seeking to understand how the much the military and the private sector are each willing to do, and determine how the Green Zone can bridge any gaps in the assistance. Mr. Harper reiterated that as the Green Zone is endorsed by the Governor, any additional resources that are needed will be obtained to fulfill that mandate.

Mr. Frechette thanked him for his comments and then asked the sector council members for any suggestions on any new business or future agenda items they wished to raise. Hearing none, Mr. Frechette mentioned that the next meeting agenda will include the following items:

- Report from Working Group on Project Manager Boot Camp Pilot Program – Dr. Warren Hioki
- Update on the Coding Initiatives and Microsoft IT Academy – Kimberly Moody and Jhone Ebert
- Green Zone Veterans’ Initiatives – Wesley Harper

VIII. Next Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. Michael Frechette

Mr. Frechette announced that this Council’s next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. He mentioned that after the November 5th meeting, he would like to schedule the future meetings for every other month, and asked Ms. Peterson to coordinate that schedule.

IX. **Second Public Comment Session**.....Michael Frechette
Members of the public may now comment on any matter or topic, which is relevant to or within the authority or jurisdiction of the Board. You may comment now even if you commented earlier; however, please do not simply repeat the same comment you previously made. Please clearly state and spell your name. Public comment may be limited to three minutes per person at the discretion of the chairperson.

Mr. Frechette announced the Second Public Comment Session and invited members of the public to speak. Hearing none, Mr. Frechette again welcomed the new members, thanked them and all of the other sector council members for their service, and moved to Item X.

X. Adjournment Michael Frechette

Michael Frechette adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Agenda items may be taken out of order, combined for consideration by the public body, and/or pulled or removed from the agenda at any time. The Chair may continue this meeting from day-to-day. Pursuant to NRS 241.020, no action may be taken upon a matter raised during a period devoted to comments by the general public until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECTOR COUNCIL

Michael Frechette (Chair), Arnold Lopez, Jhone Ebert, Lindsey Niedzielski, Robert Nielsen, Steven Zink,
Dr. Warren Hioki, Justin McVay, Felicia Gonzales, Linda Montgomery, Missy Young, Michael Walsh,
Melissa Scott, Kimberly Moody, Christina Whatley, Michael Thomas, Michael Bradshaw, Dr. Dana Ryan,
Wesley Harper, Mary Siero, Randy White and Zach Miles

Notice: *Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting should notify Coralie Peterson, DETR, Workforce Solutions Unit, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m., in writing at 2800 E. St. Louis., Las Vegas, Nevada 89104; or call (702) 486-0523; or fax (702) 486-6426 on or before the close of business Tuesday, October 7, 2014.*

Notice of this meeting was posted at the following locations on or before 9:00 a.m. on the third working day before the meeting: DETR, 2800 E. St. Louis, Las Vegas, NV; DETR, 500 East Third St., Carson City, NV; DETR, 1325 Corporate Blvd., Reno NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 3405 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 119 Water St., Henderson, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 2827 N. Las Vegas Blvd., North Las Vegas, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 1929 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 172 Sixth St., Elko, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 480 Campton St., Ely, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 121 Industrial Way, Fallon, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 475 W. Haskell, #1, Winnemucca, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 4001 S. Virginia St., Suite G, Reno, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 1675 E. Prater Way, Suite 103, Sparks, NV; GRANT SAWYER OFFICE BUILDING, 555 E. Washington Ave., Las Vegas, NV; LEGISLATIVE BUILDING, 401 S. Carson St., Carson City, NV; NEVADAWORKS 6490 S. McCarran Blvd., Building A, Unit 1., Reno, NV; WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS, 7251 W. Lake Mead Blvd., Las Vegas, NV. This agenda was also posted on DETR's Web site at www.nvdestr.org. In addition, the agenda was mailed or e-mailed to groups and individuals as requested.