



SWDB BOARD MINUTES

Date: 7-17-20

Location: Virtual

Voting Members

Voting members serve four-year terms.

No.	Name	Organization	Affiliation	Present	Not Present
1.	Kim Reynolds	State of Iowa	Governor		X
2.	Jake Chapman	Senate Appointed by President	State Senator		X
3.	Dave Deyoe	House of Representatives Appointed by Speaker of the House	State Representative		X
4.	Beth Townsend	Iowa Workforce Development	Director	X	
5.	Ann Lebo	Iowa Department of Education	Director or Designee		X
6.	Emily Wharton	Iowa Department for the Blind	Director or Designee		X
7.	David Mitchell	Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services	Administrator IVRS or Designee		X

Voting Members

Appointed by Governor, confirmed by the Iowa Senate, serving staggered four-year terms.

No.	Name	Organization	Affiliation	Present	Not Present
8.	Lynn Schreder Chair	KHI Solutions, LLC	Business	X	
9.	Jay Iverson	Home Builders Association of Iowa	Business	X	
10.	Anne Parmley	Pearson	Business	X	
11.	Amy Larsen	United Equipment Accessories	Business		X
12.	Sondra Meyers	Katun Corporation	Business		X
13.	Becky Jacobsen	Smithfield Foods	Business	X	
14.	Jeff DeVries	WestWing Logistics	Business	X	
15.	Daren Westercamp	Ag Leader Technology	Business	X	
16.	Kelly Barrick	The Private Bank	Business	X	
17.	John (Jack) Hasken	Jackson Manufacturing, Inc.	Business	X	
18.	LuAnn Scholbrock	Coloff Digital	Business	X	
19.	VACANT		Business		
20.	Teresa Hovell	Vermeer	Business	X	
21.	Curt Strouth	City of Sheldon	Business	X	
22.	Jessica Dunker	Iowa Restaurant Association	Business	X	
23.	VACANT		Business		
24.	Daniel Tallon	Unity Point	Business	X	
25.	Carrie Duncan	International Association of Machinists Local 1010	Labor	X	
26.	Rich Kurtenbach	Labor Organization: Construction Industry	Labor	X	
27.	Charles Wishman	Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO	Labor	X	
28.	Andy Roberts	Plumbers and Steamfitters Local #33	Labor	X	
29.	VACANT		Joint Labor – Management Apprenticeship Program		

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	Name	Organization	Affiliation	Present	Not Present
30.	Jayson Henry	The Well	Community Based	X	
31.	Carmen Heck	Goodwill of the Heartland	Community Based	X	
32.	Quentin Hart	City of Waterloo	City Elected	X	
33.	Nancy McDowell	O'Brien County Board of Supervisors	County Elected	X	

Ex Officio, Nonvoting Members

Ex officio, nonvoting members are appointed or designated by entities in accordance with Iowa Code § 84A.1A(1)(b).

No.	Name	Organization	City	Present	Not Present
	William Dotzler	State of Iowa Senate, Minority Leader Appointee	Waterloo		X
	Kirsten Running-Marquardt	State of Iowa House of Representatives, Minority Leader Appointee	Cedar Rapids		X
	Drew Conrad	University of Northern Iowa, Board of Regents Designee	Cedar Falls	X	
	John Smith	Drake University, Association of Independent Colleges Appointee	Des Moines	X	
	Rob Denson	Des Moines Area Community College	Ankeny	X	
	Rita Grimm (Director Designee)	Iowa Economic Development Authority (IDEA)	Des Moines	X	
	Kyra Hawley (Director Designee)	Iowa Department on Aging (IDA)	Des Moines	X	
	Beth Skinner (Director Designee)	Iowa Department of Corrections (DOC)	Des Moines		X
	Kelly Garcia by Tracey Roberts (Director Designee)	Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS)	Des Moines	X	
	VACANT	Apprenticeship			
	Mary Cannon-James	Largest Statewide Labor Organization for State Employees American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Council 66	Davenport		
	VACANT	Labor Organization: Construction Industry			
	VACANT	Labor Organization: Manufacturing Industry			

Other Attendees.

Attendee	Organization	Present	Not Present
Shelly Evans, Board Administrator	IWD		
Ryan West, Deputy Director	IWD		
Michael Witt, Division Administrator	IWD		
Michelle McNertney, Division Administration	IWD		
Jon Peppetti, Attorney	IWD		
Chad Matchie	IWD		
David Steen	IWD		

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order, Lynn Schreder, **Chair**.

Roll Call and establish Quorum, Shelly Evans, Board Administrator.

ACTION ITEM

ACTION	1st	2nd	Unanimously Approved
Approval of Agenda.	Andy Roberts	Kelly Barrick	X

ACTION ITEM

ACTION	1st	2nd	Unanimously Approved
Approval of Minutes from 5/15/20 meeting.	Andy Roberts	Jay Iverson	X

Welcome by Lynn Shreder, Chair.

- Thank you to Director, Iowa Workforce Development and team for amazing work you are doing.
- Welcome to new members, Charles Wishman, Curt Strouth, Teresa Hovell, Jessica Dunker, Daren Westercamp and Daniel Tallon and three reappointments to Jayson Henry, Nancy McDowell and Jay Iverson.
- Thank you to former member Greer Sisson.
- Website for board. www.iowawdb.gov
- Encourage members to become vocal about workforce and what is being done by this board and Iowa Workforce Development. 56,000 current job openings. www.iowaworks.gov

Director’s Report by Director Beth Townsend, Iowa Workforce Development.

- Mandatory overtime for staff at IWD since the pandemic started on 3/15 except for Memorial day, July 4th and Easter.
- Iowa 3rd state in nation to implement CARES Act programs in less than 8 weeks with one of the oldest systems in the country. Remarkable.
- Since 3/15 IWD has processed 388,000 initial claims, processed over 2.4 million continued weekly claims, paid over 2 billion dollars in benefits in 3 ½ months.
- Current Unemployment rate for June is 8%, down 2% from May. Ranked 16th in the nation.
- Any complaints about IWD, please refer them directly to me.
- Labor Participation Rate fell to 66.2%. Ranked 9th in the nation.
- 1.5 million in Iowa who are working.
- Unemployed Iowans - 131,000
- Current Job postings on IWD website – 58,000
- Trust Fund
 - Balance is \$1.16 billion.
 - Governor approved \$490 million from COVID relief fund through CARES Act and made deposit at end of June so balance would return \$1.214 billion balance needed to ensure that Iowa employers remain in tax table 7.
 - No increase in tax rates to employers as result of pandemic.
 - Continue to waive all charges to employers. Very fortunate because a lot of states unemployment trust fund has been liquidated and they are borrowing from federal government to make weekly benefits.
- Since May 1st over 35,000 fact-finding interviews. Over 10,000 pending and continues to increase as employers calling employees back to work resulting in more disputes. Not all refusals to go back to work. Some for legitimate reasons of healthcare, childcare, transportation, but CARES Act requires to go through

process and if denied then roll over to pandemic assistance program to continue paying benefits for those in category who need to remain home.

- Coursera update. National platform that provides online training from many institutions and programs around the country. Moved online for free at beginning of pandemic. No cost to us or lowans. 5,000 lowans have taken advantage. Almost 3,000 involved in 7,000 courses. 331 have completed programs. A lot of programs completing and taking how to stay focused, mental health, despite all trauma around the world. Taking COVID contact tracing course. Employers looking to hire for the jobs during pandemic. Program ends December 20. End of calendar year to complete course for free.
- Fraudulent claims. Read stories around country there have been UI assistance is ripe for fraudulent claims. State of Washington had to shut down for 3 days because of massive attacks out of Nigeria to steal \$300M in benefits. Iowa not as big of target and we are better able to prevent fraud. Paid about \$200K in fraudulent claims for identity theft. Prevented \$4.5 million in fraudulent claims. Doing good work. Only \$75K came out of trust fund, rest all with federal benefit program money. We will do our very best to track down those payments, recoup and press charges where appropriate.
- Stimulus bill.
 - Calls with USDOL about various options.
 - Testimony given to Senate Finance Committee chaired by Senator Grassley. Different proposals when pandemic assistance program ends at end of July. \$600 payment resulted in almost 80% of those drawing unemployment making more on unemployment than their regular wages. Unemployment benefits are generous in Iowa on top of minimum are earning \$25 - \$30 per hour. Requested to allow program to end without replacement or be a significantly reduced amount in Iowa. Number of different recommendations throughout the country; continuing the pay \$600 to end of March 2021, to flat rate amounts, paying individuals up to their maximum salary wage. This would require individual processing. Estimate 6 months before any of that money to get out the door due to intensive labor. No more advance notice than anyone who watches the news. Also proposal to provide \$450 weekly bonus to individuals who were unemployed but do go back to work. It would run through UI system. We would be required to continue to pay everyone on unemployment insurance and also create new program when go back to work would apply and receive regular payments of \$450 for some period of time. Paying everyone except those that have continued to work throughout this pandemic. We think it is a terrible idea and I have told anyone and everyone that would listen, including Senator Grassley.
- Govern Economic Advisory Council. Leading workforce group with co-chairs Mary Andringa and AJ Loss. 2 meetings so far working on bold and out of the box ideas which we put together summary of those ideas. Working like we did with alliance to collect data, better ideas to develop, what data tell us around issues we are addressing. How do we attract, retain, increase labor force rate, making more diverse, disabled, returning citizens into workforce and how do we train workforce especially in light of changes we have seen to economy and the way we live and work because of the pandemic? Working on group closely and share recommendation coming out of that group. Hard deadline of 10/31.
- Jessica Dunker – just read the testimony that Director gave in DC and just applaud you for job well done for you and team and the way you are representing Iowa. Head of hospitality echo the sentiments the entire department is doing fantastic job and really point out appreciation. Thank you Director Townsend and to your team from our industry.
- Director – cannot tell you how much that means to staff. Appreciate that their efforts are being seen and heard.
- Teresa Hovell – one question on \$450 weekly bonus and how likely to come to fruition and what do you need from us?
- Director – thought hit would die a natural death and difficult to implement. If we decided to start, DOL would take 2 – 4 weeks to create guidance and who qualifies and under what circumstances. Once we got

that then 6 months to create and develop necessary program. Eventually get stimulus check for weeks qualify for \$450 weekly bonus. Assume have to return to work and work for specified times. Nightmare. No other state that feel it would be good idea. Urge them to not vote for the particular portion of CARES Act and how difficult to implement. From fairness standpoint, not fair to pay a bonus who have been unemployed but we are not doing that for people that have worked so hard that have worked and stayed during pandemic. Shown up for work every day and did not get the lucrative unemployment benefits that people are getting now and would not get the other \$450 when they continue to work. From fairness, big objection and how difficult it would be to implement and how disgruntled people would be waiting for program to be turned on. Encourage all to reach out to congressional staff and representatives Grassley and Ernst, and urge them not to move that forward.

- Jessica Dunker – Is there a name or bill reference? Is that coming out of the house or senate?
- Director – Senator Portman from Indiana who is pushing it. I do not know if they have any draft language in Senate. Heroes Act not going anywhere and did not include this recommendation. Nothing in writing yet. Questions from DOL for past few weeks with various scenarios to replace the current program.
- Andy Roberts – I am disappointed that Greer had to leave the board. Registered Apprenticeships in state of Iowa have taken ahold the last 10 years and disappointed that the Registered Apprenticeship representative at bureau not able to sit on this board. Greer active and disappointing forced off the board. Think it is a bad deal she was forced to get off this board.
- Director – I completely agreed. Promise you we fought DOL tooth and nail. Governor talked to Scalia. Greer had been valuable part of board and great asset and to board. Her position is in Iowa State Code that she should be a member but someone in DC decided they knew better and required us to remove her. Decision made at USDOL and fought as hard as we possibly could and disappointed when ignored our concerns and desires.

Discussion application for the ESF-RWP Grant by Director Beth Townsend, Iowa Workforce Development. Education Stabilization Fund Reimagine Workforce Program. Only SWDB can apply for the grant. Only 8 or 9 awards given. Highly competitive. Awards range \$50M but could go as high as 20M. IWD started process for bid for grant application and partnered with community college with team of experts from 15 community colleges to be part of the grant writing application. Working with UNI regarding the grant and DOE. We picked 1st track and more helpful to community college in terms of providing infrastructure and building capacity to increase short term certificate programs. Other option, priority would be for colleges and universities to create entrepreneurial on campus. We wanted to go bigger than that. Worked with community colleges and UNI and everyone was a go for plan I. Short term education and training programs, career pathway, necessary supplies, or become entrepreneurial without taking on any debit. Allowed for individuals able to assist under this grant. Notice had to be filed before this meeting was held. Short letter that Iowa was going to apply for grant. Does not bind us to apply but wanted to put to vote to board with formal application that this has been approved and supported by the SWDB.

Lynn Schreder – I have copy of letter as well and was in touch regarding our intent. Action item is to approve application for ESF-RWP grant.

7.1 -- ACTION ITEM

ACTION	1st	2nd	Unanimously Approved
Approval of application for ESF-RWP Grant.	Rich Kurtenbach	Quentin Hart	X

Director Townsend – will keep board updated and get application to the board to see what we are doing with the money.

Lynn Schreder – Let's hope we get it.

Updates on consolidation requests and overview of next steps by Division Administrator, Michelle McNertney, Iowa Workforce Development.

Effective July 1 Iowa now has 9 functional local working areas. Key next steps that local areas are working on. 9/1 deadline for key tasks ensuring they have liability agreements, appoint fiscal agent and have compliant local workforce board. Once those are in place IWD through partnership with Maher & Maher will provide comprehensive training for fiscal agents and boards and completing tasks supposed to under the law. Throughout the next 4-5 months working to complete RFP for selecting WIOA Title I Service Providers. By January will have 9 local areas compliant. A lot of great working happening. Chief local officials very engaged and learning and great to see. IWD technical support and training for them to take and run in their local areas.

Lynn Schreder – board site and updated local area map.

Rob Denson – Good work. Looking at map very representative number for local control.

Drew Conrad – what is timing for new regions to have boards in place.

Michelle McNertney – September 1st. Intense training. Plan there will be 9 separate trainings given. Each board individual own individual training. Take place to help them start working together to understand roles and responsibility. Tight deadline but local areas have been working on this for several months now. Most well on their way to meeting that goal. In constant contact with CEOs and Mike Witt working closely. If aware of local area needing assistance by 9/1 let me know and we will help them achieve that. Local board has a ton of responsibility and make sure foundational piece in place before they move forward.

Discussion on Employment Recovery NDWG and plans for the grant by Division Administrator, Michelle McNertney, Iowa Workforce Development.

More exciting is separate grant. Applied for and approved for EWM 1.6 million to help in response to COVID pandemic. Similar to disaster recovery grant. Focus on employment recovery piece. Help people get back to work. High level project plan. Emergency application and approval received. Planning 1/3 to do statewide project and doing RFP to do online training for short-term program for needed skills. Boards can apply to get funding for their local areas for innovative or projects for workers in their area. In October will have specific information and process in place to apply for additional funding for disclosed workers.

Director – normally time of year review high demand for LDS program to make any changes to the list but in light of the pandemic we decided not to make any changes to the list at all. Situation is so influx that don't trust the numbers pre-pandemic would not be the same post-pandemic. Ability to identify training programs we want to incentivize we don't know what those look like. Probably won't until after pandemic. High demand list previous approved will continue. Community colleges can still make changes to regional list. Couple that have done that so far. Hope to help with implementation. Status quo funding for LDS but also upped amount to \$15.8 million so hope to cover as many as we can.

Lynn Schreder – Thank you for attending. Next meeting for 10/23 at The Well in Pella.

Carrie Duncan – A lot of our employees where work at, when a lot of bad things happening to workers but good things have happened when walked through doors of IWD.

Director Townsend – Thank you for sharing that Carrie, I will pass that along.

Lynn Schreder – about human connection. So proud of Iowa and lowans. So glad to be here. Bring more people into Iowa for those in Urban areas. Can we vet those people? Iowa is best kept place. Let's hope we bring them in.

Rob Denson – we will make them good. That's why we are here.

ACTION ITEM

MOTION

Motion to Adjourn. Adjournment at 12:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Shelly Evans in blue ink.

Shelly Evans, Board Administrator

Handwritten signature of Lynn Schroeder in blue ink.

Lynn Schroeder, **Chair**