

NWDB Leadership Committee Meeting Minutes  
June 1, 2022

**Present:** Sean Lavin (Chair), JD Williamson, Kimberly Gregory, Tameka Gibbs, Amber Morse (staff), Rachel Clipston (staff), Dave Whitmer (staff), Annette Barnes (staff), Niaisha Stokley (staff);

**Absent With Notice:** Larry Lombardi

**Absent Without Notice:** Janet Russ (Vice-Chair)

1. **Welcome and Approval of Minutes:** Chairman Lavin called the meeting to order. JD Williamson made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2022 and May 2022 meetings. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kimberly Gregory and passed unanimously.
2. **Updates:** Director Whitmer informed the committee that we continue to wait to hear back from the Financial Monitor as to when the pre-exit interview will be scheduled. The annual plan has been submitted and we will wait to see what comments are received by DWS. The Dare Center is still scheduled to close on June 30. Director Whitmer next reported updates on realignment. Secretary of Commerce Machel Baker Sanders and EDPNC CEO Chris Chung sent out a letter in support of the realignment of the workforce development boards. Jenni Harris, DWS Business Services Director, presented at a NC Association of County Commissioners meeting. During this meeting, she told the Commissioners that it was Director Whitmer and NWDB who made the decision to close the Dare County NCWorks Career Center. Director Whitmer corrected her in the comments stating that this was a unilateral decision made by DWS. Lastly, Director Whitmer reported that during the last Director's Council Meeting, a Director reported that Jenni Harris met in her region with the community college and economic development representatives. It was reported to her, that during that meeting, Jenni stated the following: The realignment will happen, there will be eight boards, and we (DWS) and going to monitor the current boards out of existence.

3. **Committee Chair Check-in:**

Dr. Kimberly Gregory, reporting on behalf of NextGen, stated that they are excited that Hillary Robertson has been hired as the Youth Program and Business Engagement Coordinator. NextGen is planning to take NextGen participants on a tour of healthcare facilities businesses. They plan to visit Tarheel Pharmacy and Quality Home Staffing. They are also planning to take participants on tours of Pitt County Community College and Elizabeth City State University.

JD Williamson, reporting on behalf of the Finance Committee, stated that the committee has not met the last couple months but will meet this month.

Amber Morse, reporting on behalf of the Business Resources and Opportunities Committee, stated Hillary Robertson has already started working with businesses and will hopefully soon have her first completed OJT contract.

Tameka Gibbs, reporting on behalf of the Career Center Committee, reported that the committee continues with the OSO Annual Monitoring and reviewing current dashboard numbers.

4. **Current Staffing Development Challenges:** Chairman Lavin stated that he did send a letter to DWS Assistant Secretary, Chet Mottershead, requested disciplinary action for Larry Donley and Mark Edmonds due to the damage that their actions have had on our region.

5. **PY 2022 Nomination/Election of Officers:** Director Whitmer informed the committee that officers (Chair and Vice-Chair) would need to be elected at the July NWDB meeting. After discussion, the committee requested that Director Whitmer send an email to the board, identifying the business representatives who are eligible to serve as officers, and ask if anyone is potentially interested in serving in either role.

Minutes prepared by Dave Whitmer.

Approved by:  Date: 07 / 18 / 2022

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