

## **MSW Workforce Board Executive Committee Meeting, August 27, 2025 Minutes**

**Members on Zoom:** Lisa Kubiak, Chair, Bob Bower, Mark Fegley, Rev. Lloyd, Ernie Houle, Andy Vizulis

**Others present:** Metro South/West Workforce Board staff present: Henry Bryson, Greg Bunn, Louise Meyer  
Cindy Cedrone, Consultant

### **Welcome and Approval of July 22, 2025 Minutes**

Greg Bunn turned the meeting over to Lisa Kubiak who welcomed everyone and asked for approval on July 22, 2025 minutes. Ernie Houle made a motion to approve. Rev. Lloyd seconded. All members indicated approval. Motion passed.

### **Updates: Wagner-Peyser Rule and WIOA Annual Plan**

Greg reported that a letter had been sent, on behalf of the Board, requesting elimination of the merit staff requirement for Title III services. The merit staff would remain under the Board and there would be cost savings and hiring flexibility, among other benefits. The public comment period ends September 2. Greg is working with Carol Wolf to explore alternative ways to spend the leftover Wagner-Peyser funds.

Greg reported that the WIOA Annual Plan has been submitted for provisional approval and will be presented to the Board. The budget is \$10M, of which \$7M is new funding and \$3M is carry-in from FY25. Greg noted that although there were some budget cuts, carry-in and two new grants, Young Parent and Clean Energy Planning Grant, had been received to cover the shortfall. Greg expressed concern for the following year's budget with the Youth Connections programs being cut. The Finance Committee will work with Greg and Carol to discuss where the financial focus should be for FY27. Henry Bryson will send the Local Plan to the members.

### **Discussion: US DOL Workforce Development Strategy to Fuel 'Golden Age' of the American economy**

To help guide the work of the Board, the members received a link:

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20250812> for discussion of the US DOL's workforce development strategy. The Career Center Committee will focus on the Career Center reconnecting Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) and men ages 25-54, which have seen the biggest drop in the labor force. The DOL report also focused on the importance of career exploration and education starting as early as the fifth grade, and continuing to leverage such things as virtual reality, all which are already a part of the Board's plans and will continue to be built upon.

### **Other Updates**

There was a discussion on the State Workforce Board working groups: 1. performance and accountability, 2. Workforce Modernization Committee, 3. performance recognition. Ken Messina retired from Rapid Response. Antoine Jones has taken over. Greg will follow up with MA Workforce Association for more information.

Meeting went into Executive Session at 9:45 a.m.