

STATE OF NEVADA
GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Full Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 14, 2023 - 2:00 p.m.

South: Grant Sawyer Building
Attorney General's Conference Room
555 E. Washington Ave. #4500
Las Vegas, NV 89101

North: Desert Research Institute
Stout Conference Center
2215 Raggio Pkwy.
Reno, NV 89512

Teleconference Line
1-669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 868 6722 2434
Passcode: 960415

Zoom Link
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86867222434?pwd=YW5PdDJCQkRHbzZkbjB3TUNFUUdDUT09>

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: Hugh Anderson (Chair), Kenneth Evans, Lisa Levine, Scott Black, Irene Bustamante Adams, Jerrie Merritt, Gina Bongiovi, Susan Brager, Edward Estipona, Crystal Slaughter, Leslie Mujica, Lynda Parven, Robert Thompson, Kenneth Goodrich, Derrick Gyamfi, David Dreibelbis, Kevin Landry, Michael Bolognini, Brittany Brown, Maureen Schafer, Robert Benner, Evelyn Thompson-Hilbert, Nancy Olsen

Absent: Roberta Lange, Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Ryan Woodward, George Gault, Lawrence Montrose, Lori Calderon, Sherri Mantanona, Jennifer Keiser, Drazen Elez, Tommy White

Also present: Katie Gilbertson, (GOWINN), Kristen Dwyer, Jaime Cruz, Arianna Florence, Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner, Karissa Loper Machado

1. CALL TO ORDER - OPENING REMARKS AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order and welcomed participants. Chair Anderson led Board members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL - CONFIRMATION OF A QUORUM

Per direction from Chair Anderson, **Katie Gilbertson** took roll call and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

3. VERIFICATION OF PUBLIC NOTICE POSTING

Katie Gilbertson affirmed that the agenda and notice of the Governor’s Workforce Development Board (GWDB) meeting on June 14, 2023, was posted pursuant to Nevada’s Open Meeting Law, NRS 241.020.

4. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT(S) NOTICE

Chair Anderson read the notice into the record as follows: “Members of the public are invited to comments at this time. No action may be taken on any matters during public comment until the matter itself has been included on an agenda as an item for possible action. And public comments will be limited to three minutes per person.”

Chair Anderson invited comments. There were none.

5. *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION - Approval of GWDB April 19, 2023 meeting minutes

Chair Anderson called for comments/changes to February 15, 2023 meeting minutes. **It was moved by Susan Brager and seconded by Robert Thompson to approve the April 19, 2023 minutes.**

6. DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ONLY – GOWINN Updates

Kristen Dwyer, GOWINN, discussed GOWINN's P20 longitudinal system and updates from NPWR. Ms. Dwyer informed the Board that GOWINN is helping to grow and modernize the data in Nevada and has recently applied for a Department of Labor grant and anticipate an answer by the end of June/beginning of July regarding the \$2.9 million in potential funding that will be used to modernize data with the inclusion of dashboards for the north and the south, as well as looking at things that impact workforce needs. Ms. Dwyer next indicated that GOWINN received some internal funding from the IFC in December with the approval to utilize some of the Governor's reserve funds for partners and researchers to utilize for research purposes. Ms. Dwyer indicated that partners at both UNLV and UNR are doing this work, and that GOWINN will provide updates to the Board later in the summer or in the fall.

Chair Anderson requested a baseline explanation of NPWR for new members.

Kristen Dwyer explained that NPWR is the longitudinal system in the state, originally set up with NDE, NSHE, and DETR for the purpose of tracking and utilizing the data in all of those areas to see how to help workforce initiatives. Ms. Dwyer explained that in the past year, NPWR has grown and now also incorporates the Department of Veterans, Adult Education, Early Childhood data, and is onboarding the Department of Corrections.

Chair Anderson requested that Ms. Dwyer talk about the data screens being used to incorporate new data and data privacy.

Kristen Dwyer discussed the partners who are already onboarded and those who are onboarding currently, and using Early Childhood as an example, discussed the idea of a student utilizing SNAP and their need to continue that benefit in the workforce, thus incorporating the idea of not only utilizing the data, but tying it in for greater success in the workforce as people move forward.

Irene Bustamante-Adams questioned the timeframe to set up the dashboards.

Kristen Dwyer explained that GOWINN will move as quickly as possible and indicated that the DOL grant is a three-year grant. Ms. Dwyer indicated that Year 1 will bring together the partners with the hope of having initial dashboards in approximately a year or so.

Lisa Levine, GOWINN, indicated that the grant application specifically noted that the grant included language to outsource the scorecards for workforce development and educational outcomes to UNLV and UNR researchers rather than to GOWINN or NDE.

Michael Bolognini questioned if the \$2.9 million is for the entire length of the three-year grant, or if this is per year.

Kristen Dwyer indicated that the \$2.9 million is for the entire length of the three-year grant.

Michael Bolognini questioned where the money would come from to develop the dashboards should the grant not be approved.

Lisa Levine indicated that the sustainability piece on the research was able to be piloted with the grant funding from the Governor's Reserve and noted that should the grant not be funded, GOWINN will again reach out regarding the availability of the Governor's Reserve. Ms. Levine further noted that LVGEA is interested in doing a regional dashboard, and GOWINN has been working with them behind the scenes regarding this, and further noted that she has no knowledge of EDAWN's plan in northern Nevada.

Michael Bolognini questioned if state and partners tied to the state, such as Workforce Connections and NevadaWorks, will have access to this. Mr. Bolognini next asked if an inventory will be taken of the existing data to determine what might be missing to ensure that the proper software and equipment is purchased and utilized.

Lisa Levine explained that both Workforce Connections and NevadaWorks have provided GOWINN with letters of support for the grant application. Ms. Levine further noted that with NPWR, GOWINN has a data dictionary providing the data variables included in the application to DOL.

Edward Estipona asked if Workforce Connections and Nevadaworks will have a seat at the table and if there will be an inventory of what data are available and not available for the system.

Lisa Levine responded that both Workforce Connections and Nevadaworks gave GOWINN letters of support for the Department of Labor grant application. Ms. Levine assured that both agencies have collaborated to understand the interest of all relevant agencies. In regard to the data that NPWR already has, Ms. Levine shared that there is already an NPWR data dictionary with all the available data.

Susan Brager questioned if the grant was matching funds or not.

Kristen Dwyer confirmed that there is no match, and so the \$2.9 million would be funded entirely.

Lisa Levine indicated that the overhead cost was only \$1,000 a year, and that GOWINN was very cognizant that money needs to go towards the actual program.

Kevin Landry questioned if certification and credential data would be captured and whether or not private institutions would report into this system.

Lisa Levine explained that GOWINN has had good conversations with some of the organized labor organizations in the state about onboarding data as they also see value in seeing the formal outcomes. Ms. Levine further noted that in terms of private training providers, GOWINN would like to get more access to that ETPL list in terms of the data coming out of that, indicating that NPWR currently does not have that information.

Kevin Landry indicated that all the data is there and easily reportable and questioned who developed the scorecard metrics.

Lisa Levine indicated that Brookings Mountain West and UNLV would be providing the scorecard for the nonprofit overlap with workforce, and then the workforce development overlaying economic development will be provided by UNLV and the University Center for Economic Development at UNR. Ms. Levine further indicated that the Guinn Center will be doing the statewide educational scorecard for performance outcomes.

Nancy Olsen provided that NPWR was originally supported by federal grants and suggested that GOWINN look into the grant monies from NDE as possibilities should the \$2.9 million fall through as the scope of work could potentially fall under one of those grants.

Edward Estipona posed whether it would be possible to create a mandatory grant match to improve sustainability of federal grant funds.

Derrick Gyamfi asked what the total cost of the project will be.

Kristen Dwyer indicated that there is already a set state budget for NPWR and that this project consists of different sections that can be broken up into smaller pieces if full funding is not available all at once.

Derrick Gyamfi suggested that he is trying to understand what the desired end state is for the system as well as the cost and estimated gap analysis and expressed concern that the project would cost more per year than what the grant could cover.

Lisa Levine indicated her optimism that the project could be kept within the financial confines of the grant, as well optimism at the likelihood of GOWINN receiving the grant. Ms. Levine indicated that an updated would be provided at the next Board meeting.

Katie Gilbertson indicated that Cheryl Olson, the new Lead Grant Program Manager at GOWINN, is currently traveling and as such, Ms. Gilbertson would present on the Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship (PAYA) and National Governor's Association Policy Academy Grant. Ms. Gilbertson indicated that this is a \$50,000 grant GOWINN hopes to receive and expects to hear back by July. Ms. Gilbertson explained that the Policy Academy is a year-long endeavor that entails convening a relevant group of actors in the state familiar with youth apprenticeship. Ms. Gilbertson next explained the goals of the project to take place within a one-year timeframe: to assess the current youth apprenticeships framework at the state level and develop a unified, statewide vision; to utilize NPWR to determine the current economic and education and workforce data; to pick out new metrics that might be helpful for analyzing the effectiveness of a potential youth apprenticeships and work-based learning programs; to establish a statewide youth apprenticeship governance structure, which would include assigning roles and ensuring accountability while developing a resource hub for students, educators, government, and business employers.

Kevin Landry asked what will happen to the work if GOWINN does not receive the grant.

Katie Gilbertson explained that GOWINN already has the framework in place for the project, so if the grant does not come through, at least the project idea can be put on people's radars.

Susan Brager asked if current apprenticeship programs are studied.

Katie Gilbertson noted her belief that they would be as they are relevant in the youth apprenticeship space.

Lisa Levine explained that GOWINN has visited some high schools with labor and noted that they are very much intentional and actively trying to get more into high schools because these apprenticeship programs recognize that this is the future generation of workforce needing to be attracted. Ms. Levine indicated that just in southern Nevada alone, there are approximately 46,000

youth missing from the system data-wise and part of this initiative includes outreach to these youth to get them into some sort of program.

Susan Brager advised that Career Technical Academies will be included.

Irene Bustamante-Adams expressed her excitement at the direction the state is going with this and the investments being made in terms of time, money, and into the state as a whole.

Nancy Olsen questioned if the grant is received, if the focus will be more on in-school or out-of-school youth.

Lisa Levine indicated that this is still under consideration.

7. **DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ONLY – Mesquite STEAM Center Announcement**

Chair Anderson informed the Board that George Gault was unable to join the meeting today because of the opening of the Mesquite STEAM Center, but indicated that Mr. Gault did provide some information and an inquiry regarding the GWDB touring the center later this summer. Chair Anderson explained that the center is operated by Mesquite Works, a local economic development program run entirely by volunteers, and has been in existence since 2015 with an annual budget of \$12-\$15,000 per year, all donated by local businesses. Chair Anderson provided the background for how the STEAM Center came to fruition. Chair Anderson indicated that there will be an open house for the public in September and that the Board has also been invited to privately tour the facility.

8. **DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ONLY -- Update on Workforce Connections RTC Youth Strategy**

Jaime Cruz, Workforce Connections, informed the Board that this project is designed to help address the labor shortage reported by employers from across all targeted sectors across the state. As such, Mr. Cruz explained that part of the solution is to look at alternate labor pools. Mr. Cruz explained that Workforce Connections is working on some collateral with its partners at the Southern Nevada Regional Transportation Commission, and that collateral will be posted on buses, bus stops, transit centers, and used to push this initiative through social media websites and email blasts. Mr. Cruz indicated that partners are coming together to address the youth system as a whole given that local Boards only receive Title I, which is 20 percent of the whole WIOA funding streams. Mr. Cruz next presented the Board with a sample of the collaterals, which include eight posters designed for youth to see reflections of themselves. Mr. Cruz returned to the subject of alternate labor pools, citing the example that right now people with disabilities have a much better chance in the labor market than when unemployment is trending in the opposite direction than it is right now. Mr. Cruz indicated that the role of the partners at RTC was to develop the creative concept for the campaign to identify careers at the RTC and their vendors in the transportation industry as well as to provide free transit passes to those participants who chose to engage based on this outreach campaign. Mr. Cruz next indicated that the role of Workforce Connections was to sustain these outreach efforts among all of the different partners, and ultimately to enroll participants at the EmployNV Youth Hubs, provide career services for those youth, and also to promote the public transit system as a reliable option for all participants, youth and adults alike. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the bus shelter ads will go live soon, that rider alerts will be printed and provided to the fleet, there will be a press release distributed in the community, blog posts and social posts about the initiative and resources will be ongoing, and other ads will begin to run. Mr. Cruz indicated Workforce Connections' desire to ultimately incorporate feature success stories into this outreach campaign. Mr. Cruz next discussed the EmployNV Youth Hubs and Business Hubs, which are co-located in the Chambers of Commerce, libraries, and municipalities, and are meant to service the businesses. Mr. Cruz explained that there are also EmployNV Career Hubs, noting that this unified brand was rolled out last year by the state and simplifies how the public sees Workforce Connections as well as streamlines how services are

provided. Mr. Cruz indicated that although there may be some differences between Workforce Connections' and NevadaWorks' approaches, the structure is dictated by federal law and state policies and as such, both Boards need to deal with the ETPL training system as well as manage information on EmployNV.gov the same way. Mr. Cruz explained that on July 27, there will be an official ribbon cutting at the first American Job Center at a business, Movement Fitness, noting that this is the first of its kind in the nation.

Edward Estipona questioned if the ads are specific to things like YouTube, gaming ads, and social media boosting.

Jaime Cruz confirmed that they are.

Edward Estipona asked about ads in the malls.

Jaime Cruz confirmed that this is also in the plan, but noted that Workforce Connections does not have a budget for things like television ads. Mr. Cruz indicated that he would like to spread communications as much as he can as long as it is cost effective.

Evelyn Thompson-Hilbert questioned if RTC and/or Workforce Connections have plans to involve the participants themselves, meaning the community participation to get input directly from the market trying to be reached.

Jaime Cruz noted that this was actually the starting point.

Evelyn Thompson-Hilbert questioned if there is any pre-data that could later be compared with post-data.

Jaime Cruz indicated that this does not yet exist as it is the most difficult piece to collect.

Susan Brager suggested messaging in the high schools, and questioned what the cost to do so would be should a donor be needed to provide those posters.

Jaime Cruz indicated that the posters cost \$10 to \$20 apiece, and that there is partnership with the schools in place, noting that counselors on the Clark County School District payroll, not receiving WIOA Title I funding, are volunteering their time and effort in the schools.

Derrick Gyamfi asked about the plan to quantitatively measure the effectiveness of the campaign.

Jaime Cruz indicated that this plan is the first of its kind and the current way unit of measurement involves lowering that number of 42,000 displaced youth.

Derrick Gyamfi clarified that his question is specifically about the effectiveness of the campaign itself.

Jaime Cruz noted that the steps of someone scanning the QR code and landing on the landing pages will be calculated and measured.

Chair Anderson requested that Jaime Cruz keep the Board apprised with data as the campaign continues to roll out.

9. DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ONLY -- Update from Barriers and Underserved Populations Subcommittee

Vice Chair Ken Evans indicated that things are moving with the subcommittee and deferred to Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner to summarize some of the discussions that have taken place. The Vice Chair

noted that next steps for the group are to come up with some concrete ideas and work for the three major areas: single parents; 16–24-year-olds; and individuals with disabilities.

Chair Anderson decided to move agenda item nine since the audio from Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner was not coming through.

10. DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ONLY -- Update from Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Nancy Olsen, Nevada Adult Education, indicated that the full subcommittee meeting will take place the following Wednesday and that the group has grown significantly. Ms. Olsen encouraged as many people as possible to attend so as to effectively reach quorum. Ms. Olsen further noted that there will be a workgroup meeting the following Thursday. Ms. Olsen indicated that the subcommittee is progressing on the revision of specific forms for the state plan, as well as taking sections of that state plan to revise to include a more comprehensive response to the federal. Ms. Olsen explained that the subcommittee is looking at several sections that will lend themselves more to a comprehensive response so as to respond as a system rather than as each individual Title. Ms. Olsen further indicated that one of the areas that needs addressing in the state plan is how the implementation and progress in meeting goals will be measured. Ms. Olsen discussed the intent to pull out and further develop multiple documents that will serve as a way to drive that implementation, and report to the Board on an ongoing basis as well as provide information to the Board on the progress of implementing the state plan. Ms. Olsen explained that the state plan is a four-year document with the opportunity to revise every two years, so the state plan in progress now will be the '24 to '28 state plan, with an opportunity to revise in 2026.

Vice Chair Ken Evans added that the subcommittee is attempting to do two things: meet the minimum compliance requirement to do a state plan; and to extract out of that plan a 2-3 page strategic planning document that can be used for ongoing governance and policy, but at the same time communicate and monitor the ongoing actions of the various agencies within the workforce development system.

Derrick Gyamfi questioned if the work has begun on the new data reporting structure that will be implemented across all programs.

Lisa Levine indicated that it has, noting that the data that is presented to the Board from the Titles will be incorporated within the WIOA state plan.

Nancy Olsen added that performance targets for each of the core Titles are required to be submitted through the state plan and noted the need for caution about adding specific measurements as then on the federal side, there is the requirement of accountability to those measurements in terms of possible sanctions.

Michael Bolognini noted the importance of balance so as not to create an environment where data is not revealed to the committee in a timely and consistent fashion.

Derrick Gyamfi anticipated a question arising regarding whether or not programs have the right technology and systems in place to actually provide the data being asked for.

Vice Chair Evans noted that these conversations have already begun.

Lisa Levine indicated that through the passing and signing of SB431, the Modernization Act, into law, a Chief Information Officer is now going to be incorporated into the Governor's Office, providing one point of contact.

Edward Estipona questioned if NPWR will be accounting for some of these things in question.

Vice Chair Evans noted that this is also part of the discussions taking place.

11. **DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ONLY -- Introduction of Childcare Pilot Program**

Vice Chair Evans welcomed Dr. Tyler-Garner to resume with agenda item nine regarding the overview of the Barriers subcommittee meeting and then proceed with the childcare pilot program.

Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner noted that the April 26th subcommittee meeting was comprised of two key presentations, the first of which came from David Schmidt, Chief Economist for DETR. Dr. Tyler-Garner explained that there were several concerning findings regarding the populations previously identified, including: a disproportionately high, 29 percent unemployment rate around African American males, significant because it is consistent with depression-era levels of unemployment; disproportionate labor market participation among mothers with children; a persistent, historical, ongoing disproportionately high rate of unemployment around individuals with special needs. Dr. Tyler-Garner discussed the subcommittee's identification of a few areas for potential discussion and action in the future as well as the need to review some procedural aspects that may be a challenge in the work, particularly around communication about these services and whether or not they are developmentally appropriate and take into account generational differences. Dr. Tiffany Tyler discussed the initiative to co locate an EmployNV center, a CSN campus, a health clinic, workforce housing, and a business incubator to a region with historically disproportionately high employment and the discussion on exploring how best to leverage some of the existing initiatives happening in the region to address the pervasive under and unemployment of the three target populations and also how better to operate as an ecosystem moving forward.

Irene Bustamante-Adams asked about the date of the next meeting.

Katie Gilbertson noted that it will be at the end of July.

Vice Chair Ken Evans explained that the Childcare Pilot Program will be a gathering of concerned citizens come together in a voluntary manner and determine the pathway forward, which will include identifying some big box facilities throughout the valley and turning them into regional childcare centers. The Vice Chair indicated that Dr. Tyler-Garner has offered to provide some leadership, and other Board members, including Evelyn Thompson-Hilbert and Derrick Gyamfi have agreed to provide some horsepower as well. Vice Chair Evans noted that a meeting of this group of concerned citizens will convene in the upcoming weeks.

Kevin Landry questioned if the current focus is strictly for the south.

Vice Chair Evans indicated that the ultimate focus will be on the state over all, but the immediate future will focus on the south. Vice Chair Evans referred to the existing blueprint in Ely, who has already accomplished this task within their community.

Edward Estipona asked if it makes sense at this point to bring in people from the north and the rurals, citing the possibility of unique challenges that may not exist in the south rather than to try to address those issues later and try to tweak the process.

Vice Chair Evans indicated that any concerned community citizens throughout the state of Nevada are welcome.

Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner reiterated that this plan is intended to be a statewide effort, and discussed the commitment to leveraging asset mapping due to the recognition that it wasn't a matter of replicating, but rather needing to identify a customized strategy for each community. As such, Dr. Tyler-Garner indicated part of the planned work is a review of existing approaches, assets and partners to develop strategies based on the communities' individual needs.

12. DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ONLY -- Presentation on Federal Childcare Funding in Nevada

Karissa Loper Machado, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, explained that Nevada is a childcare desert and has been for a very long time, noting that the exorbitant cost of childcare is a national issue. Ms. Loper Machado explained that the Childcare and Development Block Grant and the Federal Pandemic Relief Recovery funds have allowed Nevada to increase access to and the affordability of childcare for eligible households. Ms. Loper Machado explained that the Nevada Childcare and Development Program, on a regular day without pandemic funding, administers the federal childcare subsidy benefits to eligible households, comprised of Nevadans making up to 85 percent of the state median income. Ms. Loper Machado further explained that collaboration takes place with the NDE Office of Early Learning and Development and other community stakeholders to define, measure, and improve the quality of childcare services offered across the state. Ms. Loper Machado further noted that the Nevada Childcare and Development Program also operates and administers the Child Care Licensing Program. Ms. Loper Machado next discussed the subsidy benefits and how the payments are made directly to childcare providers rather than in the form of a voucher to parents, indicating that this is intentionally set up from the federal level down to ensure that the provider is being paid and that the child is in a childcare space of the family's choosing. Ms. Loper Machado next discussed the quality rating improvement system, which pays providers differently based on the quality level of service they offer. Ms. Loper Machado further indicated that one long-term change that will be sustained in the standard block grant funding is the increased provider reimbursement rates. Ms. Loper Machado next discussed the Comprehensive Childcare Provider Cost Modeling Analysis project being undertaken, which is an analysis to determine the cost of care. Ms. Loper Machado next discussed early childhood care in the workforce, noting that work is being done to help families in a comprehensive way while also being particular in the childcare world about ensuring that the child is in a quality early learning environment. Ms. Loper Machado gave an overview of what has been done with the funding since the pandemic in 2020, noting that the Department engaged with multiple partners throughout 2020 and 2021 to determine how the funds coming at that time could best be used to ensure assistance to families in need of childcare, which in turn provided for looking at some other childcare workforce supports that would continue to help with the recovery and to help essential workers have access to childcare. Ms. Loper Machado explained that a key restriction of the ARPA Stabilization Award is that at least 90 percent of that \$222 million was required to be spent on direct grants to childcare providers to sustain their operations during the pandemic, noting that by September 30, 2023, 98 percent of that funding will have been spent on stabilization grant funds. Ms. Loper Machado indicated that overall, nearly 60 percent of the funds were used to provide one-time support to all licensed childcare providers who applied for the stabilization grant funds and in turn, providers received up to six months of full operation support coverage based on their individual operating characteristics. Ms. Loper Machado explained to the Board how the total amount of just over \$486 million was broken down in assistance to families first.

Lisa Levine asked if this is reducing costs for families, noting that there is still quite a bit of a difference that families have to make up per child.

Karissa Loper Machado confirmed that this is correct and indicated that there is not yet enough data to fully answer Ms. Levine's question, but noted that it is reducing cost out of the parents' pockets.

Michael Bolognini asked how it is determined who gets the available slots.

Karissa Loper Machado explained that in order for childcare providers to receive the federal subsidy dollars, they must be registered with the state's childcare program, noting that every provider was invited to apply and had to be able to show the availability of a current or pending infant-toddler classroom with children who would be subsidy-eligible to receive these contracted slots. Ms. Loper Machado indicated that many did so by using the funding to open additional slots and placing eligible children from their waitlist into the available slots.

Michael Bolognini asked if criteria is being managed for the waitlist and if diversity and equity are considered in these decisions.

Chair Anderson added to Mr. Bolognini's question by asking how to prevent fraud of a child receiving subsidy.

Karissa Loper Machado indicated that the state does not manage their waitlist criteria at the individual childcare provider level, but does diversify the childcare providers with whom it works and noted that fraud is prevented by the state's eligibility application checks, thus not allowing providers to open a slot to just any child.

Michael Bolognini asked if there are four subsidy-eligible children on the waitlist but only three slots from the state, how the childcare business is being helped to prioritize.

Karissa Loper Machado indicated that the state can provide technical assistance in determining which families need more help than others. Ms. Loper Machado next discussed the subsidy certificate caseload, noting that increased some during COVID and pandemic funds were used to help cover that increase. Ms. Loper Machado further indicated that the state is working on an Early Childhood Community Health Worker Program, which is community development focused to work with families and parents to help provide resources and referrals to community resources, as well as with childcare staff who tend to be low paid and also in need of community resources. Ms. Loper Machado next discussed the Nevada Childcare Fund Campaign, as well as the Nevada Afterschool Network Out of School Time expansion to help parents find more before and after-school opportunities. Ms. Loper Machado also noted the funding of the Parent Leadership Engagement to try and get parents at the table to help make decisions. Ms. Loper Machado explained that the slot pilot program is being built out in an attempt to improve access for children with special needs as well as to assist parents in need of non-traditional hour care. Ms. Loper Machado indicated that the bulk of the Department's funding goes to supporting the childcare providers themselves, some in the form of startup grants for childcare providers on the road to licensing. Ms. Loper Machado next indicated that running a childcare business is expensive and profits are generally low, so the operating and stabilization grants were key to keeping the industry running during and in the recovery from COVID, noting that many providers have indicated that without that funding, they would have had to shut down. Ms. Loper Machado informed the Board that the Nevada Strong Start Childcare Services Centers are the resource hubs geared at helping all levels of childcare providers with things like training, quality improvement support, small business administration resources, networking opportunities, behavioral and health referrals for children, childcare subsidy resources, educational and professional development grants, small business loans, and early childhood substitute teacher network. Ms. Loper Machado discussed the barriers by small family, friend, or neighbor providers and how the Department is attempting to help overcome these barriers through a project called the Care Nevada Housing Project, which is partnership with Mission Driven Finance, with The Children's Cabinet, and with Wonder School, noting that Mission Driven Finance will be a childcare provider friendly landlord, in the hopes of creating a sustainable model long-term with a private partner who works on the housing side while the Department works on ensuring that the providers referred are ready to be licensed. Ms. Loper Machado next indicated that \$1,000 stipends are being provided to every registered and actively working childcare provider in the field in partnership with the Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children and the Nevada Registry, with the Department covering background checks and other required training or entrance costs that could be prohibitive to new childcare workers. Ms. Loper Machado next explained that the Early Childhood Substitute Network Expansion helps providers access qualified substitute assistance at no cost to their facility, that the Access to Capital Project involves working with another community development financial investment partner who is providing childcare providers with small business administration technical assistance, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program reimburses childcare providers for food costs related to purchasing and serving quality nutritious meals and snacks, as well as a special needs expert consultation that will provide a subject-matter expert to help design a program to serve this population. Ms. Loper Machado informed the Board that Nevada is joining about 30 other states nationally and two other countries on the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Association, as well as with

Workforce Connections to guide youth and courage more youth to enter the early childhood education field. Ms. Loper Machado indicated that in addition to the Pandemic Relief Funds, the state, under Governor Sisolak's administration, issued the Nevada Childcare Fund, a \$50 million investment from the state ARPA dollars, which is helping cover the required family copay contributions for all enrolled children as well as helping to sustain the higher subsidy payment rates with no sliding fee scale or waitlists. Ms. Loper Machado discussed the \$30 million Childcare Capital Expansion Grants given so as to operate a competitive grant process for licensed childcare providers to apply to either build a new childcare center or remodel an existing one to add slots. Ms. Loper Machado indicated the work taking place with as many construction experts as are available to ensure that all of the money is spent. Ms. Loper Machado next informed the Board of some of the struggles for the childcare industry to remain viable: enrollments can fluctuate; staffing shortages and low profits can drive providers to operate below licensed and desired capacity. Ms. Loper Machado indicated that the operating and stabilization grants and startup grants have helped alleviate some of the capacity decline Nevada was seeing in family childcare homes prior to the pandemic. Ms. Loper Machado next indicated that one goal of the Nevada Early Childhood Workforce Framework is to help the childcare and development programs and policymakers understand how best to improve compensation for early childhood education professionals while trying not to impact the price of care and trying to find the balance between supply and demand and affordability. Ms. Loper Machado next discussed some statistics: in March 2023, 3 percent more children were being served than in March 2022 with an 88 percent higher average benefit per child; the stabilization grant funding helped maintain stable operations and open facilities for up to 36,000 childcare slots across 726 childcare providers; by September 30, all of the stabilization grant funding will have been spent; the increase of licensed providers between May 2022 and April 2023 jumped 9.5 percent for centers, 16 percent for family childcare centers, and 21 percent for group family childcare centers; 1,000 more stipends awarded to active childcare providers in 2023 versus in 2022. Ms. Loper Machado next provided an overview of how the money from the expansion grants was flushed out across the state, and concluded by informing the Board of the appendix of charts and graphs at the end of the presentation, along with her contact information on the final slide.

Edward Estipona thanked Ms. Loper Machado and her department for all the work they've done, and discussed the possibility of working with Nevada Housing Division to sweeten the pot in what they get to build daycares inside these facilities. Mr. Estipona also raised the idea of considering seniors as an untapped market for childcare.

Lisa Levine questioned how organizations apply for the \$17 million remaining in startup grants.

Karissa Loper Machado indicated that this is through The Children's Cabinet and can be accessed at nevadachildcare.org.

Lisa Levine questioned the ability to utilize underutilized spaces such as rec centers, libraries, churches, and some educational spaces.

Karissa Loper Machado indicated that the childcare expansion funding was \$30 million and that here is not any other funding to look into remodeling other types of space, noting that this needed to be done as a competitive grant process so the childcare providers themselves determined the space that would be used. Ms. Loper Machado did discuss some of the limitations in these types of spaces, citing bathrooms in the public library as an example, noting that walls need to be knocked down and concrete needs to be put up because childcare centers must have bathrooms for the kids in every classroom.

Vice Chair Ken Evans invited Ms. Loper Machado to participate with the childcare working group.

Karissa Loper Machado accepted the invitation.

Robert Thompson explained that he is Ms. Loper Machado's administrator and noted that no additional staff was provided to do all of this work and rather was done by Ms. Loper Machado and

nine staff members. Mr. Thompson next indicated that Governor Lombardo has allowed for the Department to receive more staff.

Susan Brager asked how things like the bathroom situation can be accommodated in a private family home.

Karissa Loper Machado explained that this comes down to the number of children in a family childcare home, the limit of which is restricted to six.

Vice Chair Evans requested that Board members with follow-ups and additional questions please submit them to Katie. The Vice Chair clarified the need to publicize that 6 or less, per Ms. Brager's question, is not considered commercial use, whereas 7 or more is, which holds different requirements.

Lisa Levine asked if the 3 percent growth will likely be consistent annually versus just as a result of the pandemic funding that will be sunseting.

Karissa Loper Machado indicated that the Department is looking very closely at the Childcare and Development Block grant, which has slowly increased over time, and as such, the goal is to put as much of it into subsidy assistance as possible to continue assisting families when the pandemic funding ends.

Lisa Levine questioned as the subsidies are increasing, whether childcare facilities are increasing prices as a result.

Karissa Loper Machado indicated that some are, noting that the Department cannot dictate to facilities, even those accepting federal subsidy dollars, what they can charge.

Susan Brager questioned if an audit was done of the whole system to see if there is a better way to utilize limited funds.

Karissa Loper Machado explained that this is the intent of the cost model analysis being done by outside consultants.

13. DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ONLY -- New Business from Full Board Members

Chair Anderson requested suggestions for new business.

Nancy Olsen indicated her desire to have a presentation on the Governor's Reserve dollars and the use of those dollars.

Lisa Levine noted that this money is DETR and not the Governor, and is called the Governor's Reserve.

Vice Chair Evans concurred with Ms. Olsen's request to get better visibility of this funding.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS NOTICE (SECOND)

Chair Anderson invited comments.

Brianna Cambra, Children's Cabinet Regional Director, indicated the need to remember that quality childcare spaces are looking to grow and increase capacity and that it is not enough to identify a building and stick children in it. Ms. Cambra discussed the need for available outdoor space, appropriate bathrooms, and locking doors so children cannot run out into the street, and noted that

existing infrastructure often does not allow for these things, thus oftentimes making it cheaper to build new.

There was no additional public comment.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The June 14, 2023 meeting was adjourned.

Notice of this meeting was posted on or before 9 a.m. on the third day prior to the meeting on the Internet at:

<https://gowinn.nv.gov/boards-commissions/gwdb/> and
[Nevada's Public Notice website at https://notice.nv.gov/](https://notice.nv.gov/), as required by NRS 232.2175.

Supporting public material provided to Committee members for this meeting is posted on GOWINN's Website at <https://gowinn.nv.gov/boards-commissions/gwdb/> may be requested from the Executive Director's Office at 555 E. Washington Ave. Ste. 4900, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101; or call (702) 486-8080.