

**STATE OF NEVADA  
GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
BARRIERS AND UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, April 23, 2025 - 2:00 p.m.**

**Zoom Link**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84862878046?pwd=vgLb8qvgBNCJrSkUxV7WW6hJdhRbEd.1>

**Audio Conference Number: +1 669-900-6833**

**Meeting ID: 848 6287 8046**

**Passcode: 172243**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Present:** Don Soderberg (Chair), Aubree Barnum, George Gault, Haith Johnson, Kevin Landry, Ken Lawson, Jerrie Merritt, Michael Yoder, Dr. Tiffany Tyler Garner

**Absent:** Kam Green, David Schmidt

**Also present:** David Gardner, Tiffany Vazquez

**1. CALL TO ORDER - OPENING REMARKS**

**Chair Soderberg** called the meeting to order at 2:07 pm.

**2. ROLL CALL – CONFIRMATION OF A QUORUM**

**Tiffany Vazquez** took roll call and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

**3. VERIFICATION OF PUBLIC NOTICE POSTING**

**Tiffany Vazquez** affirmed that the agenda and notice of the Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWDB) Barriers & Underserved Populations Subcommittee meeting was posted pursuant to Nevada's Open Meeting Law, NRS 241.020.

**4. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT(S) NOTICE**

No public comment online or on the telephone.

**5. \*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – Approval of October 23, 2024, minutes**

**Chair Soderberg** asked for guidance on how to proceed if participants can still vote on minutes if they weren't present for the meeting.

**David Gardner** clarified that new members would vote because the law requires accurate minutes. Voting by board members, regardless of attendance, is the standard practice to ensure compliance.

**Chair Soderberg** called for a motion to approve. **It was moved by Kevin Landry and seconded by George Gault. The motion passed.**

**6. DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ONLY – Directions of Barriers and Underserved Populations Subcommittee**

**Chair Soderberg** recognized the good work of the subcommittee and stated his intention to appoint a new chair and vice chair for the subcommittee. He handed the floor to Dr. Tiffany Tyler Garner to review the initiatives the subcommittee has supported.

**Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Gardner** provided a recap of the subcommittee's work, noting two distinct periods of focus:

- Year One: Focused on identifying labor force participation and acuity opportunities, particularly for groups most impacted by unemployment: males aged 16-24, individuals with special needs or disabilities, and women with children. The committee committed to monitoring employment trends in these populations, conducting asset mapping, and performing a gap analysis.
- Year Two: Focused on identifying best practices, regionally, statewide, and nationally, to support the identified populations. Approximately 14 initiatives were reviewed, with some becoming standing reports, particularly those addressing service provision for these populations. Efforts were also made to apply for technical assistance, including a national project on individual skills through alternative routes (Stars), though the effort was ultimately discontinued due to shifting priorities. Other strategies explored included capacity building and leveraging regional efforts, especially for rural areas and business-driven training models.

She also mentioned the insights from the chief economist's report:

- The high unemployment rate among young males (16-24) continues, with a recent improvement to 17.5%, still three times the general population rate. A partnership with Workforce Connections was noted for targeted investment in this group.
- Unemployment among women with preschool-aged children remains higher than the general population, linking to efforts from the childcare committee.

**Kevin Landry** questioned whether the current report, which he considered comprehensive and reflective of discussions over the past year, would suffice as the required report for the committee, or if a different format or additional details were needed. He asked if the subcommittee is in a position to move forward with finalizing the report, using the current work and materials as a guideline.

**Dr. Tiffany Tyler** agreed that there is sufficient material to compile the report, including meeting minutes, agendas, reports, and supplemental information. The main task remaining is to formalize the specific recommendations based on the committee's findings and observations throughout the work.

**Kevin Landry** was surprised that the Hispanic male population was highlighted over the Native American population. He noted that the Hispanic male population is not typically vocal about their needs, unlike the Native American community, which is often referenced in reports.

**Dr. Tiffany Tyler** agreed that, as part of the recommendations, additional data should be provided to highlight the resources allocated to the affected populations, particularly Indigenous communities. It was noted that research shows Indigenous communities are disproportionately impacted by employment and other issues. Further clarification on how these resources are allocated and administered is needed.

**Kevin Landry** suggested that Thurman Roberts, a Tribal Navigator at NevadaWorks, could be a valuable contact for further discussion. Roberts, who is Native American, works closely with tribal communities in Northern Nevada under the Good Jobs Challenge grant. He recommended scheduling a phone call or discussion with him to gain insights. He also

mentioned that certain challenges exist in measuring issues that are not easily quantified, such as individuals on reservations who lack job opportunities but do not want to leave the reservation. This creates a situation where the group's needs are difficult to measure and address, posing a struggle for data collection and analysis.

**Ken Lawson** asked where the data was pulled from in the report.

**Dr. Tiffany Tyler Garner** explained that the American Community Survey (ACS), a national sample with varying sampling periods, is referenced in the current report. The report uses the most recent 5-year average data from the ACS, as provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. The chief economist can provide further details on how different indicators and factors are derived from this data over time.

**Chair Soderberg** asked if there were any further questions or comments. There were none.

**7. DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ONLY – Data update on underserved populations prepared by David Schmidt**

**Chair Soderberg** inquired if David Schmidt had joined the meeting. He moved on to the next agenda item.

**8. DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ONLY – Future agenda items**

**Chair Soderberg** asked if there were any additional items, separate from what Kevin had raised, that should be addressed in upcoming meetings.

**Dr. Tiffany Tyler Garner** suggested a follow up on the report provided by the chief economist, particularly regarding programming and recommendations. She mentioned

- A report on the disconnected youth investment made by DETR in partnership with Workforce Connections, addressing disproportionate unemployment among individuals aged 24 and younger.
- The ARP Senior Program, which targets older workers, to understand its status, barriers, and ongoing needs.

She also asked if there is something in Elko County's programming that could be adopted elsewhere, or is the population demographic different? What is being done to address consistently high unemployment rates in certain areas, and what scalable solutions could help reduce them?

**Chair Soderberg** agreed and asked for any other input. There was none.

**9. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Chair Soderberg** called for a second round of public comment. There was none.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 pm.**