

## Draft Meeting Minutes: Apprenticeship Advisory Board

**Date:** January 15, 2026

**Prepared by:** Nou Yang

**Location:** In person at the Minnesota, Department of Labor and Industry

### Attendance (Attendees are listed alphabetically order by last name)

Members Present:	DLI Staff Present:	Visitors Present:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary Berg</li> <li>• Andy Campeau</li> <li>• Tom Dicklich</li> <li>• Erin Larsen</li> <li>• Norma Miller</li> <li>• Don Mullin, Chair</li> <li>• Melissa Stachovich</li> <li>• Sophie Thaden</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vicky Castorena</li> <li>• Naomi Cowan</li> <li>• Dana Eichhorst</li> <li>• Kelly Henriksen</li> <li>• Annie Jenkin</li> <li>• LaRohn Latimer</li> <li>• Gerri McGimpsey</li> <li>• Byron Millea</li> <li>• Darcus Mitchell</li> <li>• Paul Nikstad</li> <li>• Jeremy Parker</li> <li>• Meghana Shroff</li> <li>• Ruth Taylor</li> <li>• Nou Yang</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eric Abbett</li> <li>• Clara Albert</li> <li>• Lynn Anderson</li> <li>• Kelly Blaser</li> <li>• Marc DeCoster</li> <li>• Mary DesJarlais</li> <li>• Dave Dressler</li> <li>• Darlene Heiskary</li> <li>• Stephanie Holland</li> <li>• Jordon King</li> <li>• Sherry Kinnibrugh</li> <li>• Pamela LeGare</li> <li>• Aaron McKinnon</li> <li>• Noelle Meyer</li> <li>• Minga Miller</li> </ul>

## Agenda items:

### 1. Call to order

- The meeting was called to order by Don Mullin at 1:30 p.m. Roll call was taken by Erin Larsen, and a quorum was declared.

### 2. Approval of agenda

- A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the Apprenticeship Advisory Board Meeting agenda for January 15, 2026.

### 3. Approval of drafted meeting minutes

- A motion was made, seconded, and approved for the October 9, 2025, board meeting minutes.

### 4. Board member updates

- Don Mullin shared apprenticeship programs should get more involved in schools to spark student interest earlier.
- Mary Berg shared that the Department of Education held a webinar with registered apprenticeship programs to inform educators about how students can get involved in apprenticeship programs.
- Tom Dicklich shared the next Building Strong Communities cohort is about to start.
- Norma Miller reported that five pre-apprentices are entering registered apprenticeship programs, and she will be collaborating with schools to reach more students.
- Sophie Staden announced Minneapolis Plumbers will be opening applications for new apprentices.

### 5. Program Spotlight

- Shandy Mangra, Program Manager-Workforce Development, Minnesota Community Health Worker Alliance
  - The community health worker position bridges medical and community support, promoting mental health, advocating for hiring employers.
  - The Minnesota Community Health Worker Alliance continues expanding apprentice opportunities with the support of LEAP grant.

### 6. Apprenticeship Program Development

- Leslie Philmon, Senior Field Representative, Minnesota Department of labor and industry shared updates on program development.
- New Programs added:
  - Teacher Apprenticeship Minnesota – Education
  - Marcus Hotels & Resorts – Hospitality

- Horizon Commercial – Manufacturing
- Boise White Paper, LLC – Manufacturing
- 2026 Program Development
  - Apprenticeship Minnesota currently has an open RFP for Multi – Employer Registered Apprenticeship Programs
  - Apprenticeship Minnesota plans to host accelerator development meetings for healthcare, manufacturing, and information technology throughout 2026.

## 7. Apprenticeship Program Compliance

- Darcus Mitchell, Senior Field Representative, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry provided an overview of program compliance.
- 2025 Program Complaints:
  - Apprenticeship Minnesota received one complaint in 2025.
  - Senior field representatives provide technical assistance to programs once a determination is made.
- 2025 Program Reviews
  - 126 reviews completed
  - All programs are current on their program reviews.

## 8. Apprenticeship Minnesota Update

- Erin Larsen, Director of Apprenticeship, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry provided an update on registered apprenticeship programs:
  - Updated demographics
    - 11,805 active apprentices
    - 28.4% people of color
    - 8.1% women
    - 4.9% veterans
- Program updates:
  - USDOL has provided no updates regarding the notice of proposed rulemaking since the comment period closed in September 2025.
- Outreach updates:
  - 39 outreach events attended in 2025
  - 45 training events hosted in 2025
- Apprenticeship Grants updates:
  - Four grant managers support over 60 active grant contracts
- System Alignment with Workforce Boards
  - Increased focus from USDOL on co-enrollment of registered apprentices in WIOA programs
  - Apprenticeship Minnesota recorded its first co-enrollment in more than five years

## **9. Board Discussion-Approval of Report**

- A motion was made, seconded, and approved.

## **10. Adjourn**

- A motion was made, seconded, and meeting was adjourned. The next Apprenticeship Advisory Board meeting will be on April 16, 2026, at 1:30pm.