

Meeting Minutes: Apprenticeship Advisory Board

Approved Minutes can be viewed at: <https://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/apprenticeship-advisory-board>

Date: November 10, 2021
Time: 1:30 pm
Minutes prepared by: Grace Ouellette
Location: Virtual - WebEx
Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry
443 Lafayette Road N
St. Paul, MN 55155

Attendance

Members Present:

Tom McCarthy
Sophie Thaden
Melissa Stachovich
Norma Miller
Don Mullin
Laurie Warner
Erin Larsen

Members Absent:

Deon Clark
Tim Sturdivant

Attendees:

Rik Myhre
Rick Martagon
Susan Boehm
Jeremy Parker
Jessica Grosz
Roslyn Robertson
Kate Perushek
Denise Corrier
Thomas Aasheim
Tom Kennedy
Terry Frauly
Linda Williams
LaRohn Latimer
Lisa Vandeville
Meghana Shroff
Leslie Philmon

Tim Walker
Ania Dimants
Cory Nelson
Marv Urias
Betsy Adamson
Akin Shadeko
Dean Mills

1. The Meeting was called to order by Chair McCarthy at 1:30 p.m.

Roll Call – Chair directed that the record notes those members in attendance.

2. Approval of Proposed Agenda

A motion was made by Laurie Warner and seconded by Don Mullin to approve the November 10, 2021 Apprenticeship Advisory Board Meeting Agenda. All members voted to approve the agenda.

3. Commissioner Update

Roslyn Robertson, Commissioner

- Commissioner Robertson reported that she has been appointed by the Governor to the [Frontline Worker Pay Working Group](#) as one of three Commissioners along with three House Members and three Senate Members.
- [The Governor's Council on Economic Expansion](#) is an additional group that the Commissioner has been involved in recently. That group will recommend to the Governor how to use one-time funding from the American Rescue Plan. They will be presenting their recommendations to Governor Walz on December 1, 2021.
- The Department of Labor and Industry is also preparing for the 2022 legislative session. Assistant Commissioner Kate Perushek will give a briefing of efforts impacting registered apprenticeship later in the meeting.
- Commissioner Robertson also reported that because of the infrastructure bill that recently passed, Minnesota must be ready with employees to fill growing needs. The benefit of a registered apprenticeship training program is that it provides registered apprenticeship participants the opportunity to earn a family sustaining wage rate while learning vital skills that benefit our state, especially in light of the infrastructure bill.

4. Approval of Minutes

Approval of July 14, 2021 Board Minutes. A motion was made by Don Mullin to approve and seconded by Laurie Warner.

5. Proposed 2022 Apprenticeship Advisory Board Meeting Dates

- Thursday, January 13, 2022
- Thursday, April 14, 2022
- Thursday, July 14, 2022
- Thursday, October 13, 2022
- The Minnesota A & B Conference Room is reserved for these dates. However, meetings will be scheduled virtually as needed.

6. Status of Registered Apprenticeship

Jessica Grosz, Director of Labor Standards and Apprenticeship

Rick Martagon, Apprenticeship Supervisor

- National Apprenticeship Week is November 15 – 19 and Rick highlighted Apprenticeship Minnesota-sponsored events throughout the week; visit www.dli.mn.gov/NAW for event details and registration.
- The Governor issued a proclamation for National Apprenticeship Week and Women in Apprenticeship Day.

- Additional updates were provided regarding recent program activities and strategies, Apprenticeship Minnesota USDOL grant updates, and a current statistical snapshot of the number of sponsors, programs, apprentices, registrations, and completions.

Board Discussion - Approval and motion made by McCarthy and seconded by Warner. All in favor. Roll call was taken and approved by all.

7. Labor Education Advancement Program (LEAP) Update

Kate Perushek, Assistant Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry

- DLI is submitting a supplemental budget request related to the LEAP program.
- Currently, DLI receives \$100,000 each year from the Workforce Development Fund for the LEAP program. Five organizations currently receive LEAP grants from DLI, ranging from \$12,000 to \$30,000 a year. These grants support community-based organizations to help POC and women participate in registered apprenticeships.
- LEAP grantees have indicated that the amount available to support their efforts are insufficient.
- The supplemental budget request proposes increasing the amount of the LEAP grant to \$500,000 a year, expanding grant eligibility to non-profit organizations including JATCs, and including \$70,000 for program administration.
- Additional proposed LEAP-related statutory changes include emphasizing retention of women, people of color, and Indigenous people in registered apprenticeship programs, including by focusing on support services to better ensure successful completion of programs.

8. Workforce Development Inc. LEAP Presentation

Susan Boehm, Regional Careers Pathways Coordinator

- They use their LEAP grant to support short-term training in SE Minnesota for women and POC going into the trades.
- Classes run four weeks, from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., working with one of the following unions at a time: Laborers Union, Cement Masons, Operating Engineers, and the Carpenters.
- Class participants must be 18 or older, possess a driver's license, have access to transportation, a 4th grade math and 6th grade reading ability, and have work authorization.
- They also spend time developing "soft skills" such as cooperating with co-workers, showing up on time, taking direction from a supervisor, resume writing, and interviewing skills.
- Students also receive OSHA 30 safety training.
- Contractors who are hiring have interviews with the students.

9. SFM Foundation Scholarship Opportunity

Linda Williams, President of SFM Foundation

- Linda presented on a scholarship opportunity that eases burdens on families who have been impacted by work-related accidents; the scholarship provides post-secondary educational scholarships to children of those families.

- 16 scholarships were awarded this year for \$400,000 total.
- 2- or 4-year scholarships are awarded from \$1,000 to \$10,000 a year.
- 203 scholarships have been granted in the last 13 years for \$2.8 million dollars total.
- On average 30 applications are received each year mostly from outstate or rural areas.
- Help is needed in reaching the seven counties in the metro area.

10. Construct Tomorrow Program Update

Rik Myhre, Co-Chair

- Oct. 27 Rochester event: 430 students, had 11 trades at the event, and 22 schools attended.
- Next event will be in Mankato; 1,000 students registered, 12 trades and 24 schools will be represented; there will also be an evening event for adult jobseekers and parents.
- There will be a two-day event in Bloomington at the Boy Scouts Base Camp on Dec. 2 and 3.
- Events in 2022 will be held in St. Cloud, Duluth, Hinckley, Moorhead, and Forest Lake.

11. Apprenticeship Coordinators Association of Minnesota Update

Tom Aasheim, ACAM President

- It has been a struggle to keep the training doors open while keeping up to date with Covid developments.
- Zoom training is not favored over hands-on training as most training is hands-on.
- Two fundraising events were held for the off-work injured apprenticeship program, which benefits injured workers who are off for 30 or more days for any reason.

12. Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn was made by Laurie Warner and seconded by Sophie Thaden. Roll was concluded with all in agreement.
- Next meeting is January 13th, 2022.