

Minutes: NHWSB Data and Waiver Workgroup

Date: Monday, June 29, 2026

Minutes prepared by: Linnea Pignatello

Location: Hybrid – Ramsey Room at the Department of Labor and Industry and via Webex

Attendance

Members Present

Mary Swanson (remotely)

Kim Brenne

Jamie Gulley

Visitors Present

Jeff Bostic

Jonathan Lips (remotely)

DLI Staff Present

Paul Enger

Ken McGurran

Linnea Pignatello

Leah Solo

Agenda items

1. **Call to order** – The meeting was called to order by Executive Director Solo at 1:03 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was declared.
2. **Approval of agenda** – A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Kim Brenne and seconded by Jamie Gulley. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
3. **Approval of drafted meeting minutes** – No motion was made to approve previous meeting minutes as this is the first meeting of this workgroup.
4. **Board updates** –
 - a. The group reviewed a memo outlining the summer work and Solo reviewed the timeline, specifically highlighting important dates through September of 2026. Members noted it is a tight timeline. Solo noted that the certification, training and public engagement workgroup that met earlier in the day thought September would be a good time to hold public forums noting expected clarity from Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) on State Plan Amendment (SPA) approval and possible wage impacts appearing in paychecks. Jamie Gulley and Paul Enger (Office of General Counsel) noted the comments from the public forums may not be used as statutory justification in rulemaking but do demonstrate outreach.

- b. Solo reviewed the data sets previously approved (February 2026) for the workgroup: Nursing home openings/closures, active beds; beds per 1,000 age 85+, retention data (from MN Report Card), wage data: BLS + DHS (cost report-based; not all reports submitted yet) and rural/metro disaggregation. As for the rural/metro disaggregation, the group thought the Department of Employment and Economic Development's (DEED) planning regions were the preferred metric. The members also prefer line graphs over bar charts for the data and its readability.
- c. Solo reviewed the questionnaire draft and noted the platform will move from SurveyMonkey to Formstack. The questionnaire led to the following discussions:
 - i. Administrators or owners may oversee multiple properties, so a proposed solution is to add instruction encouraging an administrator or owner to complete one survey per facility and including a question like: "How many facilities do you oversee?"
 - ii. The retirement benefits question raised concern that answering "Yes" may mask situations where only management receives benefits. A proposed solution is to ask about an approximate percentage of employees eligible (e.g., "more than 50% / fewer than 50%").
 - iii. Editing "how long have you worked in long term care" to "how long have you worked at your current facility?" This edit allows workers with multiple jobs to fill out multiple responses.
 - iv. The members highlighted a number of topics for consideration including retroactive pay vs. bonus language, demographic questions, the changes in the Values Based Reimbursement (VBR) system and the impacts those have had, adding or adjusting the list of employee categories, add "casual/on-call" in the employment status section for clarity, retirement benefits terminology, and the workers ability to take vacation time not just whether it exists or not.

5. New business –

6. Next meeting – November 2, 2026, at 1 p.m. in the Minnesota room

Adjournment

A motion was made by Kim Brenne to adjourn the meeting at 2:28 p.m. and seconded by Jamie Gulley. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.