

Wisconsin Apprenticeship Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2024
10 a.m. – Noon

1. Call meeting to order.

Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Henry Hurt at 10:03am

2. Record attendees.

Members Present

Henry Hurt	Dan Bukiewicz
Shanna Beanan	Mike Wagner (proxy for Jim Cook)
Gene Jacobson	Rob Giese
Daniel Webster	Lindsay Blumer
Bridgett Willey	Shirron Jude
Crystal Seeley Schrek	Tim Reiter

Members Absent

Callie Hellenbrand	Corey Gall
Jacob Mihm	Michael Bink
Seth Lentz	Shaun McHugh
	Hollie O'Neill

3. Review roster: Roster updates will be made by BAS.

4. Review and approve 5/29/2024 meeting minutes.

Correction to spelling of Rob Giese's name in 5/29/24 meeting minutes.

Minutes approved as amended: Motion Made: Rob Giese; Second by Crystal Seeley Schrek; Motion passed.

5. Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards Biennial Conference Update

Conference update provided by Beng Yeap

Dates: Feb19-21 Location: Kalahari Resort WI Dells

Theme: WI Apprenticeship Advantage

Save the date to go out shortly.

Items for hand-out bags can be sent to GEF 1

Volunteers needed for hall of banquet committee: Add members: Rob Giese, Shanna Beanan, Jim Cook, Elizabeth Roddy, Henry Hurt.

Non-member volunteers: Mike Wagner, Lisa Perkofski

Discussion from Mike Wagner (proxy for Jim Cook) regarding sponsorships and donation agreements as WRTP and Urban League are official "hosts" for banquet. Director Polk confirmed that both organizations have contracts with Kalahari for the event charges. Organizations can provide their sponsor donations to one of the two organization. BAS will be creating the placards that will be at the conference to acknowledge all sponsoring organizations.

Beng announced retirement. Lauren Lonski will take over project management.

6. Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards 2023 Year in Review

Director Polk provided update. The final document is available on the BAS website.

Members shared feedback: The document is a great resource to share with partners to showcase and advocate for programs.

7. Department of Labor – Apprenticeship Grants Update

Renee Lushaj, BAS Grant Manager, provided an update on the BAS grants.

- a. SAE2020 closeout: Ended 6/30/24. Completed all goals and spent in full.
- b. SAEF1 extension: Start date: 7/1/23; one year grant but automatically extended by DOL by 1 year. Completed requirements of this grant with the last project, Electronic Batch, finished on 8/13.
- c. SAEF2 grant: 7/1/24 Start date; One year performance period with similar deliverables to the SAEF1 grant. Focus is on capacity building ie staff and IT projects.
- d. CDS grant/Community Projects Grant: Start date: 4/1/24 with a 36-month period of performance. Focus on Early Childhood Educator (ECE) and Teacher RA programming. Includes collaboration with Dept of Children & Families (DCF) on ECE programming and supports. Director Polk provided overview of goals.

8. Youth Apprenticeship Updates: updates provided by YA Section Chief John Keckhaver

- a. NEW YA Occupational Pathways: currently 79 distinct occupations across 13 of the 16 clusters. Will be releasing 4 new occupational pathways in 3 remaining clusters: Project Management (Gov't cluster), Barber/Cosmetology (Human Services cluster); Corrections and Security (Law Enforcement and Fire Protection). After completion of these, there will be 83 occupations across all 16 clusters.
- b. Description of new monitoring processes:
Two new items: 1. Diversity and Access Best Practices: YA will meet with each consortium every 2 years to coincide with grant period. 2. Quality Assessment: YA

will review data and performance to ensure compliance with statute and program requirements. Will provide best practices and technical assistance as needed for the 40 current consortia statewide.

- c. New administrative processes: checklists will be ending as better practices have developed including data that is gathered from YA data system merger.

Council Member Bridgett Willey shared that UW is scaling the hiring of their Youth Apprentices. Just hired 60 and moving forward to 100. UW added additional internal competencies for their programs. Bridgett asked how YA will track additional competencies. John Keckhaver provided feedback that the regular program review will allow for the sharing of this.

Additional question on the ability to provide for corrective action plans as part of the Quality Assessment process. John Keckhaver responded that there will be recommendations provided when deemed necessary.

9. New BAS Quality Assurance Division: Andrew Kasper provided an overview of the new area within BAS.

- a. Certified Pre-Apprenticeship: Jesse Gitter provided a program update for the 2nd Quarter: 27 approved providers with 18 running a cohort in Q2; 40 programs with 26 running a cohort in Q2; 5 programs removed from website; 266 training completers.

Jesse shared an update to the CPA program guide and application.

CPA programs are reviewed at two points:

1. At 1st year of cohort completing
2. Every 2 years after that point

- b. Electronic Batch Mailing: Andrew Kasper provided an update: E-batch went live on 8/13; employers (non-sponsor) and non-sponsor partners (ie schools) still receive mailings. Second phase will include conversion of additional documents based on time and resources. Questions or feedback can be provided to Andrew Kasper or Dominic Robinson (project leads). Mike Wagner provided additional recommendations for changes including ability to search by contract #.
- c. Sole sponsor affirmative action plan: update provided by Andrew Kasper: Local committee AA Plans are done; BAS is now focusing on larger sole sponsors.
- d. Appeals: update by Andrew Kasper: BAS now has an MOU with Equal Rights Division (ERD) to assist with hearings and discrimination complaints

10. Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards – Staffing Updates

- a. New Staff Introduction

11. Milwaukee Workforce Hub discussion: Council members Lindsay Blumer and Dan Bukiewicz provided an update on Milwaukee's designation as a Workforce Hub. DOL Secretary is visiting Milwaukee today on this initiative. Noted that this is a great opportunity to expand CPA and RA. Director Polk has participated in the conversations as well.

- a. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/07/11/fact-sheet-biden-%E2%81%A0harris-administration-announces-record-federal-investments-in-registered-apprenticeships-holds-workforce-hub-convening-in-philadelphia-with-new-commitments-to-train-and-hir/>

12. Updates for the Advisory Council

- a. Wisconsin Technical College System: update provided by Crystal Seeley Schrek: Most colleges start in August. WTCS has system support for direct instruction. Continuing to work with Ascendium and has seen \$1.6mil in Tools for the Trades scholarships. WTCS is also working with DSPS to expand testing sites and accessibility for plumbing and electrical JW-required exams. Layla Merrifield will be starting as the WTCS new President in September, replacing Dr. Morna Foy due to her retirement.
- b. Other Items from the Director or Council Members
Director Polk shared upcoming National Apprenticeship Week for 2024 is Nov 17-23rd. Reach out if you're having events and would like DWD attendance.

Question on Council member participation in Biennial Conference: Director Polk would like all members to participate in various roles i.e. panelist, moderator, etc. Director Polk will reach out.

Question from member on the status of the NPRM: Director Polk had no update.

Question on the status of Mentor MKE program: Director Polk noted this is a voluntary program. Mentor MKE met with a few local committees to provide updated and enhancements. Resources are still available and will be at the biennial conference as well. Rollout was statewide and those that requested a connection with the program were provided with it.

13. Advisory Council 2024 Meeting Dates

- a. Nov. 13, 2024(National Apprenticeship Week off-site Council meeting): Meeting will be moved to Nov 20th to coincide with NAW. Reach out to David if you'd like to host.

14. Public Comment (limited to agenda items): N/A

15. Adjourn 11:32am: Motion Made: Rob Giese; Second: Mike Wagner; Motion passed.