BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

Wendi Secrist
Executive Director

Deni Hoehne
Chair

Sarah Griffin
Vice Chair

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

514 W Jefferson St, Ste 131, Boise, Idaho 83702

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: Friday, April 11, 2025
Time: 2:15 – 3:30 AM

Council Committee Members: Deni Hoehne, ~~Joe Maloney~~, Kelly Kolb, Sarah Griffin, ~~Scott Bedke~~, Hope Morrow

Staff: Sherawn Reberry, Matthew Thomsen, Denise Hill, Wendi Secrist, Amanda Ames, Dee Mooney, Jenny Hay, Stacy James, Chad Lahti

Guests:

Call to Order at 2:16 AM

Welcome **Deni Hoehne, Chair**

- Roll Call
- Review Agenda
- ***Approve March 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes***

Unanimous consent motion by Ms. Griffin to approve the March 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes. Second by Ms. Morrow. No objections.

Child Care Expansion Grants – Funding Obligations **Sarah Griffin, CCEG Chair**

- United Way (Twin Falls) & Mountain Sky (Kootenai Co.) coming back = $1,026,725
  - United Way must repay $386,673.72
  - Losing 72 seats total between the projects
  - Obligation deadline was Dec. 31, 2024, cannot be used for a new project
  - Full-day care is stated priority from committee
  - Recommending reallocation to Kreative Kids (TF) $544,988, Nampa SD $180,952.63.

Motion by Ms. Morrow to approve the recommended reallocation of funds to Kreative Kids in the amount of $544,988 and Nampa School District in the amount of $180,952.63. Second by Ms. Griffin.

- Discussion:
  - Several School Districts on the program, all but Nampa fully funded

Motion carried.

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Additional Information:

- Recent changes in legislation
- New ratios
  - 0-2 stayed the same
  - 2+ - 12 points dropped, so should be more children to childcare providers
- No local licensing, did not affect planning & zoning for use permits
- HW allowing all locally licensed providers to be grandfathered in until next state licensing then will need to do full requirement
- HW received $45M over 3 yrs to put toward Childcare expansion, can't be the same process we used…may do continuation with Wonderschool on child development
- We have met with them to offer our assistance and support
- The governor is doing bill signing this week

WDTF Grants

- ***College of Eastern Idaho - Talent Pipeline Management*** Matthew Thomsen

In the summer of 2024, it was announced that the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES) will sunset and conclude its role as a four-way collaboration among Idaho National Laboratory (INL), Boise State University, Idaho State University, and the University of Idaho, effective June 30, 2025.

As part of this transition, INL has determined it would not be appropriate to bring the Talent Pipeline Management (TPM) program under its operations. TPM was previously housed within CAES due to its quasi-independent structure, which allowed for operational autonomy. With CAES sunsetting, a new host organization is needed in Eastern Idaho to preserve TPM's independent framework and continue its mission.

The College of Eastern Idaho (CEI) is formally requesting to assume responsibility for hosting the Idaho TPM Initiative. CEI will retain the two TPM staff currently affiliated with CAES. Serving Regions 5 and 6, TPM staff will continue working with industry, education, government, and community partners to build and sustain talent pipelines in key sectors including healthcare, construction, energy, manufacturing, and other high-demand industries.

Amount Requested: $239,030.00

- Formal request for them to bring on 2 staff and associated responsibility
- Moving contract, did application for SOW and gave a firm description
- Recommendation from INL
- CEI is more than qualified to take this on

Motion by Mr. Kolb to approve the request for $239,030 by the College of Eastern Idaho to assume responsibility for hosting the Idaho TPM Initiative. Second by Ms. Griffin. Motion carried.

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ETP Policy Update for WIOA Wendi Secrist

- Recommend removing bullet under Criteria for WIOA Eligible Training Provider and Training Program Continued Eligibility "WIOA students have enrolled in programs within the most recently completed 12 months".
    - Last update December 2023
    - Not helping in way anticipated
    - ETP list is also utilized for LAUNCH, this statement would impact those programs
    - The second bullet in Programs Exempt covers any concerns or questions
    - Individuals currently working with this are mid-stream and immediate action would improve that process

Motion by Ms. Morrow to approve the proposed update to the ETP Policy as presented. Second by Mr. Kolb. Motion carried.

Unemployment Insurance Work Search Waivers for LAUNCH **Wendi Secrist**

- Proposal by Ms. Revier, to waive work search requirement if in a training program (WIOA), LAUNCH is paying for training thus causing an imbalance
- Requesting the Council provide a letter stating we feel the individuals indicated are lacking skills to compete in labor market and we support her in waiving the work search for those individuals
- Discussion:
    - JFAC discussion yet? No
    - Only waving the active search, person might be on the unemployment roles for an extra couple of weeks
    - We want them to complete their training, if they are offered a job, we penalize them for quitting their training, and for not taking a job if offered – they would finish their training then go back on the active search requirement
    - No statute involved
    - Giving people the skills to compete without penalizing them in the process

STEM Action Center Transition **Wendi Secrist & Dee Mooney**

- Summaries have been sent to the Governor's office and Executive Council
- Feedback from the Council meeting about messaging received and reviewed.
    - Clarity on the fact that STEM is coming under WDC under
- STEM address changed to WDC
- STEM staff will eventually move to the WDC office
- Currently combining staff and moving as appropriate

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- Will be meeting with some legislators over next few months
- STEM Foundation is 501c3 and separate from STEM AC
    - All funds have come to STEM AC
    - The Foundation will remain, but be able to give funds as they feel appropriate without review by the STEM Action Center Board
    - They feel they still can provide a positive impact in the state and have a niche to fill
- The STEM AC Board will become a WDC committee after review by the legislature
    - Member process will be the same as WDC
    - A Council member will chair
    - Will have a clear, defined charter
- Ecosystem – Industry Sector Grant Changes
    - Ecosystem: program that STEM AC ran, moved 2 years ago under IBE as host
    - Contract ends June 30, and the program will not continue
    - Next steps, HB94, if a university is interested, they can contract with them
    - Wendi and Dee are meeting on the 22nd with 4 universities (BSU, ISU, LCSC, U of I) to see if anyone is interested in hosting this statewide outreach
    - They would begin hosting on July 1, 2025
    - Budget for contract? $1M
        - Being reduced, $650K is what was penciled this week
        - Overhead can be no more than 10%
        - An RFP process will be used if more than one is interested
    - Couldn't roll to the foundation as it is a separate entity
    - May loose some of the nice to haves
    - This model would allow more flexibility for the outreach engagements
    - Question about the current Industry Sector Grant that is open and if the university could assume it $
    - Discussions are happening about renaming the Foundation
    - Other states are also rebranding STEM

Executive Director's Report **Wendi Secrist**

- March budget will be sent out, redistribution of savings on TPM
- LAUNCH OPEX budget, had $4.2M and was coming in lower so did some reallocating of development costs to balance
- Win from apprenticeship grant with IBE & Apprenticeship
- Nice letter from Hoover Institute
- Final LAUNCH awards in 2 weeks

Executive Committee Open Discussion **All**

- LAUNCH update end of legislative session
    - Bill from House is with Senator Lent

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- Representative Moyle stated they would do more next year
- Work until then on a pre-emptive item and then sell it in preparation
- No changes this year

- USDOL Audit findings
  - Exit interview cancelled this morning
- Idaho SHERM Council approached Deni regarding meeting in October
  - Workforce development pre-session
    - Get them to do one thing, engage with your school
    - Agenda, summary of demographics. Matt Thomsen & 3 employers on how they engage, TPM presentation by Matt, time to plan on how to do that
    - May ask WDC to co-sponsor to help with space cost
- Education got kicked hard during session, new executive director.
  - The Executive Committee should try to meet with them mid to late summer
  - Linda Clark's term is up in June so will have a new Council member, likely Sean Keogh

Unanimous consent motion by Ms. Morrow to adjourn. Second by Ms. Griffin. No objections.

Adjourned at 3:32 PM