

**MEETING OF THE  
Board of Directors and Chief Elected Officials  
Of  
Northern Illinois Workforce Alliance**  
(The Workforce Investment Board serving Boone, Winnebago and Stephenson Counties)  
**Tuesday, October 6, 2015**  
RMAP Regional Design Center, 315 N. Main Street  
Rockford, IL 61101

- I. Board Meeting Call to Order:** Karen Brown called the NIWA Board of Directors to order at 8:03 a.m.  
**CEO Meeting Call to Order:** Jim Ryan of the City of Rockford called the Chief Elected Officials of the Northern Illinois Workforce Alliance meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.
- II. Board Members Present (22):** Eric Black, Karen Brown, Michelle Cassaro, Gary Evans, Dr. Lori Fanello, Jared Funderburg, Dr. Daniel Grohens, Brian Halsted, Tim Hood, Vanessa Hughes, Beverly Long, Mike Mastroianni, Amy Ott, Frank Rotello, Jim Ryan, Sam Schmitz, Amanda Smith, Mark Stefanic, Rudy Valdez, Shirley Walker, Kimberly Wichman, Dave Young.  
**CEOs Present (3):** Jim Ryan (City of Rockford), Chairman Bob Walberg (Boone County), Chairman William Hadley (Stephenson County)  
**Guests and Partner Staff Present:** Tom Austin, Darcy Bucholz, Cathy Cornelius, Darryl Cummings, Pamela Fettes, Jeff Hefty, Amy Heilman, Valerie Johnson, Robert Jones Jr., Leo Prieto, John Strandin, Ken Terrenoni, Dan White, Michael Williams.
- III. Introduction of New Board Members:** Karen Brown took a moment to welcome and introduce the new board members. Eric Black, George Gaulrapp, Tim Hood, Vanessa Hughes, Mike Nicolas, Amanda Smith, Rudy Valdez and Kimberly Wichman.
- IV. Approval of June 2, 2015 Meeting Minutes:** Motion to accept the meeting minutes as presented.
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|----------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Board Motion:</b> | <b>Ott</b>    | <b>Second:</b> | <b>Halsted</b> | <b>Approved</b> |
| <b>CEO Motion:</b>   | <b>Hadley</b> | <b>Second:</b> | <b>Walberg</b> | <b>Approved</b> |
- V. Confirmation of Officers – WIOA Workforce Development Board – NIWA Action Item:** To confirm the current Northern Illinois Workforce Alliance Officers; Karen Brown, Chair; Mark Stefanic, Vice-Chair; and Amy Ott, Secretary/Treasurer as officers of the newly established Workforce Development Board under WIOA.  
**Board Motion: Walker                      Second: Fanello                      Approved**
- Darcy also wanted to note that the Director-At-Large position is vacant and a nominee will be presented for election at the November meeting.
- VI. Financial Reports – June 30, 2015:** Amy Ott reported that this is the year-end report. Percentage of Expenditures Related to Training goal is to be greater than 40% and the Adult program was at 49.2% and Dislocated Worker at 46.9%. Another objective is to expend greater than 80% of the total budget for the year our programs were at 91.6% Adult and 76.8% for DWP. The actual expenditure amount of DWP was less than 80%; however obligations allow us to meet the threshold. What is most impressive is the participant service levels and we were able to serve many more participants with the same resources. Overall the year ended up in a good position and we are well positioned for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the new fiscal year. Amy explained how we must carry over funds into the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of our fiscal year; we are limited on the funds we can use

because that is the end of the federal fiscal year. It is also the busiest time of the year with the start of fall classes. We are now moving into the auditing part of the year and will report on that at a future meeting.

- VII. Regional Planning Commission Presentation:** Michael Dunn, Jr. of the Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning gave a presentation on development of a Regional Planning Commission. The urban area that RMAP covers is Boone County, Winnebago, City of Rockford, City of Belvidere, City of Loves Park and the Village of Machesney Park. They are working on developing a Regional Planning Commission which is a more efficient way to get all the different economic development and planning organizations under one umbrella to better serve the community. This model would help us compete as a region to import corporate wealth and compete for federal money. Collaboration is the new competition. A Regional Planning Commission offers a unified, more powerful voice within the region for legislative efforts. Helps to be more effective as a community or region.

Jim Ryan thanked Michael Dunn, Jr., for all his efforts.

Chairman Walberg commented that this is a monumental undertaking. This type of project requires change in the way people think and operate. This has great value.

Karen Brown noted that his comment, "Collaboration is the new competition" connected with her and she sees tremendous benefit from collaboration.

- VIII. Other Business:** Regional Planning will be starting soon. DOL has hired Maher & Maher to help with this regional plan. The State unified plan will be due March 3, 2016.

Darcy gave a Transition Plan overview and noted the steps that have been taken and what still needs to be done.

Darcy also covered the new board committees that are proposed and explained their functions. Need to identify standing committees to DCEO. No committees are required under the law but there are 3 that are encouraged; Youth Council, Operations Management & Individuals with Disabilities. Jim Ryan recommended combining some of these committees. Other board members agreed. It was decided that we would combine the Employer Engagement and Public Information Committees. It was also recommended that the Executive and Finance & Planning committees be combined. It was noted that there is no conflict since all Finance committee recommendations are brought to the board.

An update of Grants that are in the works was given to the board. Also an update on the Workgroups that resulted from the Regional Forum on Employment and Workforce was given.

- IX. Member Comments:** Karen Brown thanked the staff for putting together a great Annual Meeting. She also mentioned some upcoming dates that Board members may want to add to their calendars of upcoming community events.

**X. Public Comment:** None

- XI. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 am.