nevadaworks

Coordinating Workforce Development for Northern Nevada

Nevadaworks Board Meeting
Friday, August 14, 2026, 12:00-2:00 PM
Nevadaworks Office
9390 Gateway Drive, Suite 105
Reno, NV 89521

Minutes

Nevadaworks Council Members Present: Caleb Cage, Cheri Hill, Kevin Landry, John Parel, Suzanne Oetjen, Rob Benner, Alex Harris, Jeff Sutich, Brett Martinez, Kyle Dalpe

Nevadaworks Council Members Proxy: Jeffrey Alexander, Kara Harris, Theresa Auld, Alan Darney

Nevadaworks Council Members Absent: Amber Donnelli, Leslie Mix

Local Elected Officials Present: Larry Grant, Lara Mather, Chuck Sayles, Maurice White, Jacklyn Orr, Robert Jacobson

Local Elected Officials Represented by Proxy: Jon Karr, Jose Noriega

Local Elected Officials Absent: Mike Schoenwald, Myles Getto, Alicia Price, Jeanne Herman, Nathan Tolbert

Guests Present: Dr. Alexandria Wright (Nevadaworks), Todd Thurston (Nevadaworks), Casey Mahoney (Equus), Samantha Eliott (Equus), Nicholas Bajurin (Equus), Kelly Dawson (Equus), Kim Jadidi (DETR), Dianne Fernandez (Estipona Group), Theresa Peterson (DETR), Janiese Clyne (DETR), Edith Guadarrama (DETR), Jaime Cruz (Workforce Connections), Irene Bustamante Adams (Workforce Connections), Scott Black (Workforce Connections), Jerrie Merritt (Workforce Connections)

Staff Present: Milt Stewart, Michelle Long, Rena Drake, Robert McLaughlin, Kevin Rogers, Brandi Mondragon, Linda Devon, Nancy Roe, Ryan Hogan, Thurman Roberts,

Quorum was established.

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1. Call to Order by Kevin Landry at 12:01pm

2. Public Comment-None

3. Matters of the Board -None

4. Board members and representatives attending in person and remotely introduced themselves and their affiliations.

5. Board Meeting Minutes from May 8, 2026

   Lara Mather moved to approve the May 8, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes. Rob Benner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Executive Committee Meeting Update

   Kevin Landry reported that the Executive Committee met on June 26 and July 10, 2026. Discussions included the Program Year 2026 budget, Reno Town Mall relocation, Oddie project, New Ways to Work service delivery model, and industry sector partnerships. The Committee approved the PY2026 budget on July 10 and reviewed policy revisions to ensure compliance with state and federal requirements. No Board action was requested.

7. Nevadaworks Youth Council Update

   Kevin Rogers, reporting on behalf of Youth Council Chair Leslie Mix, provided an update on the August 5 meeting in Yerington. Discussions included the Y'all Connect newsletter, Youth Council webpage, expanded career exposure opportunities, and improving coordination among youth-serving organizations. The Council also discussed hosting future meetings at partner locations to increase participation and awareness of available services.

8. Strategic Planning Meeting Update

   Cheri Hill provided an update on strategic planning efforts focused on outreach, awareness, data sharing, and partner coordination. Milt Stewart presented a map of current workforce partners. The Committee will identify gaps and opportunities to strengthen partnerships before developing specific goals and measures.

9. ATLAS Partner Referral System

   Rena Drake reported 996 ATLAS referrals in the first year, with 23 participating partners. Expansion efforts include additional partner onboarding and potential statewide use. Discussion focused on referral follow-through, improved coordination, and future ATLAS Core functionality to track customer services and outcomes.

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10. Industry Sector Partnerships Update

    Ryan Hogan reported on the May 29 industry sector convening, which drew over 150 RSVPs and focused on apprenticeships, workforce training, and employer needs across five industries. An AI workforce roundtable was scheduled for August 28. Milt Stewart reported DETR's $5 million investment in industry sector partnerships. Discussion emphasized continued employer engagement, including small and rural businesses.

11. Programs and Performance Update

    Michelle Long and Robert McLaughlin reported on program performance, including 1,529 Good Jobs enrollments, 816 apprenticeship participants, and 25 of 30 WIOA measures exceeding expectations. Discussion focused on credential attainment, service coordination, and expenditure reporting.

12. CEO Report

    Milt Stewart reported that the Reno Town Mall EmployNV Hub is operational, Oddie project permits have been submitted, and Youth Workforce Director recruitment is underway. He also highlighted DETR's $1 million Opportunity Youth allocation to each local workforce board and continued efforts to strengthen regional workforce services.

13. Workforce Connections Presentation

    Jaime Cruz and Workforce Connections representatives shared Southern Nevada's strategies for strengthening partnerships, Board engagement, service accessibility, and diversified funding. Discussion focused on adapting successful practices to Northern Nevada's 13-county region.

14. Open Discussion

    Board members discussed philanthropic funding, partnerships with the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada, and increased engagement with schools, major employers, and rural communities. No formal Board action was taken.

15. Public Comment-none

16. The next Nevadaworks Board Meeting will be held on Friday, November 13, 2026, at 10:30 AM. **Please note the adjusted start time for this meeting.** Location: Nevadaworks Office, 9390 Gateway Drive, Suite 105, Reno, NV 89521.

17. Adjournment-2:03pm

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