



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**Alaska Workforce Investment Board  
Workforce Readiness and Employment and Placement Committee  
Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at 3:00pm  
1016 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. Suite 105  
Teleconference: 1-888-354-0094, Conference ID#4461969  
Minutes**

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**Roll Call:**

Board Members:

Doug Ward, Chair;  Sharlene Berg;  John Cannon;  Kathy Craft;  Joey Merrick;  Helen Mehrkens;  Michelle Zenger

Recurring Guests:

Eldon Davidson, SAVEC;  James Harvey, Asst Director ESD/DOLWD;  
 Richard Carlson, Superintendent, Klawock School District

AWIB Staff:

Barbara Duval, Program Coordinator  
Jeff Selvey, CTE Coordinator

**Approval of Agenda**

MOTION to approve agenda made by Helen Mehrkens

SECONDED by Kathy Craft

Discussion to add WIA as number 5 and move number 2 CTE Plan Update to number 1.

Vote taken

MOTION carries

**Approval of Minutes - January 20, 2010**

MOTION to approve minutes made by John Cannon

SECONDED by Helen Mehrkens

Vote taken

MOTION carries

**Action Items**

none

**Discussion Items**

1. CTE Plan Update - Helen Mehrkens

There was an Action Group formed by the Commissioner of DEED to review the Draft Education Plan on February 25, 2010. They are incorporating the



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comments into the plan right now. The plan has been added the AWIB website and the DEED CTE website for review. Any interested party can comment. Those comments will go to both Helen and Jeff. The Action Group will meet one more time on April 14, 2010.

Jeff stated the new AWIB website will be launched tomorrow. Sara Hobstetter (on contract), Beth Leschper, Helen Mehrkens and her staff all had input and did a great job bringing this new website up. You should be able to access it by Friday. You will be able to add comments on all 6 Strategies of the plan.

2. Healthcare Plan Update – Kathy Craft

Kathy states there is a Healthcare draft and Kitty Farnham from the Healthcare Consortium is looking for input by March 31, 2010. This is the same plan that was introduced at the AWIB meeting in February. The website to view the plan is at: <http://sites.google.com/site/akhcwfdev/announcements>.

3. RAC's , RTC's Update – Jeff Selvey

Jeff gave an update on the Regional Training Center meeting that was held March 1-2, 2010. Several areas lack a Regional Advisory Committee. He will be flying to Bethel on April 7<sup>th</sup> and Kenai on March 27<sup>th</sup> to help form their RAC's. He has spoken to Bethel and Nome about forming their RAC's. AWIB members Mike Woods and Cynthia Erickson will fill in as liaisons until permanent members can be found.

4. New Projects for 2010

Healthcare review.

5. WIA

Doug stated that he, Greg Cashen, and Michelle Zenger attended the USDOL National Association of Workforce Boards Conference. They will get together, join notes, and make a presentation. Jobs have become the number one issue in Washington D.C. Healthcare is still an issue but should be off the table soon or die off the vine. The Workforce Investment Act is up for reauthorization with some fairly major changes to it. The best comments came from Assistant Secretary of Labor Jane Oats. There were 1500 people present. She indicated things to look for in the Workforce Investment Act reauthorization is there's going to be heavy emphasis on registered apprenticeship and OTJ. They may be directing funds directly to Workforce Investment Boards. They are looking for these boards to be innovators. Within the old OJT what was considered a successful performance measure is you had to have a proposal to train 50 people.



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Of this 50, 40 must be successful completers. Only 6% of workforce dollars were available for OJT. It's anticipated that this 6% will be increased. Rather than going to large employers that can muster 50 individuals to train they will be looking at smaller employers who can muster 1-5. The jest of what the Assistant Secretary was saying is the new Workforce Investment Act is going to be moving towards small business. There will be heavy emphasis on engaging employers' right down at the workforce investment board level. It was the Assistant Secretary's opinion that employers should be the majority on any workforce investment board. There will be a new category in the Workforce Investment Act called the 'Innovations Fund' which is a competitive grant program. It will be designed to fund those programs and strategies that are being considered by states that show innovations and streamlining service delivery. Getting people trained for jobs that exist.

They had a chance to visit with Senator Merkowski and her staff. She is very interested in hearing about WIA and what we have to say as a board. What we like about the reauthorization, what we'd like to see change, and what we don't like about it.

Doug would like to send to the Executive Committee and, we as a board, assign ourselves the task of reviewing the Workforce Investment Act as soon as we get a draft. Divide it up in portion and assign it to the committee's for review. The draft is not available as yet. The goal is to get our comments to our delegation so they can represent us.

**Adjournment** - MOTION to adjourn made by Helen Mehrkens and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kathy Craft. Adjourned at 3:31pm.

**Attachments** - January 20, 2010 Minutes

**Next Meeting:** May 4, 2010 during AWIB Breakout session.

**ACTION TRACKER**

WHO	WHAT	DUE BY	STATUS
Barbara	Send website to WREP for members to review draft Healthcare Plan.	ASAP	Done
Members	Review draft Healthcare Plan and provide comments.	3/31/10	
Barbara	Send new AWIB website to WREP for members to review the draft CTE Plan.	ASAP	Done
Members	Review draft CTE Plan and provide comments.	3/31/10	