



Joint Alaska Work Matters Task Force (WMTF) and Employment Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 17, 2022

1:00 – 2:30 PM

TO JOIN THE ZOOM MEETING

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84891314100?pwd=UIFzQTJFMjhK1ExeXd0Sit1MW9Fdz09>

Toll Free numbers: 888 475 4499, 833 548 0276, 833 548 0282, 877 853 5257

Note: *If one phone number doesn't work, it means it is full. Please try other listed numbers.*

- Meeting ID: 848 9131 4100
- Passcode: 981 273

Proposed Work Matters Task Force Vision

Alaskans with disabilities have the capacity to become employed and the citizen right to equal access to employment.

Proposed Work Matters Task Force Mission Statement

Employment is a way for Alaskans with disabilities to become economically self-sufficient, live independently, have equity of opportunity, and full participation in their community resulting in meaningful lives of their choosing.

Proposed Common Definition of a Successful Employment Outcome for Alaskans with Disabilities

- *Competitive and Integrated Employment (CIE)*
- *At least part time or greater hours in gainful activity*
- *Receiving above minimum wage / comparable to rate paid to other workers without disabilities*
- *Receiving same level of benefits as other workers without disabilities in similar positions*
- *Working alongside other workers without disabilities*
- *Able to advance the career ladder like other workers without disabilities in similar positions*
- *Commensurate employment for individuals with or without disabilities as available in their communities*

Call to Order – Chair Mayes

- Duane Mayes, Work Matters Task Force Chair

Roll Call / Begin ZOOM Recording – (5 minutes)

Quorum is defined as a majority of Committee Members.

- **Employment Committee Members**
- **Work Matters Task Force Members**
- **GCDSE Staff**

Conflict of Interest Declarations

This is an opportunity for committee members to declare if they have a conflict with any item on the agenda, financial or otherwise.

Welcome from the Chair – Chair Mayes (10 minutes)

Introductions, virtual housekeeping, announcements, and news.

- Committee and Taskforce Chairs
 - Duane Mayes, WMTF Chair
 - Patrick Reinhart, WMTF Co-Chair
- State Exchange Employment Disabilities (SEED) -TA(s)
 - **Recognition of Bobby Silverstein** – Chair Mayes, Co-Chair Reinhart, Katia
- Beneficiary board ED (s)
 - Alaska Commission on Aging – Jon Hageyagi
 - Alaska Mental Health Board/Alaska Board Alcohol & Drug Abuse – Beverly Schoonover
 - State Independent Living Council (SILC) – Michael Christenson
 - State Vocational Rehabilitation Council (SRC) – Travis Noah
- Trust Senior Program Officer – Jimael Johnson

Work Matters Task Force Report Overview – Chair Mayes & Co-Chair Reinhart (65 minutes)

- **Brief Overview – Chair Mayes (5 minutes)**
 - What has happened to date?
- **Section 1: State of Alaska as a Model Employer for Individuals with Disabilities – Co-Chair Reinhart**
 1. Set utilization goals for State hiring
 2. Increase awareness and utilization of the existing Provisional Hire program
 3. Establish a centralized accommodation fund for state positions
 4. Increase state employment for people with the most significant disabilities through support for Personal Care Services
 5. Ensure that all State of Alaska online platforms are fully accessible
 6. Educate executive and legislative staff about disability employment trends and data on employment outcomes

- **Section 2: Building the Capacity of the Private Sector to Enhance Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities – Chair Mayes**
 1. Build on the existing Business Engagement Services (BEST) Teams to increase collaboration between private sector employers in order to increase diversity and inclusion.
 2. Continue planning and implementing job fairs (including virtual and reverse job fairs) to connect employers and job seekers with disabilities.
 3. Increase the number of students with disabilities served by the Alaska Vocational Technical Education Center (AVTEC).
 4. Increase the number of people with disabilities involved in Apprenticeships and Internships.
 5. Support disability-owned and disabled veteran-owned businesses through procurement and contracting systems.
 6. Reduce hiring barriers for job seekers with justice system involvement.
- **Section 3: Employment Services and Supports – Co-Chair Reinhart**
 1. Strengthen State support for Employment First.
 2. Strengthen implementation of the state Medicaid plan and waivers to better support employment services and outcomes.
 3. Expand the use of the Individual Placement and Supports (IPS) model for people with mental health conditions or substance use disorders.
 4. Improve transportation policies to require options that are reliable and accessible for individuals with disabilities.
 5. Support rural traditional skill development such as subsistence and self-employment.
- **Section 4: Preparing for Work and Secondary Transition – Chair Mayes**
 1. Expand and improve existing School-to-Work transition resources for school personnel.
 2. Strengthen the At-Risk Youth Initiative.
- **Section 5: Stay at Work, Return to Work – Co-Chair Reinhart**

Next steps/recommendations – Chair Mayes & Co Chair Reinhart (15 minutes)

- **Action items**
- **Time and Date of Next Meeting**
- **Personal Stories:** Share any stories about how the Council’s work on employment has positively impacted you and/or people you know with disabilities.

Good of the Order and Adjournment – Chair Mayes

- **2:30pm - Motion to Adjourn**