

**MEETING MINUTES
NYC WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
QUARTERLY MEETING**

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

10:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

Board Members Present In-Person:

Alysia Steinmann	Degan Leopold	Nicole Dais-Lewis
Angie Kamath	Eliana Palmay (designee)	Sarah Henderson Rosenberg
Christina Ho	Katy Gaul-Stigge	Saudia Davis
Colleen Galvin	Laura James	Shehila Stephens (designee)
Daniel Bustillo	Linda Baran	
Daphany Sanchez	Matt Klein	
David Bolotsky	Merrill Pond	

Board Members Present Virtually:

James Sanders		
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Guests Present:

Doug Cotter	Kseniya Palishchuk	Valerie Mulligan
Dynishal Gross	Nikita Felix	Yurij Pawluk
Elena Boyd	Paula Bailey	
Jane Martinez Dowling	Sinting So	
Jennifer Mongiori-Corcoran	Tonisha Hurd	

NYC Talent Staff Present:

Adolpho Casillas	Grant Yanney	Matt Walker
Apurva Mehrotra	Jasmine Vega-Pegram	Michelle Rosa
Brendan Collins	Jelynn Morse	Navarre Frede
Chris Neale	Ji Lee	Ryan Tom
Daniel Liss	Joe Rhoades	Stephanie Klocke-Wittenberg
Danielle Chan	Leah Hebert	Tess Edwards
Doug Lipari	Matt Beller	

Welcome

Board Co-Chair Merrill Pond formally called the meeting to order at 10:01 am. She welcomed attendees, then briefly previewed the agenda items. A quorum of Board members was present.

Board Business

Co-Chair Pond, in order to be mindful of the attendees' time, briefly summarized a conversation during the Workforce Development Council meeting that took place just before the Board meeting. She announced that all Council and Board committees would be disbanded, given that they served their purposes, with the exception of the Board's Executive Committee, and the Board would focus its attention on development of the Local Plan required under WIOA.

Co-Chair Pond also provided an update about ongoing discussions with the Mayor's Office of Contract Services (MOCS) related to payments to nonprofit human services providers. She indicated that some Board members are elevating questions or concerns they are hearing from providers to MOCS. She also indicated that the Board was trying to shift to a systemwide focus, rather than just one-off queries, and will restart the meetings with MOCS soon with that goal in mind. The issue is "huge" and "getting worse."

WIOA Budget Approval Process

Co-Chair Pond addressed a question that members have posed to her: What is the role of the Board and how is it different from that of the Executive Committee? She explained that one key role of the Board under WIOA is to approve the budget. She stated further that, for the sake of transparency, the Board was instituting a new process of budget approval:

- City agencies that administer WIOA funds (DYCD and SBS) will present their proposed budgets to the Executive Committee.
- The Executive Committee will conduct a detailed review and ask clarifying questions.
- Once the information package is complete, it will be presented to the full Board.
- The full Board will have then the opportunity to ask questions before casting the final vote to approve the budgets.

This new process is designed to ensure Board members are fully informed and have adequate time for review, preventing last-minute approval requests.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the Board meeting held on February 6, 2025. Members made motions to approve and second the approval of the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution: WIOA Funding Transfer Reconciliation

Workforce Development Board Chris Neale described a resolution to approve two transfers within the WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker funding streams. WIOA funding is allocated via a formula that does not necessarily match the proportion of customers served. Currently, funding is split approximately 53% Adult and 47% Dislocated Worker, but the actual client population is 80% Adult and 20% Dislocated Worker. The transfers are an accounting exercise to "right-size" the funds to match the clients being served.

Proposed Transfers:

Director Neale described the proposed transfer of \$16.5 million from the Dislocated Worker funding stream to the Adult stream. He clarified that no customer is ever denied services as a result of this transfer. He also described the proposed transfer of \$2.5 million

from the Administrative funding stream to the Program stream to maximize funds for direct services.

Designee Shehila Stevens (EDC) asked if services for Dislocated Workers would be reduced. Director Neale clarified that no services will be impacted or taken away from any customer group. The transfer is purely an internal accounting measure to align funding with expenditures for reimbursement purposes. Board member David Bolotsky (Uncommon Goods) made a motion to approve the two resolutions, and the motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report

Chris Neale, Director of the NYC Workforce Development Board, presented a Director's Report.

WIOA Budget & Policy

New York City received its final WIOA allocations for Fiscal Year 2026, which show a \$12 million (12%) decrease for NYC, down to \$87 million. This reduction was expected and is due to New York state's improving economic conditions relative to the rest of the country and due to New York City's improving economic conditions relative to the rest of the state since the devastating economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board is closely monitoring several federal policy proposals, including a proposal to consolidate WIOA into a block grant, potential cuts to Medicaid, pauses in Job Corps and AmeriCorps, and the proposed elimination of the Economic Development Administration (EDA).

WIOA Performance

There is significant positive news regarding the Adult Credential Attainment Rate, a measure related to training that the city has struggled with for the past two years. Thanks to "Herculean efforts" by SBS in capturing more data about their trainings, NYC will exceed its goal. Director Neale stressed that he and SBS have been in close contact with NYSDOL about the issue and that NYSDOL has helpfully (and unusually) shared data on this measure on a monthly basis. The current credential attainment rate is 62%, surpassing the target of 54%. Member Katy Gaul-Stigge asked for clarification on how these numbers reconcile with a separate SBS memo. Director Neale explained that the performance

metric reflects individuals who completed training in calendar year 2023, not the current program year's enrollees, which the memo describes.

City Investments in Nursing Pipeline

Director Neale shared that Deputy Mayor Adolfo Carrion, NYC Talent Acting Executive Director Doug Lipari, and SBS Commissioner Dynishal Gross had announced new investments in bolstering the City's nursing pipeline the previous week. First, the City will invest \$1.6 million over two years in the Nurse Fellowship Academy, which was made possible in part by a resolution passed by the Board's Executive Committee last year, which updated the WIOA self-sufficiency policy. The update allows for income exceptions for training in high-demand fields, directly enabling this type of strategic investment to address the city's nursing shortage.

Closing

Co-Chair Pond thanked all members for attending the meeting. She then requested and received a motion and a second to close the meeting formally. The meeting adjourned at 10:32 am.