Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission
Career Technology and Workforce Development
Meeting Agenda

August 25, 2025
10:00-11:00 AM

Virtual Meeting

I. Call to order

    A. Approval of July meeting minutes

II. Discussion and vote on workgroup recommendations

III. Adjournment

Career Technology and Workforce Development Meeting Minutes

Date: July 8, 2025

Attendees: Ainsley Moench -GOCPP-, Diana Bailey, Danielle Cox -DPSCS-, Jessica Johnson -LABOR-, Adam Cummings -OCO-, Anne Bocchini Pack, John Griffin, Richard Gibson, Charles Adams

Meeting Start: 09:56 EDT

Discussion Points:

- **Note-taker and Recording:** Danielle Cox raised a concern about a random note-taker (assumed to be AI) and requested its removal. Angelley (Ainsley) confirmed she was also recording and taking notes.
- **Workgroup Priorities:** The main goal of the meeting was to establish workgroup priorities, specifically reviewing draft number five.
- **Work Plan and Agenda Review:** Ainsley presented the agenda, which included a call to order, an overview of the workgroup plan (schedule up to November and commission recommendation structure), and a review/prioritization of interim report issues.
- **Progress Update:** Diana noted that the workgroup was on track through July, focusing on highlighting critical content and making adjustments to proposals or policy changes. She also reminded attendees to consider August timelines due to anticipated absences.
- **Interim Report Edits:** Ainsley opened the document with edits made by Diana, which were highlighted in red.
    1. **Terminology:** Diana suggested replacing "vocational" with "workforce development" or "occupational programs and training" for current and consistent language with other workforce policies.

2. **Follow-up:** Diana added "follow-up" to the workgroup focus, emphasizing its importance in addressing recidivism.
3. **Transitional Instruction:** Diana initially placed transitional instruction as the first priority, noting its broad area and the inclusion of AI basics due to its impact on participants' job search and preparation.
4. **Statewide Curriculum:** Diana inquired about a statewide curriculum for transitional instructors and specific outcomes. Jessica Johnson -LABOR- confirmed that Miss Janelle Johnson is supporting re-entry through a Maryland-based transitional curriculum, which was recently updated (within the last year or two). Jessica agreed to share an overview with the workgroup.
5. **Re-entry Specialists:** Diana asked about the status of DOC's re-entry specialists. Danielle Cox -DPSCS- clarified that the Department of Public Safety has always had a re-entry division with many specialists across the state, and a separate commission is already addressing re-entry services. The workgroup decided to reference this other commission in their report.
6. **Occupational Skills Training Centers (OSTC):** Diana questioned the lack of mention of OSTC in the report. Danielle explained that OSTC is incorporated into general programming and not specifically called out as it's part of the 16 DOC facilities.

- **Prioritizing Workgroup Focus Areas:**
    1. **Initial First Priority (Transitional Instruction):** Danielle expressed concern that transitional instruction might not be the top priority, given the commission's goal of delivering prison education and the existence of another re-entry commission.
    2. **Proposed Priorities:** Diana stated her initial proposed priorities were Transitional Instruction, Data Collection, and Post-Release Outcomes/Licensing.

3. **Licensure and Post-Release Outcomes:** Danielle suggested that licensure and post-release outcomes (especially sustainable employment) should be a higher priority, as it directly relates to the effectiveness of training.
4. **Data Collection and Sharing:** The discussion then shifted to data. Ainsley confirmed that MLDDS data is available on the commission's website, and Danielle elaborated on the ongoing data collection and analysis efforts with MLDDS, Labor, and DPS.
5. **Data as First Priority:** Adam Cummings -OCO- and Anne Bocchini Pack strongly advocated for data collection and sharing as the top priority, arguing it provides the foundation for all other commission efforts. This was agreed upon by the group.
6. **Specificity of Data:** Danielle emphasized that data collection should be specific to career and technical education (CTE) programming within this workgroup's scope. Ainsley confirmed that the data section would be specific to how MLDDS data and labor outcomes inform career technology.
7. **Historical Data Tracking:** Danielle and Diana discussed past grant-funded efforts to track employment outcome data, noting that such tracking ceased when funding ended, until recent work with MLDDS.
8. **Parole and Probation Data:** John Griffin inquired about incorporating data from the Division of Parole and Probation. Danielle clarified that this data is already included in MLDDS data records, and focusing solely on parole/probation data would miss a significant portion of released individuals.
9. **OCMS Data:** Adam Cummings raised concerns about the completeness of employment data in the Offender Case Management System (OCMS). Danielle explained that while OCMS contains some basic information, comprehensive employment and wage data are gathered through the partnership with MLDDS due to legal restrictions on what individual agencies can hold.

10. **Centralized Database:** Anne Bocchini Pack suggested exploring a single backend data pool with different user access levels to overcome data silos, but Danielle cited legal limitations on what data individual agencies can hold.

- **Barriers to Employment:**
    1. This section was moved to the fifth priority.
    2. John Griffin emphasized that barriers to employment (criminal records, parole/probation status) are significant limiting factors for job seekers, regardless of their training, and suggested strengthening the language to reflect this.
    3. Anne Bocchini Pack cautioned against over-investing resources in re-entry (post-release) issues, as a separate re-entry task force is addressing this, and the commission's primary focus is on prison education delivery reform. She suggested referencing the other task force and building a bridge.
- **Revised Priorities (Tentative):**
    1. Data Collection and Sharing (specific to career technology and workforce development)
    2. Licensure and Post-Release Alignment
    3. Transitional Instruction
    4. Occupational Training Programs (embedded within data collection/analysis)
    5. Barriers to Employment

Next Steps:

- Ainsley will edit the document quickly and distribute it.
- A work plan for all priorities will be developed within the month.
- The work plan will be discussed at the next meeting, including receiving data, best practices, and conducting research.