Career Technology and Workforce Development

Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2025
10am-11am

Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Diana Bailey, Danielle Cox. Jessica Johnson, Charles Adam, Anne Pack, John Griffin, Adam Cummings, Richard Gibson, Ainsley Moench

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I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10am.

II. Overview of workgroup workplan

Diana Bailey went over the workgroup workplan towards the November annual report.

III. Prioritization of interim report issues

The group went over the issues presented in the interim report to prioritize which issues the workgroup would like to focus on.

Diana Bailey asked if the group would like to first prioritize transitional instruction. Diana Bailey inquired about a statewide curriculum for transitional instructors and specific outcomes. Jessica Johnson confirmed that the curriculum was recently updated , and agreed to share an overview with the workgroup.

Diana Bailey asked if the Occupational Skills Training Centers were still in operation. Danielle Cox explained that the OSTCs are incorporated into general programming.

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. She suggested that licensure and post-release outcomes should be a higher priority, as it directly relates to the effectiveness of training.

The group shifted to talk about data. Danielle Cox confirmed that DPSCS and DOL are working with MLDSC to evaluate programming and post-release outcomes. Ainsley Moench mentioned that the group received a presentation on MLDSC data in March, and the presentation is available on the Commission website. Adam Cummings and Anne Bocchini Pack advocated for data collection and sharing, arguing that it provides the foundation for all other Commission efforts. Danielle Cox emphasized that data collection should be specific to career programming within this workgroup's scope. Ainsley confirmed that the data section would be specific to how MLDSC data and labor outcomes inform career technology. John Griffin inquired about incorporating data from the Division of Parole and Probation. Danielle clarified that this data is already included in MLDSC data records, and focusing solely on parole/probation data would miss a significant portion of released individuals Danielle Cox and Diana Bailey discussed past grant-funded efforts to track employment outcome data, noting that such tracking ceased when funding ended, until recent work with MLDSC. 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. 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.

The group moved onto the fifth priority, barriers to employment. 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. 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 working with the Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and Expanded Reentry Services.

Diana Bailey summarized the workgroup priorities as:

1. Data Collection and Sharing

2. Licensure and Post-Release Alignment
3. Transitional Instruction
4. Barriers to Employment

The group agreed to the prioritization.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59am.