

Full Board Meeting
Thursday, February 25, 2021 10:00 AM
Mountain

NALWDB Conference Room
525 Camino De Los Marquez
Suite 250
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Floyd Archuleta:	Present
Krutik Bhakta:	Present
Jane Clements	Present
Rebecca Estrada:	Present
Zane Fischer:	Present
Mark Gallegos	Present
Joseph Garcia	Present
Rudy Garcia:	Present
Thomas Garcia:	Present
Maria Herrera:	Present
Vince Howell:	Present
Mario Lucero:	Present
Chris Madrid:	Present
Patricia Maule:	Present
Sean Medrano:	Absent
Jolene Nelson:	Present
Nani Rivera:	Present
Jon Paul Romero:	Present
Kevin Romero:	Present
Arthur Sparks:	Absent
Rock Ulibarri:	Absent
Joseph Weathers:	Present
Eileen Yarborough	Present

Present: 20, Absent: 3.

Also in attendance: NALWDB Staff: Lisa Ortiz - Executive Director/Financial Specialist, Barney Trujillo - Operations Manager, Elena Maestas - Program Support, Deborah Wildenstein – Program Monitor, Amber Gomez – Project Specialist/Communications **Guests:** Veronica Alonzo - DWS, Christina Garcia-Tenorio – DWS, Margarito Aragon – DWS, Camilla Jaquette – DWS, Rick Sandoval – Zlotnick Laws Sandoval, Eric Vasquez – One-Stop Operator, Jessica Hudson – One-Stop Operator Assistant, Roger Gonzales – HELP NM, Teresa Quintana – HELP NM, Evangeline Touchine – HELP NM, Diego Rodriguez – NC WIOA Regional Coordinator HELP NM, Ericka Van Eckhoutte – NW WIOA Regional Coordinator HELP NM, Floyd R. Lovato – NE WIOA Regional Coordinator HELP NM, Hanna Smith – UNM Taos/Taos HIVE, Julio Garcia – Legal Counsel, Tommy Garcia, Cerelle Stauch – NMHSD SNAP E&T Coordinator. Lisa Bentson – LCC CCRI, Maxine Palomino – New Mexico Workforce Connection, Waldy Salazar

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00AM by Chairman Joseph Weathers.

2. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Roll call was made by NALWDB Project Specialist/Communications, Amber Gomez, who indicated that a quorum was present.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda. This motion, made by Jon Paul Romero and seconded by Thomas Garcia, passed by unanimous vote.

5. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

5.1 January 12, 2021 Full Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the full board meeting minutes form January 12, 2021. This motion, made by Jon Paul Romero and seconded by Vince Howell, passed unanimously by rollcall vote. 16 Yays.

6. Action Items

6.1 Removal of board member

Madam Executive Director informed the Board that we recently received our PY19 monitor report from the State. We were required to ensure that all of our board members were in compliance. After reviewing each board members records, we discovered that board member Rock Ulibarri is not in compliance as a business representative.

Chairman Weathers added that in fact there were several members that were on the on the findings and every one of the board members except the Vice Chairman came up with requirements that proved they were eligible for the board. He mentioned that we even had our organization's attorney involved in this process. He stated that Mr. Ulibarri was given the opportunity on the agenda today to speak for himself, however he chose not to attend.

Floyd Archuleta asked Chairman Weathers if we were following the process of the proper removal of a board member? He also asked if Mr. Ulibarri has to submit a letter of resignation?

Chairman Weathers informed Mr. Archuleta that each board member listed in the findings had to provide documentation proving that they qualify to be members on this Board. He stated that our attorney wrote a letter to Mr. Ulibarri, and there is no need for Mr. Ulibarri to write a resignation letter because he does not have the qualifications to be on this Board.

Mr. Archuleta stated that he just wanted clarification of the correct process to follow.

Chairman Weathers informed Mr. Archuleta that the correct process is being followed. He stated that we're just trying to comply with the findings and make sure that all our board members are compliant and eligible to be on the Board,

Motion to remove board member Rock Ulibarri. This motion, made by Thomas Garcia and seconded by Nani Rivera, passed by majority rollcall vote. There were 12 Yays and 6 abstentions from board members (Krutik Bhakta, Zane Fischer, Joseph Garcia, Vince Howell, Chris Madrid, and Patricia Maule).

6.2 Election of Officer

Chairman Weathers stated since Mr. Ulibarri has been removed, we have to fill the vacancy of Vice Chairman. He informed the Board that Board Member Jon Paul Romero has expressed a desire to fill that position. He then asked if anyone else would like to take on that role.

Motion to nominate Jon Paul Romero as new Vice Chairman. This motion was made by Tomas Garcia and seconded by Rudy Garcia.

Rudy Garcia added that Jon Paul has very good experience as an Office Chair on the school board and has his business along with other personal business experience.

Chairman Weathers asked if there were any other nominations?

Motion to nominate Vince Howell as new Vice Chairman. This motion was made by Krutik Bhakta and seconded by Mario Lucero.

Chairman Weathers asked if there were any other nominations? There being no other nominations, he entertained a motion that nominations cease.

Motion to cease nominations. This motion made by Rudy Garcia and seconded by Floyd Archuleta, passed unanimously by rollcall vote. 19 Yays.

Chairman Weathers asked Chairman Howell and Chairman Romero if they would like the opportunity to speak to the board before they vote?

Vince Howell stated that he really appreciates the nomination. He strongly believes in the Northern Area Local Workforce Development Board. Mr. Howell stated that one key element is making sure that we provide all the information and the resources needed to keep our constituents in all of the Northern Region. It's important that we keep individuals in the communities trained and developed to take on more economic success. That being said we have to be really transparent and strategize ways to inform all individuals in our area what we're doing. He thanked all of the board members and staff for their accomplishments. He believes that the Board is headed in the right direction and will be the best board in the State of New Mexico.

Jon Paul Romero thanked everyone for the support and the nomination. He stated that over the past 10 years that he's served on the Northern Area Local Workforce Development Board, he's seen the board make great strides in trying to help the people of Northern New Mexico. As an engineer and a contractor, he represents many different communities in Northern New Mexico, such as: Taos, Questa, Peñasco, Red River, Los Alamos Santa Fe, and Espanola. He believes that it's important that we realize the need for our disadvantaged individuals who are in need of our support to make sure that they can work and get jobs that they can sustain for their families. He appreciates the opportunity to possibly serve as the Vice Chair and thanked the Board for their consideration.

Chairman Weathers stated that both individuals a highly qualified for this position however, by a vote of nine to eight Mr. Jon Paul Romero is our new Vice Chairman. Congratulations.

6.3 Oath of Office - New Board Members

Board members Patricia Maule and Mark Gallegos recited the Oath of Office.

6.4 Supportive Services, Rev 2 Policy Approval

Madam Executive Director informed the Board that the revision to the supportive services policy was recently approved by the rules committee. She stated that on page 16 item D. Electronic Equipment Purchase was added. Due to the rural nature of Northern New Mexico, it was decided that a revision would be necessary to help participants purchase a computer and or access wireless internet. In cases where there is an identified need for a computer, participants enrolled in training may request to receive reimbursement of up to \$500 for the purchase of a new computer. The participant must present a valid receipt from a computer retail business (this is only a one-time purchase reimbursement and regardless of the number of times program years the individual is enrolled). Also, in cases where there is demonstrated need for Internet services participants may be provided with internet equipment and services necessary to participate in remote direct services, online education and training OJT (on the job training), and other services and activities authorized under WIOA (not to exceed the duration of eligible services). She recommended that the Board approve of revision number two for Supportive Services.

Motion to approve the revisions to the Supportive Services Policy. This motion, made by Rebecca Estrada, seconded by Rudy Garcia, and passed unanimously by rollcall vote. 19 Yays.

Rudy Garcia asked if this policy will support Santa Fe and all of the counties north of Santa Fe for broadband? Mrs. Ortiz informed Mr. Garcia that this policy is for computers and for broadband services in our ten counties.

Rudy Garcia stated that the Santa Fe county commissioners approved the resolution to the broadband bill that's going through the state legislature. He asked if this policy allows or disallows us to go down private roads so we can help out rural areas?

Eric Vasquez informed Commissioner Garcia that this idea was originally presented from the Eastern Region where they have implemented a similar policy, and they are not actually running cable. This policy is seeking to emulate is allowing our providers to purchase internet hotspots on a subscription basis. And provide those to clients who do not have access to internet or cannot get out because the COVID situation right now and give them the ability to be trained where they don't have internet, particularly useful in our very rural communities.

Commissioner Garcia thanked Mr. Vasquez for the information. He stated that the reason he had inquired about the rural areas is because in La Cienega and Cerrillos some of the kids don't have the wireless internet and he knows that up north there aren't very many direct towers. He mentioned that the County puts all those towers, however a hotspot for satellite internet is a great alternative. He stated that he's glad to hear that any client will be able to have the hotspot available to them.

Rebecca Estrada asked for clarification. She stated, this is not about broadband itself, this policy simply allows our service provider to purchase computers and or hotspots for WIOA eligible participants who are in the program. She mentioned that there's a much larger conversation that's happening right now about broadband availability and access to the internet. However, she asked if this policy is mainly focusing on being able to purchase the equipment, and the ability for participants to access internet, not about those last miles or providers. Madam Executive Director stated that Mrs. Estrada is correct.

6.5 Residency Policy

Madam Executive Director informed the Board that recently the Rules Committee passed the Residency policy number 27. Mrs. Ortiz mentioned that this policy was recommended because we are receiving participants outside of our service area. She stated that this policy provides guidance regarding the residence requirement when determining eligibility to the WIOA Title I adult, dislocated worker, and youth. The northern board has taken this under consideration and has made a determination to serve WIOA eligible individuals outside it's 10 County service area. She stated that all other eligibility requirements for participation and appropriate documentation should be maintained.

Vince Howell asked in this policy do the participants eligible to receive WIOA funds live within the 10-county region that we serve.

Chairman Weathers informed Mr. Howell that this policy allows a participant that lives out of our ten-county region to be eligible to receive WIOA funds if they work within the northern area. For example, if a participant lives within the Central Board region but works in Santa Fe, they would be eligible to receive WIOA funds through the Northern Board because they are working within our service area.

Rudy Garcia asked if the Board has enough money to cover the anticipated individuals that they would service outside of Northern New Mexico area. Madam Executive Director informed Commissioner Garcia that yes, the Board has enough funds.

Motion to approve the Residency Policy. This motion, made by Jon Paul Romero, seconded by Vince Howell, and passed unanimously by rollcall vote. 18 Yays.

6.6 American Job Partners MOU's Approval

Madam Executive Director informed the Board that we have six MOU's. Between the Northern Board and the American Job Partners, the primary purpose of the MOU's is to create a partnership between the northern board and the American Job partners within our counties. She stated that we have a signed MOU from our institutions: UNM Taos, UNM Los Alamos, Northern New Mexico Community College, Luna Community College, Santa Fe Community College, and the Motivation Education and Training Inc (M.E.T).

Eric Vasquez added that most of these MOU's are renewals, however, M.E.T is a new service provider to the region that we are seeking to partner with. They're going to be providing the migrant farm worker services in our region. He mentioned that after this MOU is signed, we plan on having them co-located in a couple of our sites.

Chairman Weathers requested that the approval of item 6.6 and 6.7 be combined into one motion.

6.7 Marquez Plaza Door Access/Modular Panels approval

Madam Executive Director informed the Board that we received four quotes for door access to the Marcus Plaza suite 200. We received bids from APIC Solutions for \$21,000. It Connect for \$5,400, Height Security Inc. for \$5,500, and Johnson Control Security Solutions \$6,900. During the last Finance Committee meeting it was passed to go with the lowest bidder, which is It Connect for \$5,406.34.

Jon Paul Romero thanked the staff and the Executive Director for doing their due diligence and getting multiple quotes and doing the solicitation. He stated that these are important items that we need to do to move forward.

Motion to approve the American Job Partners MOU's and the Marquez Plaza Door Access lowest bid by It Connect. This motion, made by Jon Paul Romero, seconded by Rebecca Estrada, and passed unanimously by roll call vote. 20 Yays.

6.8 ETPL - Approval of UNM Taos/Santa Fe Community College Massage Therapy Program

Elena Maestas gave the Board an update on the ETPL (Eligible Training Provider List) and the ETPL Committee. She stated that the committee has been working hard to recommend programs to be on the ETPL. In the past three months, there have been over 50 approved programs spread across our 10 northern counties. Each program has been voted on by the committee based on the supporting documentation that the institutes have provided, and the labor market information (LMI) in the Northern Area. The Northern Boards in demand occupation policy states that if an occupation has 10 or more job openings. The policy also states that the Institute must provide at least three letters of support from local employers stating that in the future their business plans to be hiring for this specific occupation. Miss Maestas informed the Board that the massage therapy certificate, is not an in-demand occupation in the state of New Mexico. At this time there are two Institute's inquiring their massage therapy program to be on the ETPL. The first institute is SFCC whom has provided four letters of support from local businesses, which are Massage Envy (Santa Fe County), Ojo Caliente Mineral Springs (Taos County), and the other two letters of support are from Albuquerque, which are not local businesses in the Northern Area. The other Institute is UNM Taos, has not provided any letters of support. She stated that the reason being is due to herself not wanting them to do all the footwork if the Board decides not to support at this time. The State has recommended that this program is discussed and voted upon by the Full Board whether the Northern Board chooses to support these programs.

Chairman Weathers stated that there were letters of recommendation from the community colleges asking for this program.

Elena said yes, however, the in-demand policy states that they need to have at least three in the local area and there's only two in the local area, the other two were based out of Albuquerque. UNM Taos has requested that their program is on the ETPL. She stated that she advised them not to get letters of support yet until they know if the Board supports the program or not because it's a lot of work to get letters from businesses.

Rebecca Estrada stated that part of the debate in the ETPL committee was the fact that two of the letters of support were from the Albuquerque Area which is outside of our 10 County service area. Also, the original Ojo Caliente Mineral Springs and the Ojo Caliente Sunrise Springs in Santa Fe is technically one employer even though there are two locations within the service region. Another point made is that some massage can be done as a medical treatment, which could theoretically fall under health care.

Zane Fischer added that they were advised that some other areas don't consider this to be viable, or a good use of the WIOA funds and didn't really appear on the LMI. He stated that the ETPL committee was reluctant to remove something from the list that potentially fell under medical, has therapeutic value, and is something that people come to northern New

Mexico for tourism/experience economy. They were also informed by this state that perhaps, they would have participants from other locations, if they offered it and those other locations didn't so long as there were viable programs. At this point the ETPL committee has not figured out a way to determine if they keep massage therapy or how to differentiate between different massage therapy programs, and if they should include some and not others.

Joseph Garcia stated that it's his understanding that the Board is both trying to educate and prepare people for the workforce. The Board is trying to create jobs and create a better economy. He expressed that he thinks that individuals shouldn't be limited to certain businesses or career choice. Participants should be given the option to pursue a career that sparks their interest.

Chairman Weathers informed Mr. Garcia that he appreciates his comments, he stated that over 50 programs have been approved by the ETPL committee and there were two recommendations from businesses in Albuquerque for this program.

Rebecca Estrada added that the current eligible training provider list, has pages and pages of approved programs. She informed Mr. Garcia that the committee is doing their due diligence on the ETPL to recommend programs they believe will benefit the economy in the Northern Area. She informed Mr. Garcia that the committee works with multiple training institutions who have programs on that list. So they're doing their due diligence to balance both opportunity accessibility choice, and still make sure that money is being spent in a way where there is opportunity for socio economic mobility for that individual. So they're not putting participants in jobs where they're low wages, or no opportunity for growth.

Motion to approve the UNM Taos/Santa Fe Community College Massage Therapy Program. This motion, made by Jon Paul Romero, seconded by Rudy Garcia, and passed by majority rollcall vote. There were 14 Yays, 2 Nays (Krutik Bhakta, Jolene Nelson), and 3 Abstentions from board members (Jane Clements, Joseph Garcia, Vince Howell).

7. New Business

7.1 CEO Engagement Strategy

Madam Executive Director informed the Board that last week during their WIOA meeting the Department of Workforce Solutions mentioned that they recently spoke with all four boards to set up a comprehensive training for CEOs. They stated that they would like to first engage with the county associations, then identify a lead point of contact with the county commissioner for workforce. This will allow for a CEO of each county and make for a quorum of 33 for the entire state.

Christina Garcia-Tenorio informed the Board that the CEO Engagement Strategy is a project that they're working on specifically with Mayor Mayor. She stated that last year USDOL came and audited the state as a whole and one of the areas that they were deficient in was CEO engagement. She mentioned that they received some technical assistance from Mayor Mayor to get a grant. Mrs. Tenorio stated that they'll be helping them create more of an interaction and collaboration with the CEOs, this collaboration won't leave out Mayor's. One of the things that they're trying to do is to engage all 33 of our counties with one specific person representing each county and make one person the point of contact.

Chairman Weathers commented that the New Mexico Association of Counties is often brought up because it's a place to engage county commissioners, however that's every elected official that's been elected in the 33 counties. He then asked Mrs. Tenorio why they chose to engage with the Association of Counties, when there are so many elected officials there?

Mrs. Tenorio informed Chairman Weathers that the reason they're engaging with the association is to definitely and get that interaction, because that is a pretty wide and broad stage of individuals throughout the state. She stated that she noticed after attending a meeting that most of the CEO's from the southwest had not been engaged and didn't know about this program. They would like to get the CEO's to understand is how this is impacted throughout the state and what WIOA does and why they're responsible for it.

Chairman Weathers stated that he would like to recognize the Northern Board CEOs and commend them for always being present and engaged for a large Board of 33.

Christina stated that they are impressed by that the willingness for them to be involved and it will make her job easier because part of the reason why this position with the state has been expanded is to be a conduit and a communication between the state, the CEO's, and the Local Boards, however the emphasis was placed on the CEOs, particularly because of the findings from USDOL.

Floyd Archuleta stated that it's always been his understanding that the city officials and municipal officials are also included as part of our CEOs. He suggested that Mrs. Tenorio also work with the New Mexico Municipal League, which has representatives from the 106, cities, towns and villages in the State. He stated that they could be a good resource in identifying individuals that should be a representative.

7.2 Local Area Designation Scenarios

Madam Executive Director informed the Board that at the last state board meeting, a presentation was given regarding the local area designation plan combining of the boards. The items listed are scenarios one through four. Scenario (1) is a three-board scenario which is the Central Northern and Southern Board. Scenario (2) is a two-board scenario, North Central and Southwest area. Scenario (3) is four Boards with different county alignments. Lastly, scenario (4) is a metropolitan area creating area one which is four counties Bernalillo, Sandoval, Santa Fe, and Dona Ana. Area two is the balance of the state remaining 29 counties.

Margarito Aragon gave a brief overview of the Local Area Designation Scenarios. He stated that about two years ago the State formed a committee. This committee is led by Daniel Schlegel who's a representative from the governor's office. He stated that over the last year and a half-two years, this committee has been looking at the different scenarios and the current board structure and seeing if any changes need to be made to the workforce structure in the state. About six months ago, the LFC came out with a with a report about the workforce structure in New Mexico. He mentioned that scenario (2) the two-board scenario in one of the recommendations they made in their report. He stated that they even looked at what the funding would look like for each scenario. So, whatever scenario the state board recommends to the governor's office, that's how the funding would go for each one of the board's also the counties that would make up the boards. He informed the Board, that currently the committee is working on finalizing their recommendation to the governor's office, and then it'll go up to the governor.

Chairman Weathers stated that to his understanding the Secretary and the undersecretary testified before a legislative committee endorsing one of the scenarios. He then asked if that decision would be up to the state board on what scenario they vote on, given that there are four different options?

Mr. Aragon informed Chairman Weathers that the State Board will vote on a scenario to recommend to the governor and then the governor will approve the recommendation or make adjustments.

Chairman Weather asked if there will be an engagement with the CEOs and a period for public comments?

Margarito Aragon informed Chairman Weathers of the process. He stated, if the governor accepts that recommendation, then the formal redesignation will start. That process consists of working with the CEOs and getting their recommendations on the restructuring, which will be combined with the governor's recommendations. Finally, a package will be put together and that package will go out for public comments. Once that public comment period has ended, that package will go to USDOL for approval of any structural redesignation that the state wants to do. Once USDOL approves that structure, then the process of putting that structure together will begin. If there is going to be a restructure, there will be a period where the board structure will stay as is.

Roger Gonzalez stated that when looking at the LSC analysis it's very one sided to support the proposed change. He believes that the concern coming from the governance structures throughout the state and service providers, is the fact that there's a predetermined decision that seems to be announced prior to a public comment period. Therefore there has been a lot of the reluctance and lack of engagement from various policy makers and stakeholder groups across the state.

Mr. Aragon stated that Mr. Gonzalez is correct and informed him that the State Board has been working through this process. They are putting all of the recommendations together, bringing in other agencies/stakeholders into the discussion, and using data to drive their decision before the public comment period.

Roger Gonzales stated that he believes that the biggest concern is the representation of the state board when it comes to rural communities, ie, those in the north. If there's going to be a decision for a statewide impact, all four geographic board regions should be represented on that State Board.

Mr. Aragon stated that about a year and a half ago in October of 2019, there was a two-day workgroup in Albuquerque. This group consisted of local board members, board staff, local partners, DVR, adult education, service providers, non workforce service providers, education, economic development, mayors, and CEOs. Each group was spit up into their respective region to work through any changes needed to be made to the documents prepared by each Local Board. Mr. Aragon stated that one of the things asked was, if any changes, what changes would the Local Board want to see in their area. The State Board and committee reviewed each response, and those documents were used as part of the input to create some of the scenarios. The elected official, the board chair, and the executive director from each Local Board were invited to present their recommendations and findings to the State Board.

Mr. Gonzalez stated that they were one of the agencies that participated in that two-day conversation. He mentioned that he doesn't recall any conversation as it relates to a reduction of boards. He stated that the questions he recalls from that meeting were: How do we strengthen? How do we identify gaps? How do we look to streamline and, and braid resources? There was never a conversation about a consolidation of governance structures to make the state more efficient. Mr. Gonzalez asked if there is a summary or information that he can review the compilation of the to date convenient and some of the suggestions.

Mr. Aragon stated that the question may have been phrased: How would any restructuring look in order to make the workforce system more efficient? He mentioned that some of the Board's did propose some scenarios or variations, which included a one-board, two-board, and three-board structure. He believes that the Northern Boards document didn't include any recommendations of a proposed structure change. Mr. Aragon stated that he can reach out to the executive director of the State Board and request the material that was provided to the state board and the reports from each one of the regions. He also stated that he believes that DWS did summary of all the documents, because some of the region's had pretty lengthy documents and explanations.

Chairman Weathers expressed that he attended the State Board meeting and noticed that the scenarios were not sent out to the state board members until after the meeting ended by Mr. Slagle. He also stated that the State Board is extremely South heavy and there's little or no representation for the 10 Northern counties.

7.3 New Board Member Orientation

Madam Executive Director informed the Board that we would like to schedule a virtual orientation sometime in April for those new board members who have just joined the Northern Board, or any others that have not received their orientation. She stated that the orientation would be a couple hours long, this time slot will allow overview of what the Workforce Development Board does, membership, committee assignments, highlights of WIOA, and the mission and vision of the Northern Board. She mentioned that a doodle poll will be sent to the new board members, so that we can accommodate everyone's schedule.

Nani Rivera stated that she already received her orientation, however, she'd like to attend the orientation to refresh.

Madam Executive Director informed the Board if any other board members are interested in attending to send her an email.

7.4 Board Training in April/May

Madam Executive Director informed the Board that we would like to schedule a virtual board member and staff training/education event sometime in April or May to help strengthen and support the Board and staff. She stated that we strongly believe that board education and training is a crucial part of any boards' development. She asked if any of the board members have any recommendations/ideas that they would like to share?

Chairman Weathers asked Mr. Aragon, as the different counties are changing in their zones, from the red to yellow to green, and now turquoise, is there a possibility of having an in-person orientation/training if there continues to be change in the counties?

Margarito Aragon informed Chairman Weathers he believes that there could be a possibility of an in-person training. He stated that it would have to do with anything that comes out of the governor's office. There should be no objection as long as it's permissible through the public health orders.

Chairman Weathers asked Mr. Aragon if this training would need to be completed before June 30th? Mr. Aragon informed Chairman Weathers that in order to receive the continuing education credits of 10 hours this training would have to be done by June 30th.

Jon Paul Romero recommend as we get closer to the date, we follow the map to see which counties are allowable to have in-person type training. He mentioned that some places are up to 75% capacity, and some hotels are unlimited now. He stated that, we've been in this lockdown for over almost a year starting March 11 and it'd be nice to get together and meet some of the new board members face to face exchange pleasantries.

8. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

9. Informational Reports

9.1 Finance Report

Rick Sandoval gave a brief report on the NALWDB financial statements, administrative budget to actual, expenditures by allocation, projected expenditures by allocation, and training expenditures by allocation.

Mr. Sandoval stated that the projected expenditure schedule gives you an idea as to where we'll end up at the end of the fiscal year. He noted that the funds expire at the end of this fiscal year, which is June 30 of 2021. Mr. Sandoval stated that he anticipates that we will not have any funds that will need to be reverted back to the State for reallocation. One thing to note in the adult, is that there is anticipation that we would have expended \$391,000 are obligated \$391,000 in excess of what's available. He stated that there has been some discussion, the board is allowed to transfer from dislocated worker to adult, and that typically is allowed as long as the Dislocated Worker group is not affected by the transfer of money. He stated that this is through input from the service provider, and they're monitoring those expenses to make sure that those projections hold. As we get closer to the end of March, if there is a need for a request for transfer, they'll do it at that point. Under the dislocated worker and youth funding, he anticipates that all of the expiring funds will be utilized and there are no concerns with the carry on moving into next year.

Rudy Garcia thanked Mr. Sandoval for keeping the Board up to date on expenditures and informing them on how the money is spent and when it comes in. He also thanked staff for keeping on top of it. He stated that a few years ago there had been some challenges.

Mr. Sandoval thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as their fiscal agent.

9.2 HELP NM Report

Evangeline Touchine gave the Board a brief report . She stated that they have 500 enrollments that they need to serve for adults and dislocated workers. Their goal is 500, and currently they have 127 carryovers of 127 and their total goal is 627. Currently they have 302 enrolled. Sher

stated that they are performing at 48% in enrollments and they're looking forward to New Mexico opening back up so they can increase their numbers even more. With their Youth tracker, their goal for new enrollments shows 240 and should be 210. She informed the Board that this is a formula error and that they will send an amendment. Their overall goal is 210 and they have 77 carryovers, and their total is 287. Their actual enrollments is 163, so they're performing at 46%. In enrollments for our youth program. She mentioned that right now they're serving more out of school youth because the formula shows that they should be serving 75% of out of school youth. She also mentioned that there's been a lot of work going on in the field. She stated that they invited their coordinators to introduce themselves to the Board.

Ericka Van Eckhoutte introduced herself as the Northwest Regional Coordinator providing services to San Juan McKinley and Cibola counties. She stated that Northwest has partnered with several local resources to streamline referral processes and provide wraparound services. They're involved in several local projects and workforce development teams to assist in looking ahead and taking participants from beginning to end successfully. This includes active participation in our local school district, work-based learning programs that tie into potential co enrollments for OJT, and IT services within in-demand fields. Additionally, the Northwest has forged partnerships with more than 20 businesses for services and placement, ultimately leading to the enrollment of 60 plus participants and providing an excess of \$600,000 in Business Services alone. The majority of these services have benefited our public safety municipalities, local manufacturing healthcare entities, and various small businesses. She stated that the Northwest is proud to be serving more than 250 participants between the two programs and they have a continued steady enrollment period going on.

Diego Rodriguez introduced himself as the North Central Regional Coordinator, he oversees Espanola, Los Alamos, Taos, and Santa Fe. They partnered with numerous businesses in those areas, targeting adult additional jobs training, in school youth work experience, and training. They have also established partnerships with their local colleges which includes CNM Ingenuity, UNM Taos, Santa Fe Community College, and Northern New Mexico College. They've had several successes in those areas. He also mentioned that they had some partnerships with some OJT's in Santa Fe, such as Woodruff scientific and Bluestone Security Solutions.

Floyd R. Lovato introduced himself as the Northeast Regional Coordinator, he oversees San Miguel, Mora, and Colfax counties. Their Goal is to give participants an opportunity to continue their education, find employment, or start a new career. They have established partnerships with their local colleges which includes Luna Community College, New Mexico Highlands University, the University of New Mexico, Central New Mexico, and San Juan Community College. They have also connected with a High Schools throughout their region. They also have relationships with over 90 businesses and employers within their counties. He stated that they teamed up with Brothers and Sisters programs geared at assisting low-income youth with barriers and individuals with disabilities that are in need of their support. The Northeast team plans to continue building their partnership profile and continue a good steady channel of communication with all their current partners. He mentioned that they're planning on scheduling a meeting with board members, school boards, city managers, and county managers to inform them on what they're doing and use it as marketing tool to reach local communities. Help New Mexico has always made it clear that the WIOA program is not an

entitlement program, and as individuals become eligible for program, they are made aware that it's going to take hard work and responsibility to be successful. They offer support for education, job training, career guidance, self-motivation, and provide supportive services. He mentioned that they help some of the individuals within their ITA programs with computers, gas, and childcare. He believes that their team has a personal connection to the communities they serve because they grew up in northern New Mexico and have an understanding of the traditions and culture. Their youth participants get first-hand experience with the soft skills and interviewing skills. This prepares them for when they meet with employers for an interview. Mr. Lovato stated that their adult participants are usually excited because they're ready to start a new career. They refer them to the jobs that are in high demand or career fields and they are unfamiliar with. If the participant is interested in going back to school for a degree or certification in a certain field, they will sit down with that participant and assist them with the process of applying and choosing an in-demand occupation that will result in employment in their community. He stated that they give them a variety of options when seeking a degree or certification program.

Chairman Weathers commended Evangeline for the leaders they have chosen for the different regions.

Chairman Weathers had a question concerning the providers with the adult and the dislocated worker. He stated that his concern is that in transferring funds from dislocated worker to adult, there's a barrier because if the person isn't going to return to their job, they'll be in the adult program and not the dislocated worker program. He asked what if the job doesn't exist? For example, those jobs in the northwest at the power plant and the refineries, they'll never return to that job because the job doesn't exist, and they can't qualify for dislocated worker. They're still adults, is there some way to ask for waivers or anything to do with Department of Labor on being able to switch those funds from a dislocated worker to adult?

Mr. Aragon stated that during that last finance committee meeting, Veronica, Christina, and himself heard some statements that have been made and we have scheduled some technical assistance with HELP NM's administrative staff. He stated that the reason for this technical assistance is because they believe that there may be some misconceptions about what a dislocated worker is and that provision of the return to work. Majority of the individuals that are being classified as adults, that originally were thought to be dislocated worker, are dislocated workers. In response to Chairman Weathers example, if an individual's job has gone away, that person would qualify as a dislocated worker. He informed the Board that this is not a Northern Board issue, they've had to do a very similar technical assistance in the Southwest and Eastern region. He hopes that by the next board meeting he can report some progress this topic.

9.3 One-Stop Operator Report

Eric Vasquez informed the Board that they hosted their monthly altogether meetings in February for the Northern staff members and Mario Lucero from DVR gave a presentation on disability awareness, and Elise Al-Sharif and Christopher Brownlee from DWS gave a presentation on current assessments that are available for partners to use. Farmington Title I staff is partnering with departments and schools to provide a paid work experience and additional incentive to in school youth. These are for currently enrolled students for receiving work-based training.

HELP New Mexico is working with Highlands in a partnership with some local colleges or community colleges including San Juan college, Dine college and one more on a web based early childhood education credentialing system called GEER. Enrollment begins on March 1, and they're seeking 5000 enrollees and training begins on April 1, with a goal of participants being able to complete online training within a few weeks depending on participants time commitment.

DWS and the Santa Fe and Vegas office are holding regular business team meetings incorporating more partners in there to join outreach initiatives. The public education department is partnered with DWS and reaching out to Title I providers in an effort to recruit and train unemployed qualified people who could then receive an alternative licensure program to become stem teachers in our rural schools. The Northern Region has a large number of rural schools that have difficulty staffing up educators. He stated that over the last week, DWS has been calling people who have filed for unemployment who look like they would be qualified, they'd have to have a degree in a STEM field to see if they'd be interested. He believes that they've had over 40 some people that they've spoken with that indicate some interest.

Mr. Vasquez stated that they are working on a referral system between all the partners. All of the partners met a couple times and reviewed the Southwest Regions WCOS system that they are employing. This program is expected to go live for referrals next month. Once it's live, they intend to get a full review of what it looks like. He mentioned that they met with the One Stop operator from the Central Region, where she provided a personal presentation of their in house designed internet referral system, the partner side was very user friendly and simple to do initial referrals out from one partner to the other. It didn't require a significant amount of logistics on the internal side, which should be on One Stop Operator side for sending others referrals to the places they needed to go. The state is also rolling out their Restart New Mexico proposal, which will be a statewide initiative, that will include a statewide website for people seeking work and employers seeking employees. He informed the Board that they recently contracted with the social media provider service to create a social media campaign, which is going to coordinate social media efforts for all of the partners, different providers in our region, to help us all get our messages out to so that individuals know what services are available.

Recently they learned of some legislation that was going to be sponsored by Senator Bobby Gonzales, He stated that he spoke in favor of this bill however, the bill was tabled. He added that the MOU's with MIT, is a provider that's going to be doing the migrant farmworkers program and they're moving forward on formulating an IFA, or the finance agreement for them to co-locate in both the Farmington and our Gallup locations.

Chairman Weathers informed Mr. Vasquez that board member Thomas Garcia and KDCE radio station are willing to run public service announcements. He suggested that Mr. Vasquez reach out to Thomas specifically on our out of school youth since we still haven't expended last year's budget.

Mr. Vasquez informed Chairman Weathers that he'd be happy to work directly with Mr. Garcia. He mentioned that he will also reach out to their media provider that we're working with to social media campaign and also our other service providers.

9.4 State Update

Margarito Aragon gave a brief update on the state oversight of Northern Board. He stated that the Board is continuing to make progress, and currently they're working with board staff on the monitoring report to get that closed out.

Mr. Aragon informed the Board that two years ago the previous service provider had a closeout report that was turned in late and they requested a reimbursement for their sub recipient services. Because the closeout report was turned in late, it caused some issues with reimbursing that money. Subsequently in PY19, there was another request for distribution of funds to cover their costs that they incurred in that program year. Because the PY18 report was turned in late most of the funds were already expended and you can't expend money that was not available at that time. On December 1st the Executive Director sent a letter to the previous service provider and informed them that there's funds available to pay the youth portions of those costs from the old pots of money however, in order to pay the youth portion of that cost, they needed to provide appropriate supporting documentation, receipts, payroll, anything that supports those charges that they're claiming are legitimate. The money for PY19 consists of \$12,367 in adult funds, \$7,884 in Dislocated Worker funds, and \$3,393 in youth funds. He stated that the Dislocated Worker portion of the grant (\$21,073.38) was fully expended when they did their closeout. Therefore, there was no money in that pot of money to pay out. The letter on December 1st also notified the previous service provider that, that money can't be distributed out to them. There was also an overpayment for the PY18 money that the Northern Board distributed to the to the previous service provider that totals \$6,454.87. Therefore, this money must be payed back to the Northern Board, redistributed out, and utilized. The reason these three dollar amounts are so critical, is when USDOL grants money to the State, they grant it in three-year increments. The Boards have two years to spend the money and the state has an additional year to spend the money after the pot of money expires on June 30th. At that point, any outstanding balance that hasn't been paid, it needs to be reverted back to USDOL. He stated that, if youth money is not distributed out to the previous service provider or it's not spent, that money will need to go back to USDOL, not just back to the State, but back to the federal government. He added that this is always something that they want to prevent from happening. On Monday of this week, a certified letter was sent to the Secretary and CC to the governor's office, the New Mexico Attorney General, and others asking for the state to intervene and have the Northern Board distribute these funds out to the to the previous service provider. Mr. Aragon put together the response for the Secretary by using all of the information from the December 1st letter, the original closeout requests, and all the information that they had gathered working with Rick Sandoval. He stated that the difference between the letter sent on December 1st and the letter sent from the Secretary is that the letter Mr. Aragon put together includes a little bit more precise citations of the Act and the laws that govern this Act. He addressed that one on his concerns is about the \$22,000 in youth funds from two years ago. There's money set aside that was drawn down from the State that's ready to pay out however, it's expiring on June 30th. Mr. Aragon recommended that the Board and the Fiscal Agent give the service provider a date to provide that documentation. And if, after that date, they have not provided it, start spending the money to avoid reverting it back to USDOL. He also mentioned that the current service provider is sending youth cash requests into the Northern Board, so we can start spending that money.

Chairman Weathers asked if the \$22,000 is in school, out of school, or a different fund?

Mr. Aragon informed Chairman Weathers that the \$22,000 is the youth fund, the youth fund is pulled together as one pot of money and budgetarily the board splits it into in school and out of school. This grant comes from the State just for youth. Rick Sandoval would have to go look at P 18. allocation to see if you had fully expended in school money, if it's already been fully expended the percentage of in school, then it can't be spent on in school youth. If it hasn't been full expended, then it can be spent on in school youth.

Mr. Aragon stated that one of the concerns that the State has, is the Dislocated Worker FY 20 money that expires on June 30, 2021. He informed the Board that the current service provider has to spend \$970,000, in that Dislocated Worker money, or it gets reverted back to the state. The good thing is that this money won't go to USDOL, it will go to the State, and then the State will redistribute it out to the other regions and the Northern Board will get a portion of that redistribution. Another area of concern is the PY19 money that is also expiring June 30, 2021. Which is a total of just over \$1 million and must be spent within the four months. He stated that they're working with staff and the service provider and his monitors will be reviewing a spend down plan to make sure that this gets spent out. However, the last thing the State wants to see is this money leave the North and have to be redistributed somewhere else.

Chairman Weathers stated that the State Chair along with the Northern Board asked for different percentages as far as like 50/50 with in school and out of school. He asked if there is a chance that happens?

Mr. Aragon stated that if that waiver gets approved, it will not be until the next program year So it will be July one moving forward, though that will have that waiver.

Chairman Weathers expressed to the Board inform their communities that there is out of school money for the ages of 16-24 available. To help individuals either get work experience or training and refer them to HELP New Mexico.

Mr. Aragon added that it may be beneficial for HELP NM to provide the board members with the definition of an out of school youth to help get the youth money spent down as quickly as possible. He stated that there are some individuals who are attending school who would be considered out of school.

Teresa Quintan stated that they're happy to send that information to Lisa so she can get it out to the board.

Chairman Weathers thanked the State for their technical assistance. He stated that great strides are being made with the administrative staff. He also thanked the Secretary and Undersecretary.

10. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

11. Next Meeting Date April 9, 2021 at 1:30 PM (Joint CEO and Full Board Meeting)

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 12:31PM. This motion, made by Floyd Archuleta and seconded by Jolene Nelson, passed unanimously.

- An Executive Session may be called at any time during the meeting. Pursuant to New Mexico Open Meetings Act Section 10-15-1 (H) Subsections; (1) Meetings pertaining to issuance, suspension, renewal or revocation of a license, except that a hearing at which evidence is offered or rebutted shall be open. All final actions on the issuance, suspension, renewal or revocation of a license shall be taken at an open meeting; (2) Limited personnel matters; provided that for purposes of the Open Meetings Act, "limited personnel matters" means the discussion of hiring, promotion, demotion, dismissal, assignment or resignation of or the investigation or consideration of complaints or charges against any individual public employee; provided further that this paragraph is not to be construed as to exempt final actions on personnel from being taken at open public meetings, nor does it preclude an aggrieved public employee from demanding a public hearing. Judicial candidates interviewed by any commission shall have the right to demand an open interview; (3) Deliberations by a public body in connection with an administrative adjudicatory proceedings For purposes of this paragraph, "administrative adjudicatory proceeding" means a proceeding brought by or against a person before a public body in which individual legal rights, duties or privileges are required by law to be determined by the public body after an opportunity for a trial-type hearing. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the actual administrative adjudicatory proceeding at which evidence is offered or rebutted and any final action taken as a result of the proceeding shall occur in an open meeting; (4) The discussion of personally identifiable information about any individual student, unless the student or the student's parent or guardian requests otherwise; (5) Meetings for the discussion of bargaining strategy preliminary to collective bargaining negotiations between the policymaking body and a bargaining unit representing the employees of that policymaking body and collective bargaining sessions at which the policymaking body and the representatives of the collective bargaining unit are present; (6) that portion of meetings at which a decision concerning purchases in an amount exceeding two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) that can be made only from one source is discussed and that portion of meetings at which the contents of competitive sealed proposals solicited pursuant to the Procurement Code are discussed during the contract negotiation process. (7) Meetings subject to the attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become participant; (8) Meetings for the discussion of the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights by the public body.