

MINUTES

**NORTHWEST WISCONSIN WORKFORCE
INVESTMENT BOARD, INC. MEETING
December 7, 2023**



- Attendees:**
- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judy Aspling | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Kelm | <input type="checkbox"/> PC Rasmussen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crystal Rohde -
excused | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelly Klein | <input type="checkbox"/> Cindy Rouzer |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thomas Draghi | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary McPhetridge | <input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Shearer |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brad Gast | <input type="checkbox"/> Ashley Moore -
excused | <input type="checkbox"/> Mary (MJ) Sills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Edward Gruhl -
excused | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff Muse | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kerri Trubachik |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alyssa Headley -
excused | <input type="checkbox"/> Brian Nelson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tami Follet |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michelle Johnson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Nystrom | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elaine Ogilvie | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bambi Pattermann | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristine Porter | |

Staff & Guests Present: Jay Anderson, Ryce Davis, Charlie Glazman, Matthew Filipek, Mari Kay-Nabozny, Jo Nowak- Thompson, Dawn Knapp, Bella Potack-Rettler, Melissa Rabska Soltau and Lany Brackeen

Call to Order - Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at **10:00 AM. Bella Potack-Rettler** conducted the roll call.

Report of Public Meeting Notice

Bella Potack-Rettler reported that the public meeting notice was published on social media, the NWWIB website, and distributed to the regional library systems and Class A newspapers within the WDA.

Pledge of Allegiance

Kelly Klein led the NWWIB Board into the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome/Introduction of Guests

Kelly Klein led introductions. NWWIB Board members (in-person and online) and NWWIB staff introduced one another. Guest, Charlie Glazman from the Douglas County Chairman was also present and introduced himself too.

Approval of the September 28, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve meeting minutes as presented: **Judy Aspling**
2nd: Brad Gast

Board vote is unanimous, motion carries.

Consent Agenda (NWWIB, Inc. Sub-Committee Reports)

NWWIB Executive Committee - Mari Kay-Nabozny

Mari Kay-Nabozny reported that the *NWWIB Executive Committee* met back on October 2023. She reported on the *Genr8tor* project, current NWWIB program enrollments and fiscal service provider updates. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that the NWWIB 990 and audit took place during the week of November 6th, 2023. She also mentioned that changes regarding fiscal matters will be touched back upon when the *NWWIB Executive Committee* meets in January 2024.

Mari Kay-Nabozny asked for any questions or comments, there were no questions or comments.

NWWIB Strategic Directions & Development Committee Report - Mari Kay-Nabozny

Mari Kay-Nabozny reported that the *NWWIB Strategic Directions & Development Committee* met in October 2023. She reported that during this meeting, the NWWIB PR Report, announcement of the *Winning with Wisconsin's Workforce* December event, and that the *Mental Health First Aid: Youth Mental Health* training would be happening in November 2023. She also shared that during this meeting, *PY22 WIOA Performance* numbers were discussed.

Mari Kay-Nabozny asked for any questions or comments, there were no questions or comments.

NWWIB OSO Committee Report - Brad Gast, Chair

Brad Gast reported that the *NWWIB OSO Committee* met in October 2023. He shared that the monitoring report hadn't been completed yet. Brad Gast also reported that the *Winning with Wisconsin's Workforce* event in December was discussed. Brad Gast shared that during the meeting that there was frustration over the OMU and the speed at which it was going. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared after Brad Gast's report that the OMU had come back this past Friday and was completed.

Mari Kay-Nabozny asked for any questions or comments, there were no questions or comments.

NWWIB Youth Committee - Mary McPhetridge, Chair

Mary McPhetridge reported on the *NWWIB Youth Committee* meeting on September 19th. Mary McPhetridge summarized the discussion from that meeting saying that the overarching theme was trying to get people who don't want to work to work. Mari Kay-Nabozny also updated on youth apprenticeship updates. Jeff Muse shared that CEP numbers are great, for students in the coming year, their goal is to serve 72 youth. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that during the *NWWIB Youth Committee*, that members met Olivia Dachel from CESA 12 and listened to a SPARK presentation by Scott Griffiths. SPARK is an alternative learning experience for students who are at risk. Mari Kay-Nabozny also shared that a partnership between CEP and SPARK would be a great opportunity for WIOA youth enrollments. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that the *NWWIB Youth Committee* also appointed Scott Shultz as a member.

Mari Kay-Nabozny asked for any questions or comments, there were no questions or comments.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda: Jeff Muse

2nd: Dale Kelm

Board vote is unanimous, motion carries.

Monitoring Status - Mari Kay-Nabozny *Department of Labor H1B COW Grant Monitoring*

Mari Kay-Nabozny reported on the *Department of Labor H1B COW Grant Monitoring*. Referencing the letter in the *NWWIB Board* meeting packet, she shared that no findings or a single issue was found. *The NWWIB Board* applauded Dawn Knapp for her great work during the monitoring period.

There were no questions or comments after Mari Kay-Nabozny's report.

PY22 WIOA and Support to Communities Monitoring

Mari Kay-Nabozny reported on the *PY22 WIOA and Support to Communities Monitoring* from October. She shared that the DWD has been trying to change the monitoring process and be less punitive. Mari Kay-Nabozny reported that *Support to Communities* had one area of concern and a finding on two PINS. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that nothing was major from these findings, and that both the area of concern and findings were related to missing medical and disability information and that the NWWIB will be updating and fixing those mistakes. For *WIOA*, Mari Kay-Nabozny reported that Northwest CEP had two areas of concern and seven findings. These areas of concern were two gaps in contact with participant follow-up and then, that participant services had been left open for several months. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that there was also missing documentation on an assessment of individual participants. In total, there were seven findings, and the total question cost was \$5,338.45.

Mari Kay-Nabozny reminded everyone that this question cost number is preliminary and that it will go down when the monitoring response is completed and documentation is obtained and /or goes back in and makes the necessary correct changes to the files. Mari Kay-Nabozny then listed the findings that were found to the CEP-WIOA funding. These findings were: Driver's License number not noted, a missing signature, exit date didn't match, another missing signature, a missing assessment, selective services weren't uploaded for a participant and a youth work experience went longer than reported. Mari Kay-Nabozny then shared the fiscal findings for *WIOA*, which included using outdated language and the 35% spending goal was not being met. Mari Kay-Nabozny noted that a big reason to why the 35% spending goal was not met, was because this money was sitting with the *WIOA: Dislocated Worker* fund. She explained that with this fund, there needs to be a dislocation to have the money spent. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that herself and Jeff Muse, sat and discussed this issue and decided upon moving the funds from *WIOA Dislocated Worker*, over to *WIOA: Adult*, so that this grant money can then be spent quicker. She shared that this grant money can always be shifted back over to *WIOA: Dislocated Worker* if need be.

Mari Kay-Nabozny shared the *WIOA* fiscal findings, which were 1.) the contracts didn't state that *WIOA* was not "research & development", 2.) leverage funds weren't recorded but CEP has fixed that for next year, 3.) Youth ITA amounts weren't recorded, 4.) CEP training vouchers had coding issues and 5.) Requested *WIOA* Cash amounts exceeded what was needed for training amounts. Equal Opportunity participant interviews for *WIOA* were great, there was an issue with accessibility for the CEP-Superior offices that the men and women's bathroom doors are not self-closing. Mari Kay-Nabozny closed that overall, the monitoring was mainly due to human error mistakes and despite the findings, that monitoring went well.

Mari Kay-Nabozny also shared that the NWWIB doesn't currently have the monitoring report but should have it in time for Christmas.

Mari Kay-Nabozny asked for questions and comments. There were no questions or comments.

Fiscal Audit with Wegner CPAs - Mari Kay-Nabozny

Mari Kay-Nabozny reported that the fiscal audit with *Wegner CPAs* was completed on November 6th, 2023. She shared that the NWWIB staff vacation time might have to be recorded differently moving forward, but that everything else with the fiscal audit moved along smoothly. On top of this, Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that the NWWIB has filed for an extension on the previous year's *Form 990*.

Dick Nystrom asked if the NWWIB is fighting the penalty for the *Form 990*. Mari Kay-Nabozny responded that, yes, the NWWIB is fighting the penalty and WIPFLI sent a letter to the IRS on the NWWIB's behalf.

Dick Nystrom wants to know if *WIPFLI* is recording NWWIB financials incorrectly. Mari Kay-Nabozny explained that nothing is incorrect, but that there is just a difference in processes between *Wegner* and *WIPFLI*.

Dick Nystrom remarked that he would like a recap of the last three years of the *Wegner* fiscal audits to look over. Mari Kay Nabozny shared that she can present him with the last past two years of audits (NWWIB didn't make the audit threshold the first year to have a fiscal audit).

Mari Kay-Nabozny asked for any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments.

Pathways Home 2 Monitoring - Mari Kay-Nabozny

Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that during the *Pathways Home 2* monitoring that 68 of 158 *Pathways Home 2* PINS had issues. She shared that this was mainly due to missing documentation or minor mistakes (like, missing a signature or date sign) that will need to be corrected. The NWWIB is still waiting on a closeout letter to be coming for the *Pathways Home 2* monitoring period.

Mari Kay-Nabozny asked for any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments.

Board Business

Action Item: *WAI Supportive Services Policy Limits - Mari Kay-Nabozny*

Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that the *WAI* grant runs through September 2024. Mari Kay-Nabozny reported that the NWWIB has spent a good majority of the *WAI* grant. The NWWIB is proposing a change to the policy, reducing the limit from \$15,000 to \$5,000 per participant maximum of the *WAI* grant. Mari Kay-Nabozny reported that the NWWIB would like to make changes that include eliminating incentives, incumbent worker training, follow-ups (not required by DWD) with the *WAI* grant and reducing the expense limit. Mari Kay-Nabozny asked if anyone had any questions or comments.

Dale Kelm had a question about whether these changes that the NWWIB is proposing is to allow services to more people, or to just, save on cost? Mari Kay-Nabozny responded that it was for both reasons. She explained that the NWWIB will just be more selective with participants between things that are 'wants' and things that are 'needs' (for example: a participant asks for a laptop. They WANT a brand-new MacBook Air, but do they NEED a MacBook Air, when a used Windows laptop could do all the work required and at a lesser cost to the NWWIB?). Dale Kelm's question was answered and there were no future questions or comments from *the NWWIB Board*.

First: Dick Nystrom
2nd: Judy Aspling

Motion carries unanimously.

Action Item: Fiscal Procedures Manual Changes - *Mari Kay-Nabozny*

Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that *Policy Number 9* (as seen in the packet) in the *Fiscal Procedures Manual* was not originally in the manual but needed to be. She shared that the NWWIB is asking the NWWIB Board to add policy Number 9 to comply. Mari Kay-Nabozny asked for any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments.

First: Jeff Muse
2nd: Tami Follet

Motion carries unanimously.

Grants & Contracts Update - *Mari Kay-Nabozny*

Bremer Grant

Mari Kay-Nabozny reported that the NWWIB received the *Bremer Grant* in November. She shared that what the NWWIB proposed for, however, was not fully funded. The NWWIB initially asked for \$46,000 from *Bremer*, but only was rewarded with \$10,000. The NWWIB is still looking for solutions to lessen the caseload work for staff and will be pursuing other grant writing opportunities to help fund programs like, *MyOneFlow* or a new website for the NWWIB. Mari Kay-Nabozny asked for any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments.

NOAA

Mari Kay-Nabozny updated the *NWWIB Board* on the *NOAA grant*. The *NOAA* grant asks for applicants to propose how they will use the *NOAA* grant to increase climate affected workforces. The NWWIB is looking to partner with the Duluth Sea Group and its climate ready workforce ports - *Frazer* and *Enbridge* - and how do we look at climate change and how it affects work sectors. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that the NWWIB's letter of intent for *NOAA* went in last week and will not be due till February. Mari Kay-Nabozny asked if anyone had any questions or comments.

Tami Follet had a question and asked Mari what the goal of *NOAA* is. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared the three different phases of the *NOAA* grant. Phase A is Analysis Design: "*To Provide NOAA Climate Science and Tools to Maritime Sector to Identify the New Skills and Jobs Needed*", Phase B: "*Create an Employer Designed Training Program That Incorporates These Skills and Recruitment Plan*". The Implementation Phase is "*Piloting the Training and Recruitment Plan in Northern Wisconsin and Minnesota*". Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that there are lots that needs to be addressed. Particularly communities at the ports and how they will also be affected and how the maritime workforce and how the NWWIB could potentially help them, using *NOAA*.

Judy Aspling asked Mari Kay-Nabozny to define 'climate ready'. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that the definition is broad, but that when the *NOAA* grant says, 'climate ready', that they are referring to any industries that would/will be affected by climate change factors. For example, the NWWIB is seeking out the grant in hopes to build up the maritime workforce, as it is one that is declining and will continue to decline with rising climate change factors, such as

increased flooding, warmer winters which leads to longer shipping seasons and so forth. Judy Aspling thanked Mari Kay-Nabozny for her explanation.

Charles Glazman had a question to Mari Kay-Nabozny on whether the NWWIB had factored in the Duluth bridge closures and how that would affect or skew the data for the *NOAA* grant. Mari Kay-Nabozny responded to Charles Glazman, saying that the NWWIB and the *UMD Sea Grant* folks had already been having discussions about the topic and were being mindful of it. She also shared that, however, the bridge reconstruction presented itself as an example of an issue of what the *NOAA* grant could offer solutions too.

Jumping off Charles Glazman's question, Michelle Johnson had a question about the Duluth bridge construction and how union workers are being supported during that project and if there is anything that the NWWIB can do. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that she has put a request in with the state on what the NWWIB could offer to help but has hear no response back.

With the topic of Duluth and Superior being discussed, Dick Nystrom made a comment that he would love to see someone from the Transportation Industry appointed to the NWWIB Board. Mari Kay-Nabozny acknowledged his comment and let him know that when the NWWIB has an opening on the board, that the NWWIB would work hard to get a representative for the Transportation industry appointed. Mari noted there are several individuals waiting for inclusion on the NWWIB.

Mari Kay-Nabozny asked for further questions or comments. There were no further questions or comments.

Upcoming Opportunities

Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that the NWWIB is writing for the *TEACH* grant with *UW-Superior*. The *TEACH* grant would do what the *QUEST* grant does but would open opportunities for helping serve individuals pursuing 4-year degrees. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that the *TEACH* grant would have a focus on Early Childhood Care and Development. The *TEACH* grant would be a stipend, to help individuals continue school. Mari Kay-Nabozny also shared that writing the *TEACH* grant would allow the NWWIB to start inching into the *UW-space*.

Mari Kay-Nabozny also updated that the *Public Service Commission* is to have a grant released on Monday, December 11th. She shared that last year; the *Public Service Commission* grant was strategically great and that staying in good contact with the *Public Service Commission* would be wise for the communities we serve.

Mari Kay-Nabozny shared with the NWWIB Board that Melissa and herself were in Chicago last month at the *U.S. Department of Labor ETA Vision 2030 Investing in America's Workforce* regional meeting. Mari Kay-Nabozny let the *NWWIB Board* know that NWWIB will have a better understanding and more concrete answers to share with more future grant opportunities at the March *NWWIB Board* meeting. Mari Kay-Nabozny asked for any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments.

Regional Data Review

WIOA Dashboard - Mari Kay-Nabozny

Mari Kay-Nabozny reported on the *WIOA Dashboard* and referenced the chart in the packet. She shared that these numbers are only a quarter in. She also shared that the dashboard tracks numbers from the past two years, with the year starting on July 1, 2022 and ending June 30th, 2024. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that this dashboard is useful with tracking CEP as a service provider and keeping tabs for the NWWIB on how they can assist CEP with their *WIOA* program. She shared that on the dashboard, that the listed demographics were

informational only. Then, Mari Kay-Nabozny pointed out the expenditures at the bottom. She explained that blue is 'budgeted' and the colors 'dark blue' and 'gray' were the expenditures. Mari Kay-Nabozny highlighted that of September was fully spent for in-school students with a little money left for out of school youth. She shared that the dislocated worker fund is less than 50% spent, due to no dislocations. Mari Kay-Nabozny then ended the report stating that the Adult fund is pretty close to spent, if not fully spent. She asked for any questions or comments on the *WIOA dashboard*, there were no questions or comments.

WDA 7 Regional Employment Report - Thomas Michels

Thomas Michels referenced the chart in the packet. He shared that Northwest Wisconsin saw a year-to-year change. He pointed out that one county that saw an uptick was Burnett County. Thomas Michels then moved on to explaining the next page in the packet, stating that all the WDA regions saw an increase in employment rates. This was the first time in a long time, and that Northwest Wisconsin is now the third highest in employment rate. He also shared that Wisconsin is now tied lowest in employment rate with three other states. He also shared that compared to all employment and labor force numbers from 2019 to 2023, that the labor force is decreasing. Thomas Michels emphasized that change is accelerating in the state, baby boomers are retiring and fewer youth replacing spots within the workforce. While he did mention the previous statement, he did recognize that Northwest Wisconsin saw growth in labor force and in those employed.

Thomas Michels asked for any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments.

Staffing Update - Mari Kay Nabozny

Mari Kay-Nabozny presented to the *NWWIB Board* the new *NWWIB Staff Organizational* chart. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that there had been some staffing changes in the recent months. She introduced and welcomed Jay Anderson, Director of Business and Community Engagement. She then introduced Laney Brackeen, Rural Healthcare Project Case Manager. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that Clarice Baumgartner and Katie Bretting left the *NWWIB* for other positions at different organizations. Ryce Davis will be inheriting Katie Bretting's case management work for *QUESTand* has a new position description. Mari Kay-Nabozny also mentioned that Matthew Filipek is currently in charge of *Pathways Home 2* but will soon oversee *Pathways Home 4*. Mari Kay-Nabozny asked for any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments.

Initiatives & Project Review

2023 Annual Report - Bella Potack-Rettler

Bella Potack-Rettler presented the *NWWIB 2023 Annual Report* to the *NWWIB Board*. Within the *NWWIB 2023 Annual Report* there were highlights to performance numbers, success stories, community outreach, programs, and business services. Along with other partnerships and ventures from the year, like *Roadtrip Nation*. After Bella Potack-Rettler's presentation, there were no further questions or comments regarding the *NWWIB 2023 Annual report*.

Social Media and Outreach Report - Bella Potack-Rettler

Bella Potack-Rettler reported on the *Social Media and Outreach* report for the months of September to November. The *NWWIB* follower count is up a little over 4%, with a total audience of a little over 1,300 individuals. Bella Potack-Rettler shared that impressions did go down about 16%, but the *NWWIB* did see over 52 thousand for overall impression count. *NWWIB* posting went up 12% too. Bella Potack-Rettler ended her report by directing board members to check out what *NWWIB* social media posts that got the most interactions per the last page of the report. There were no questions or comments at the end of the report.

Public Relations Report - Melissa Rabska

Melissa Rabska highlighted that email outreach open rate for the NWWIB continues to be at about 30%. This is higher than the 21% open rate industry-wide for email outreach. Melissa Rabska shared that Ryce Davis presented at the *Department of Public Instruction's Hayward Library* event in October. Melissa Rabska also reported that Mari Kay-Nabozny presented at the *WEDC* panel. Another important outreach that Melissa Rabska shared was the *Youth Mental Health Training* that NWWIB staff attended at *Lakewoods* via the *UW-Douglas County Extension*. Melissa Rabska also reported on the new podcast episode that came out in November and encouraged *NWWIB Board* Members to give it a listen.

After Melissa Rabska's report, Mari Kay-Nabozny shared with the *NWWIB Board* that the NWWIB podcast: *Workforce Waves*, would be discounting. This decision will be brought to the *Strategic Directions & Development Committee*, but Mari Kay-Nabozny did share that it has been talks for the past two years since the *Milwaukee Workforce Board* eliminated theirs. Mari Kay-Nabozny asked for any questions or comments, there were no questions or comments.

Initiatives by Numbers

Mari Kay Nabozny reported on NWWIB program participant numbers that was shared in the NWWIB Board Meeting Packet. Tami Follet had a question regarding what *Support to Communities* is. Mari Kay-Nabozny explained that *Support to Communities* is a program for individuals who might be abusing substances, know someone who is or has been negatively affected by the substance abuse/misuse pandemic or, wants to help individuals being negatively affected by substance abuse.

Tami Follet and Judy Aspling mentioned that more outreach for the *Support to Communities* program would be nice and beneficial for individuals in the HR world, looking for programs like *Support to Communities* to offer to their employees. Mari Kay-Nabozny agreed and reassured Tami Follet that the NWWIB would make efforts in increasing *Support to Communities* outreach in the future. Mari Kay-Nabozny asked for any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments.

Gener8tor Outcomes - Mari Kay-Nabozny

Mari Kay-Nabozny shared about *Gener8tor*. *Gener8tor* is a training and upskilling service that the NWWIB and CEP are working with in running a cohort that is all online. She shared that the *Gener8tor* staff runs the whole cohort and handles everything, besides enrollment. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that there has been a slight adjustment period with getting the cohort running through *Gener8tor*, but that overall, it has been a great experience. Mari Kay-Nabozny reported to the *NWWIB Board* that through the *Gener8tor* cohort there have been no employment placement numbers yet. She shared that the NWWIB intends to run another cohort with *Gener8tor* in January.

Jeff Muse also shared that it was a very positive experience for CEP staff working with the staff at *Gener8tor*.

Mari Kay-Nabozny asked for any further questions or comments, there were no further questions or comments.

WDA 7 Job Center Satisfaction Survey - Mari Kay-Nabozny

Mari Kay-Nabozny shared with *NWWIB Board* members that the *WDA7 Job Center Satisfaction Survey* is open till December 13, 2023, and will be delivered via email again.

Mari Kay-Nabozny asked for any questions or comments, there were no questions or comments.

Training Cohorts

Jo Nowak-Thompson reported that the *QUEST* grant has several cohorts taking place. She shared that *Northwood Technical College* was hosting two, one in Ashland and one in Superior. She also shared that another cohort was taking place in *WDA6* and this cohort was specifically individuals looking to provide in-home care. Jo Nowak-Thompson then shared about the *QUEST* cohort happening with *Childcaring, Inc, Northcentral Technical College* and *Nicolet College*.

Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that the response has been good for the *QUEST* cohort interest. She encouraged *NWWIB Board* members to keep spreading the word about the *QUEST* grant and to send anyone interested in Early Childhood Care and Development towards the *NWWIB*.

Mari Kay-Nabozny then shared about the closure of *EverGrow Learning Center*. She reported that the last day for the center was Friday, December 1, 2023. Mari Kay-Nabozny sadly reported that the *EverGrow Learning Center* closed mainly due to theft, and poor management on the account of *EverGrow* staff. Staffing was also an issue. She also shared that post-pandemic, it was nearly impossible to find staffing, leading to additional issues with *EverGrow* staff management.

In discussing the closure of *EverGrow Learning Center*, this led to the *NWWIB Board* discussing the childcare crisis in the nation and agreed that this is going to be a continued issue for the workforce. Mari Kay-Nabozny and Jo Nowak-Thompson reinforced the sentiment that the *NWWIB* is doing everything in their power with the *QUEST* grant to help address this issue and continues to work and find alternative solutions to the childcare crisis when allowable.

Mari Kay-Nabozny asked for any further questions or comments, there were no questions or comments.

State & Federal Updates - *Mari Kay-Nabozny*

DOL Envision 2030 Regional Convening

Mari Kay-Nabozny reported on the *DOL Envision 2030 Regional Convening* that herself and Melissa Rabska attended in Chicago on Novem 14th, 2023. She shares that it was an interesting couple of days. There was lots of focus on infrastructure and AI within the workforce, being discussed at the convening. Mari Kay-Nabozny summarized the whole purpose of the meeting was about forecasting and to prepare for AI within the workforce.

Comments & Announcements

Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that *TDCON* will be April 9th and 10th, looking for sponsors. She also shared that the *Winning with Wisconsin* event in the afternoon had 50 or so individuals registered. Mari Kay-Nabozny then mentioned that the March 28th *NWWIB Board* meeting in the packet would be moved to March 21st, 2023.

Thomas Draghi shared that in Ladysmith there is a 40-unit apartment complex and townhouse that threw around the word 'workforce housing'. Most of those people come out of Chippewa and Eau Claire. Focused on low income but townhouses will probably be

marketed for regular market income. He also shared that this information was in the Ladysmith newspaper.

Mari thanked the *NWWIB Board* and partners for the 2023 work year.

Jeff Muse shared with the NWWIB Board to watch an open house for the Park Falls opening in January for CEP.

Next Meeting Date & Location - March 21, 2024, or at the call of the Chair