

PENNSYLVANIA APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING COUNCIL

June 16, 2022

(VIRTUAL MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS)

9:00 AM

Chairperson Lisa Godlewski called the meeting of the Pennsylvania Apprenticeship and Training Council to order at 9:03 a.m.

PA Apprenticeship and Training Council Members in Attendance:

Employee Members	Present	Absent	Employer Members	Present	Absent	Public Members	Present	Absent
Timothy Griffin	X		Lisa Godlewski	X		Lisa Williams		X
Robert Bair		X	Barry Kindt	X		Gregory Chambers	X	
William McGee	X		Jon O'Brien	X		Cheryl Feldman	X	
Mike Neill	X		Mike McGraw	X				

Ex-Officio Members and Designees:

Bureau of Career and Technical Education: Dr. Lee Burket, Director

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, PA Department of Labor and Industry: Jeffrey Seabury, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist

Unemployment Compensation Programs, PA Department of Labor and Industry: Susan Dickinson, Acting Deputy Secretary

Workforce Development, PA Department of Labor and Industry: Sheila Ireland, Deputy Secretary

Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry

Tara Loew, Director, Apprenticeship & Training Office

Peter Getzie, Assistant Chief Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel

Cristie DeWitt, Workforce Development Supervisor, Apprenticeship and Training Office

Joe Bass, Apprenticeship and Training Representative (ATR), Apprenticeship and Training Office

Drew Grasso, Apprenticeship and Training Representative (ATR), Apprenticeship and Training Office

Christina Miller, Apprenticeship and Training Representative (ATR), Apprenticeship and Training Office

Bryan Nilsson, Apprenticeship and Training Representative (ATR), Apprenticeship and Training Office

William Miner, East Special Project Apprenticeship and Training Representative (ATR), Apprenticeship and Training Office

Jared Young, Statewide Special Project Apprenticeship and Training Representative (ATR), Apprenticeship and Training Office

Danielle Demirovic, Pre-Apprenticeship Manager, Apprenticeship and Training Office

Sam Primak, Grants and Statistical Development Manager, Apprenticeship and Training Office

Nukea Finley, Clerical Assistant 2, Apprenticeship and Training Office

Gina Meringer, Clerical Assistant 2, Apprenticeship and Training Office

James Chiarchiaro, KDP, Contractor for Apprenticeship and Training Office

Laila Keadan, Limited Term Clerk, Apprenticeship and Training Office

U.S. Department of Labor

Approval of May 19th Meeting Minutes:

- Motion to approve May 19th meeting minutes as submitted by Mike McGraw; was seconded by William McGee. Motion approved unanimously.

Public Comment:

- No public comments

Ex-Officio Member Report: Bureau of Career and Technical Education (Dr. Lee Burket, Director)

- Director Dr. Lee Burket said her department made an announcement about the PAsmart Grant. She stated they had a competitive process to award grant to support partnership. This grant will expand science, technology, engineering mathematics programing and computer science activities at the community schools at student levels. They currently have 42 recipients completing the grant applications process. During each year they collect data from each school for work base learning, collect information on certificates of apprenticeship, internships, corroborative education, job exploration, and simulated experiences. This year there were 227 schools that the Pennsylvania Department of Education approved for career and technical education programs. Out of the 227 schools 176 schools reported over 20 thousand students participating in work-based learning. They had 37 students in the registered apprenticeship program, 527 in internship, 2670 in cooperative education and over 13,000 students in stimulated work experience.

Ex-Officio Member Report: Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, PA Department of Labor and Industry (Jeffrey Seabury, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist)

- Jeffery Seabury stated that they are in the middle of the startup of an intern state employment internship program that is being sponsored by the office of administration in the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. He also stated that there were interns that were viewing this council meeting as guest. He mentioned that he had a productive meeting with the Director of the Apprenticeship and Training Office Tara Loew and the Apprenticeship and Training Office staff, around ideas that will advance inclusion of information and access to the sponsors and employers.

Ex-Officio Member Report: Unemployment Compensation Programs, PA Department of Labor and Industry (Susan Dickinson, Acting Deputy Secretary)

- Susan Dickinson stated that they are having lower claims coming into the office even before the pandemic and that they are still battling fraudulent claims.
- There are two different projects that they are working on which is being funded with the equity grant. The majority of this grant is helping individual within the unemployment staff to be housed in the CareerLink Offices to take in person appointments. They are conducting appointments in different regions throughout the state that need help with their claims, starting with Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Lehigh Valley and currently opening in Dauphin and York Counties. The individuals will be able to make appointments through the CareerLink locations. This grant will last until the money runs out or at the end of September of 2022.

Ex-Officio Member Report: Workforce Development, PA Department of Labor and Industry (Sheila Ireland, Deputy Secretary)

- Deputy Secretary Sheila Ireland voiced how the Infrastructure Bill will impact Pennsylvania around the registered apprenticeship and workforce development. She shared a chart that shows the analysis of the impact that the bill will create. She stated that Secretary Walsh is pushing through a huge investment bill that will impact registered apprenticeships in Pennsylvania. There is a three billion increased propose in investment for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and employment training and state grant programs. They have had a 12 percent decline over the year national. There is also a federal one hundred million investment for fossil fuel.

Report: U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship (Nicholas Burdick, Multi-State Navigator)

- Nicholas Burdick stated that the Advisory Council for apprenticeship had a meeting last month and still has one more meeting left. They put a lot of recommendations towards the department that will be compiled into a final report of the final recommendations are as for registered apprenticeship. That report will be out around next spring. The Apprenticeship Building American Grant will be announced at the end of the month. Outside of the Department of Labor, the Department of Commerce also put out five hundred million dollars in competitive grants called the good jobs challenge. The announcement should be out by the end of summer. The department is starting to do a lot of targeted marketing by industry sectors. In the beginning of the year, they had a 90-day trucking challenge where they targeted the trucking industry. He stated they are going to be doing something similar to that, instead of 90 days they will be doing 120 days. The new industry is going to be IT and cyber security which is also called the IT and security challenge and in the next few months they will announce when the start date will be.

“Approval of Standards of Apprenticeship” and trade/occupation additions- Secondary or more review

a) L&L Construction Inc. Ironworker, 2nd – Review – Individual, Non-Joint

- Kim Trustee with L&L Construction gave an overview of the program. She stated that the business started in 1974 as an erector of structural Steel. Their current workforce consists of about 28 Ironworkers with 5 foremen. Each foreman has a minimum of 10 years of on-the-job training and maintain a complete knowledge of approved methods to preform each job.
- There was a discussion between the council and the sponsor
- Summary of changes council suggested to sponsor
 - Clarification of classes online verses in person
 - Update the verbiage to match what the sponsor is saying regarding to the Journey workers experience
 - Add verbiage to the aptitude test to add basic entry level for tool and prior knowledge or entry into apprenticeship
 - Remove the first sentence from Item 10-E
 - Remove the New Jersey Operators License
 - Remove all the credentials and to only include those that are associated with this apprenticeship program
 - Add verbiage to include that all individuals can obtain transcript documents at any point of their training
- Gregory Chambers made a motion to approve the program with administration changes; motion was seconded by Barry Kindt
 - Roll Call taken by Cristie DeWitt

- Opposed by Timothy Griffin, William McGee, Michael Neil, Jon O'Brien, Cheryl Feldman
- Approved By Barry Kindt, Michael McGraw, and Gregory Chambers
- The motion did not carry, and the program was not approved

One Year Program Review

- Director Tara Loew gave a brief overview of the program audits. She recommended that both programs continue with permanent registration, and they met all the major compliance requirements. The apprenticeship and training representatives will keep working with the program sponsors to offer technical assistance
 - Bayada Home Health Care, Home Health LPN, Group, Non-Joint, approved May 13th, 2021: Continue with Permanent Registration
 - Bayada Home Health Care, Home Health RN, Group, Non-Joint, approved May 13th, 2021: Continue with Permanent Registration

Old Business

- Nothing to Report

New Business

- Nothing to Report

Report: Sub-Committees

- Re-entry:

Report: PA Apprenticeship and Training Office, PA Department of Labor and Industry (Tara Loew, Director)

- Director Tara Loew gave an update on the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL). Under the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act Title I, registered apprenticeship programs are not subject to the same application procedures and information requirements as other training providers. In Pennsylvania registered apprenticeship program sponsors that request to be on the Eligible Training Provider List are automatically eligible to be included and they will remain on the list until the sponsor requests to be removed or is no longer registered. She expressed that this list is important and has purposes it also acts as the public facing list of all registered apprenticeship programs in Pennsylvania. Currently this list has about 350 programs active. Director Tara Loew stated they have a temporary staff member working with their tech team to add the 1500 plus occupation specific programs on the website. This would be a great tool for job seekers and partners to filter to see what programs are available in the sectors, occupations, etc., The website is used to tie the Workforce Innovation Opportunity funding for PA CareerLink and Workforce staff.
- Director Tara Loew notified the council that the State Ethics Commission reached out to her to advise her that some of the members have not filed their financial disclosure forms according to their records and they were due on May 1, 2022. She stated that she emailed the applicable members asking them to login to <https://www.fid.state.pa.us> to file out the forms.
- She announced their most recent PAsmart growing registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship awards for 11 million for 26 different initiatives. The awards will service each of Pennsylvania's 67 counties and are served by one or more programs. In the prior minutes she stated the links are available from the press release to summarize each one of the awards. One million dollars was awarded to expand six ambassador networks, they were designed to support the growth of apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship in the local and regional areas to support statewide growth. Those grants were awarded to Keystone Development Partnership, Philadelphia Works, Thomas P.

Miller and Associates, Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission, Pennsylvania Apprenticeship Coordinators Association and Luzerne/Schuylkill Workforce Development Board

- The Apprenticeship and Training Office is in the process of evaluating the potential grantees for the PAsmart extension grant for Pennsylvania’s apprenticeship programs, to develop diverse talent pipelines and reach underrepresented populations within the building and construction trades. This funding is to support efforts to prepare for the need established by the Infrastructure Bill.
- The Apprenticeship and Training Office is still waiting for the award announcements for the Apprenticeship Building America Grant through the US Department of Labor. Her office’s proposal focused on State Apprenticeship System Building and modernization, to accelerate the Apprenticeship and Training Office’s efforts to focus on apprenticeship within the commonwealth’s workforce system and to support Career & Technology Center pre-apprenticeship to registered apprenticeship career pathways
- The team has started the process of planning and preparing for the impact and need for the Infrastructure Bill. They are currently identifying goals, subgoals, objectives and assigning action items and projects to staff. She has advised her staff members to brainstorm potentially things like sectors that programs are being built in, some potential occupations and other areas. They started to brainstorm together and started to come up with good ideas. She stated as they move forward, they will share some of their plans with the council with the direction that they are going. They will also be sharing the resources, researching and information that they are using to support their direction so that the council could look into it and give feedback
- Her office will explore further on the ideas of sharing more detail as far as the programs coming down the pike for potential approval. They currently share some of the overarching numbers of the amount of programs being actively worked on, which has consistently been more than 60 but they could perhaps share more detail.
 - Director Tara Loew has advised the Apprenticeship and Training Office to brainstorm on the ways and the categories they report out on, potentially things like sectors that programs are being built in, some potential occupations, etc.
 - She stated that it will be difficult to forecast out exactly the timeline that these will come in front of council as each program is different and the timelines we are seeing recently vary for programs, ranging from 9 months to over a year.
 - The number of programs presented for approval dropped from those expressing initial interest. This drop happens for various reasons, including that it could be the program sponsor realizes perhaps apprenticeship is not the right fit for them or perhaps sponsors get very close to presenting but then need to put a hold on things, etc.
- Her clerical staff is preparing for the compliance staff that will be coming aboard. They are addressing programs that lack contact information and/or have not had active apprentices with hopes to connect them with their Apprenticeship and Training Representative to assess the program sustainability. Director Tara Loew has asked her clerical staff to put together a table tracking some basic numbers related to this effort.
- The Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship (ACA) will be putting out a report going over their recommendations by the end of the year, her and the staff will be sure to distribute that information to council to be used for further discussion.

- Barry Kindt stated that the Pennsylvania’s Ethic Committees process would be great for the new and some of the old council members. He is requesting that the council receive a copy of the forms that they require if there were to be any changes or updates
 - Director Tara Loew replied to Barry Kindt and stated that she asked for a similar support for her staff in a few areas and she will continue to ask the Ethic Committee to share copies of the forms and to possibly present them to council. She stated that she also asked the Labor Law Compliance Department to come and do a presentation on prevailing wage in relation to apprenticeship due to it being outside of the jurisdiction of the Apprenticeship and Training Office. The Ethic Committee has agreed to come to do a presentation within the next few months. She stated she sent out the standards guidance that they share with the programs.

Report: Council Chairperson (Lisa Godlewski)

- Chairperson Lisa Godlewski stated that she has nothing to report, and the council will have an executive session directly after the council meeting. She stated that Director Tara Loew sent out a meeting invitation. The executive session is a closed session for only Legal staff, council members, and Director Tara Loew

Adjournment

- Chairperson Lisa Godlewski closed the council meeting at 11:08 am. Council members were asked to sign into the next meeting link following a quick break.

Executive Session

- A board training took place

The next meeting of the Pennsylvania Apprenticeship and Training Council is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. July 14th, 2022. Virtual meeting information is found on the reoccurring invite.