

ST. LOUIS COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Disability Resources Committee

Thursday, June 4, 2026, at 11:30 AM

Meeting Minutes

The Disability Resources Committee meeting was called to order on Thursday, June 4, 2026, at 11:30 AM, with the following members present:

Present: Sheila Burkett, Scott Luhrs, Kelley Lingle

Others Present: Daraa' Seward and Greta Henderson

Absent: Brad Ackman

1. **CALL TO ORDER** LWDB Director Kelley Lingle called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM.

2. WDB DIRECTOR REMARKS

2.1 Introduce Program Administrator and Business Services Representatives –

Director Lingle introduced Greta Henderson, Program Administrator, Michael Anderson and Tim Dunville, Business Services Representatives.

2.2 Membership- Disability Resources Committee Members

Director Lingle shared with the committee that she is new to the Disability Resources Sub-Committee. She explained her intent is to get feedback and input from the Board members but would love to hear what the committee members have to offer. Director Lingle also stated that she hopes other members of the Board will join the Disability Resources committee.

3. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP DISCUSSION

3.1 FWCA Policies

Director Lingle announced that several policies relevant to disability services are available to guide best practices for working with individuals with disabilities, including Reasonable Accommodations, Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity, and Limited English Proficiency (LEP).

3.2 ADA Equipment

Director Lingle informed the committee that the Job Center has ADA equipment, including a larger monitor, webcam, trackball mouse, document camera for enlarging print, alternative keyboard, adjustable table, headset, magnification tools, and other software. She also mentioned that on-site Rehabilitation

Services for the Blind (RSB) training is scheduled for staff at the MET Center to improve equipment usage and support. She told the committee members that OWD provides a handbook of the equipment used at the Missouri Job Center.

3.3 Vocational Rehabilitation Partnership

Director Lingle noted that Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is a One-Stop Partner, and that referrals are made between VR and the Job Center. Scott Luhrs explained that VR and Rehabilitation Services for the Blind (RSB) are sister agencies, with VR operating under Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and RSB operating under Department of Social Services. He said VR is a comprehensive program that helps individuals with disabilities overcome barriers to employment, while RSB is a separate agency that serves individuals who are visually impaired. Scott explained the self-referral process and the dual-customer approach to serving clients, customers, and businesses. Sheila Burkett asked whether VR was the only referral program. Director Lingle explained that there are many One-Stop Partners and said she would send the Memorandum of Understanding and Infrastructure Agreement to board members once all partners had signed it. Scott clarified that his comments about the One-Stop system were based on his personal experience with VR services and how he could assist individuals with accommodation or resources related to IT or rehabilitation services.

3.4 Community Agencies

Director Lingle mentioned the importance of engaging community agencies and creative training pathways to build pipelines and supporting meaningful retention-positive employment opportunities. Director Lingle mentioned the St. Louis Nexus Group and asked whether Board members were aware of any opportunities. She noted that the Business Services team attends the virtual meetings and asked Scott whether he also attends. Scott replied that he serves on the Gateway Nexus steering committee and could make announcements about FWCA and the American Job Center. Director Lingle thanked him and said she would like to ensure the committee has strong community partners and reliable referral sources for services the organization may not be able to provide.

3.5 Potential Partnerships

Director Lingle asked whether there were other potential partnerships to support job seekers and individuals seeking training. Sheila asked if there was a list of current partnerships, and Daraa' shared the list of training partnerships that transferred from the previous fiscal agent. Sheila asked how the organization can strengthen its community presence and build stronger pipelines. She also expressed concern about unemployment numbers, helping people transition

into employment, and understanding where the largest unemployment gaps exist. She noted that the St. Louis art community is beginning to focus more on entrepreneurship. Daraa' explained that partnerships provide hands-on training opportunities and that the organization is seeking additional partners to meet the needs of individuals coming through the door. She also noted that the subcontract renewal process is underway and that the new fiscal or program year begins July 1st. Scott identified the Starkloff Disability Institute and St. Louis ARC as potential partners.

3.6 Disability Labor Force Statistics

Director Lingle shared a Department of Labor statistics overview and emphasized the committee's central goal of improving employment outcomes for people with disabilities and helping reduce unemployment. Scott suggested meeting with leaders from Employment Alliance and Doorways to discuss employment barriers, including disability-related and transportation challenges, and to identify strategies for bringing quality jobs to residents in the city and county. He described this as a significant opportunity for agencies to collaborate, discuss community needs, and review workforce trends.

3.7 Job Opportunities

Scott noted that he maintains a VR Plus job list with more than 1,500 openings compiled from multiple sources and would share it with the group. He added that he had received several business leads, including openings that had already resulted in job offers. Daraa' noted that Business Services Representatives should have been included on the meeting to share related employer information. Scott Luhrs said he would be interested in assessing relationships with major employers, including Centene, Enterprise Mobility, Nestlé Purina, Worldwide Technology, Edward Jones, BJC, SSM, Schnucks, Walgreens, and Home Depot. He also suggested adapting job descriptions to better align with individual abilities, particularly for neurodivergent individuals.

4. NEXT STEPS

4.1 Education and Training Needs

Sheila shared information about paid skills training through Pioneer Bakery in Kirkwood and a food truck apprenticeship opportunity with Social Kitchen. Scott emphasized the importance of skills development and noted that TechSTL which is a large organization, is in the process of awarding organizations with Google scholarships and providing online access to Coursera to become Google certified.

4.2 Identifying Supportive Services

Director Lingle mentioned the committee functions as a collaborative advisory board and identifying specific barriers that prevent job placement for people with disabilities will help target supportive services effectively.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Equal Opportunity Contact Person/Stacey Garner

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 PLEASE NOTE: The agenda of the meeting may include a motion to go into closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021.1, and Sec. 114.020.1 SLCRO, for the purposes of discussing legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys. The agenda of the meeting may also include a motion to go into closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021.12, and Sec. 114.020.12 SLCRO, for the purposes of discussing sealed bids and related documents until the bids are opened; or sealed proposals and related documents or any documents related to a negotiated contract until a contract is executed, or all proposals are rejected.

7. ADJOURNMENT

For individuals with disabilities who may need an accommodation to participate in the meeting or require an alternative format for this material, please contact Kelley Lingle at (314) 399-4376 (voice) or call RelayMO 711 or 1-800-735-2966 (TTY), or by email at klingle@fwca-stl.com. In order to provide your requested accommodation, please contact us as soon as possible.