Board Meeting Summary  
July 18-19, 2013

Council Members Present:

Joe Barela, Laurie Brown, Deb Capra, David Csintyan, Josh Davies, Maria Feekes, Aaron Fernandes, Peggy Gair, Ellen Golombek, Karla Grazier, Jay Hardy, Dennis Hisey, Ryan Keiffer, Kristie LaRose, Jeannie Larsen, Wy Livingston, Ken Lund, Sean McCarville, Don McClure, Senator Linda Newell, Jessie Ruiz, Jack Saunders, Kyle Sickman, Toya Speckman, Mark Spiecker, Trish Sullivan, Stephanie Van Cleve, John Vukich, Grover Wallace, Roni Wisdom, Kathy Worthington, Julie Zinn

Others Present:

Representatives: Julie Kerksick (for Reggie Bicha), Inta Morris (for Lt. Governor Joe Garcia), Simon Tafoya (for Governor Hickenlooper), Chantal Unfug (for Reeves Brown)  
Staff Members: Kate Anderson, Amy Hodson, Emily Templin Lesh, Mary Probst, Stephanie Steffens, Rebecca Waldo  
Others Present: Angela Baber, Clarke Becker, Bill Dowling, Andrew Freedman, Cher Haavind, Dawn Garcia, Kari Linker, John Martinez, Oscar Morillon, Phil Noble, Jo O’Brien, Brian Pool, Angelo Trujillo, Betty Velasquez, Charlie Whelan, Tamara White

Agenda Approval, Old Business and Consent Agenda:

July board meeting agenda approved.  
June meeting minutes adopted. 
Consent agenda approved, which included a by-laws change that extends the length of the Chair’s term to 2 years, a proposal for the October meeting to be held in Fort Collins, and a request from Treasurer Kyle Sickman to give the Executive Committee the authority to approve the budget, since there CWDC does not have discretionary funds this year (if reinstated, will return to full Council approval of budget).

Education in Colorado: A Conversation on “Crib to Career”:

Andrew Freedman with Colorado Commits to Kids talked to the Council about the upcoming ballot initiative on education reform, what it means to Coloradans and the future economic prosperity of the state, and why it is needed to maintain Colorado’s competitive advantage. There was discussion about the Council’s role in supporting and advocating for the initiative. Tamara White, Director of Admission and Access Policy for the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE), talked about the current college admissions and remedial policies and the recommended changes (see slides). There was open discussion with her and Inta Morris, Interim Deputy Executive Director of CDHE, around preparing P-12 students to enter higher education and/or the workforce.

Welcome from UCCS and Tours:

UCCS Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Mary Coussons-Read, welcomed the Council to the campus and shared examples of how UCCS is working with industry, P-12 education, economic development, and workforce development partners to prepare students for the jobs of today and tomorrow. The Council then toured the Center for Advanced Technologies and Optical Materials and saw the university’s CISCO Teaching Technologies used for distance learning.

Strategic Plan Progress to Date, Stories from CWDC Members, and Council Rebranding Initiative:

Mary Probst gave an update on the progress CWDC has made on the strategic plan over the last year. She also discussed the results of the Member Self-Evaluation, and how ratings have changed from this time last year (see...
Several Council members shared stories about how they have fulfilled their role as a Council member and what the outcomes were.

Stephanie Steffens talked about the Council rebranding initiative and why a survey of partners and stakeholders was necessary. CWDC asked the Office of Government, Policy & Public Relations (GPPR) for the Colorado Department of Labor & Employment (CDLE), to conduct the survey and utilize the feedback to evaluate/update the branding for the CWDC. Cher Haavind, Director of GPPR, and Oscar Morillon, Graphic Designer, presented the themes of the survey feedback and revealed the new logo (see slides). There will be further work on the brand and a campaign to roll it out, using feedback from a task group of Council members.

**Updating the Strategic Plan (see slides):**

CWDC has been working with Brian Pool, a consultant with North Highland (the firm that is working with the Governor’s Office and state agencies on process improvement projects) on mapping out the strategic plan and structure of the Council. Stephanie presented a proposed structure of the Council, and it was approved by the Council. The proposed new mission statement, shared goals with other partners, and the updated Council objectives were also discussed. A Strategic Planning and Branding task group of Council members will work to refine the strategic plan. Angela Baber with the Colorado Legacy Foundation talked about the Governor’s STEM Action Plan and how it supports and ties into the new structure of the Council.

**Discussion with Cabinet Members:**

Brian Pool facilitated a discussion with Ken Lund, Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development & International Trade (OEDIT), and Ellen Golombek, Executive Director of CDLE. Ken talked about the accomplishments OEDIT has celebrated recently, especially in attracting new business to Colorado. Ellen noted process improvement, virtual job fairs, and the Virtual Workforce Center at the Libraries as just some of CDLE’s recent accomplishments. Q&A with the Council members followed.

**Policy & Legislative Committee Update (see document):**

Don McClure, Co-Chair of the Policy & Legislative Committee, gave an update on WIA Reauthorization. He asked Kyle Sickman to show a comparison of the CWDC budget when there were discretionary funds and what it looks like now – a significant difference. Don talked about the SKILLS Act that passed the U.S. House of Representatives and the draft bill that is being discussed in the U.S. Senate, and encouraged Council members to call their representatives and send customized letters to staff encouraging WIA Reauthorization with full reinstatement of the Governor’s 15% discretionary funds. Don also mentioned that Tom Perez was confirmed as U.S. Secretary of Labor on July 18th.

**AspenPointe Presentation and Tour of Pikes Peak Workforce Center:**

Jonathan Liebert, VP of AspenPointe Enterprises, talked to the Council about social enterprise and what AspenPointe does to help prepare disadvantaged individuals for in-demand occupations (see slides). He then took the Council members to the AspenPointe Café to show them the training in action. Charlie Whelan and staff followed with an engaging tour of the Pikes Peak Workforce Center.

**Recap of Past 2 Years and Expectations for What’s To Come:**

Dave gave a recap of his past two years as Chair. He talked about the foundation that CWDC has laid through its many accomplishments and his hopes for the future, then turned it over to Toya to talk about her goals as Chair, which include diversity and inclusion, local and state collaboration, a focus on serving special populations, and increased partnerships with local workforce investment boards. The October meeting will be Toya’s first meeting as Chair, and Dave will assume the role of Past Chair.

**More information:**

- Link to the full meeting minutes
- Link to UCCS: http://www.uccs.edu/
- Link to PPWFC: http://www.ppwfc.org/
- Link to AspenPointe: http://www.aspenpointe.org/
- Link to Colorado Commits to Kids Campaign: http://www.coloradocommitstokids.com/