Attendees by:
Council Members: Jeff Ackermann, Joe Barela, Julie Charneskie, Dave Csintyan, Annie Davies, Josh Davies, Clay Drake, Maria Feekes, Peggy Gair, Ellen Golombek, Karla Grazier, Dennis Hisey, Ryan Keiffer, Kristie LaRose, Jeff Macco, Dean McCall, Don McClure, Jim Neubecker, Senator Linda Newell, Susan Rogers, Kyle Sickman, Toya Speckman, Trish Sullivan, Paula Swenson, Stephanie Van Cleve, Grover Wallace, Kathy Worthington, Julie Zinn
State Agency Representatives: Rebecca Holmes, Margaret Kirkpatrick, Levetta Love, Inta Morris, Scott Stump
Staff members: Amy Hodson, Emily Lesh, Eric Mergens, Stephanie Steffens, Rebecca Waldo
Others Present: Kelly Folks, A/D Works!; Joni Friedman, Larimer County Workforce Center; John Melville, Francie Genz, and Jessie Oettinger, Collaborative Economics; Brent Parton, National Governors Association; Lynn Selby, Governor’s Workforce Investment Board (Maryland); Lindsey Woolsey, The Woolsey Group

Prior to the board meeting, additional guests joined the Council for lunch and a facilitated discussion about “The Role of Sector Partnerships and Career Pathways in Tackling Poverty.”

Chair Toya Speckman called the meeting to order at 1:41 p.m.
(See “CWDC May 2014 Meeting Slides”.)

Approval of the Agenda and Old Business
Toya asked for approval of the agenda. Josh Davies made the motion, and Ellen Golombek seconded. The agenda was approved without discussion. Toya asked for approval of the March meeting minutes. Dave Csintyan made the motion, and Grover Wallace seconded. Without discussion, the March meeting minutes were approved.

Updates
Director Stephanie Steffens updated the members on how the CWDC and its partners have increasingly been recognized for the work being done in Colorado on sector partnerships and career pathways.

During introductions, guests and new members introduced themselves, and agency representatives provided updates.

Toya provided a review of the April pre-work session and its results. There were two items that were voted on during the pre-work session: the July meeting location proposal (Centennial) and the CWDC’s support of the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative. Both items were approved.

Project Assistant Eric Mergens gave an update on how the statewide migration of website platforms will affect the Council members and other end-users. This migration will be completed by the July meeting and will incorporate the feedback from the April pre-work session.
CWDC Strategic Plan: The Role of CWDC in Convening and Supporting Collaborative Work

Stephanie gave an overview of the 2014 legislative session, reiterating to the Council members that it was a very busy session and that the Council staff has been diligent in aligning CWDC’s work and priorities with those of its partners.

- Re-HIRE CO: This program has been one of the most successful opportunities for people to prove themselves in the workforce. There was a recently convened conversation on what the program could look like in the future and what could be done to have the most impact. Essentially, a program to reach the hardest to reach job seeker. Levetta Love, Director of the Office of Economic Security at the Colorado Department of Human Services, was central to the program’s development and provided an update. Levetta will provide the Council with notes on the program’s statistics.

- Hospitality Career Education Grant Program: This bill created a hospitality career secondary education grant program based on the ProStart model. The program was created in the Colorado Department of Labor & Employment’s Workforce Development Programs. The Council was charged with program oversight and will help with next steps.

- Community College Four-Year Programs: Scott Stump from the Colorado Community College System provided an update on this piece of legislation regarding the ability of community colleges to offer bachelor of applied science (B.A.S.) degree programs. While this is very exciting news, it will still be about two years until the first four-year degree program will be rolled out.

- SB 14-205 - Talent Pipeline Working Group: Senator Newell provided the update on this bill that she and Representative Dave Young co-sponsored, in concert with the Colorado Technology Association. Currently, many companies have to look outside the country to find the employees they need; for years this has been an issue in key industries, but especially in the Health & Wellness and Information & Technology industries. This bill creates a coordinated system to advance the skills and educational attainment of Coloradans across workforce development and education, while promoting deep, authentic, and ongoing employer engagement through the sector partnership model. The Council staff, in tandem with the Department of Higher Education, the Department of Education, the Department of Labor & Employment, and the Office of Economic Development & International Trade will work collaboratively to issue an annual Colorado Talent Report.

- HB 14-1085 - Adult Education Literacy Act: Margaret Kirkpatrick from the Department of Education provided an update. Historically, Colorado has not had state funding for adult education services. This is really an economic bill, not just an education bill, which will use Adult Education as a way to support filling the middle skills job gap. There will be ongoing funding to ensure that the hardest to serve are the beginning point. The idea is to build local partnerships through this bill and to get the word out to the workforce regions and to human services partners that these resources exist. It will also help generationally with basic skills that can be transferred to the children of those impacted. There will be a Fall rollout of the implementation of this bill. Ultimately, success of this bill will equal employment for those served by it.

- HB 14-1384 - Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative: Ellen Golombek introduced the background of the bill, which was originally called the Opportunity Pipeline, and how it will relate to post-secondary opportunities with a broader scope. Inta Morris from the Department of Higher Education and Rebecca Holmes from the Department of Education shared updates and a hope that in the future, this initiative can be messaged to high schools, as well. Joe Barela suggested that the CWDC Executive Committee champion the outcome – jobs. Stephanie correlated this bill to each of the parts of the strategic plan; this fits the entire scope of the strategic plan. In the open discussion of the bill, the following topics and questions were raised:
  - We need to be sure to provide accurate data along the way so that informed decisions can be made by students and parents.
  - Will there be any sort of opportunity for wrap-around services?
  - How are we going to change something culturally? In order to do this, students and parents must be incentivized properly.
- It was decided that the award should be merit-based.
- Inta Morris mentioned a statewide report that was used. The Council would like to be provided with a copy.

Stephanie facilitated a discussion on how to begin to think about this opportunity in the context of the five goals of the strategic plan and in terms of implementation in the future. Josh Davies provided an open invitation for members to join the Education and Training committee, and also encouraged each member to be involved at the committee level as much as possible to have direct impact on these initiatives.

**New Business**

Due to November’s gubernatorial election, the recommendation was made to postpone the nomination of a Chair-Elect until January. Kathy Worthington made the motion, with Senator Linda Newell seconding. The motion to postpone the nomination of a Chair-Elect until January 2015 was approved.

Council staff requested a few volunteers to review each workforce region’s PY14 Local Plan Narrative that is set to take effect in July. Volunteers will review the plans, ensure alignment with the CWDC’s goals, and subsequently make recommendations to the Executive Committee to approve them. The members who volunteered to review the local plans were Trish Sullivan, Kristie LaRose, and Grover Wallace.

The July 17-18 meeting will be hosted by A/D Works! in Centennial. There will be a tour of the Centennial Airport and a dinner and reception at the Fiddler’s Green Amphitheatre. Mike Fitzgerald, CEO of the Denver South Economic Development Partnership, will speak over dinner. The agenda and details will be sent out in June.

A proposal was brought forward to change the dates of the October meeting from October 16-17 to **October 9-10**. Susan Rogers made the motion, and Ryan Keiffer seconded. The motion to move the meeting up one week was approved. Please note: the location of this meeting will be voted on at the July meeting, and Council members with an interest in hosting the meeting in their region will need to fill out the brief Meeting Location Proposal form.

Toya adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.