



Angelo Farooq, Chair

Kaina Pereira, Executive Director

Gavin Newsom, Governor

## CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD FULL BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

**Wednesday, May 8, 2024**

The full meeting is available to view on the CWDB YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t9WkTc3FwS8>

Full meeting documents, public comments, agenda, and future meeting dates may be found on the [CWDB website](#).

### Members Present:

- Chairman Angelo Farooq
- Diane Factor
- Bob Redlo
- Jeremy Smith
- Jamil Dada
- Stewart Knox
- Javier Romero for Nancy Farias

### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Farooq called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and explained how the hybrid-zoom meeting worked. To confirm the quorum, a roll call was held.

Only Board Members, guests, and staff were present at the meeting, either in person or by Zoom. The public can view the live stream via YouTube or in person. Public comment is open at [Boardpubliccomment@cwdb.ca.gov](mailto:Boardpubliccomment@cwdb.ca.gov) or by being recognized by the chairperson. All emails will be read aloud and included in the meeting minutes.

Chairman Farooq welcomed the new Executive Director at the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB), Kaina Pereira. Pereira is joining the CWDB from the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development.

Chairman Farooq also wanted to recognize the passing of Michael Gallo, who was a long-standing member of the board and an active leader in the private sector. Jamil Dada shared memories of Gallo and his impact in Southern California on workforce.

## 2. ACTION ITEMS

### a. Roll Call

### b. Approve March 13, 2024, meeting summary.

Jamil Dada motioned to approve; Jeremy Smith seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

## 3. UPDATES AND DISCUSSION

### a. Labor Agency and Budget Update

Secretary Stewart Knox at the Labor Agency reported that the 2024-2025 budget is out and that there have been tough decisions regarding what budget cuts will take place within the Labor Agency. The focus on the budget cuts has been centered around where the Labor Agency can effectively work better together with other agencies to help develop strategies to make sure that goals are met.

The California Job's First Council's first meeting was on May 8, 2024, with nine different agencies. This council has allowed the opportunity to talk about economic and workforce development growth for the future and to develop strategies to utilize each agency's funds in a more efficient way. The Job Act Coordination continues through IST, the strike team founded by Governor Newsom, which includes eight of the agencies that the Labor Agency sits on. IST has been focusing on how to utilize federal funds while also leveraging workforce development opportunities and gauging the possible outcomes.

Knox reported that he is a member of the Master Plan Edge Council for California's Master Plan of Education. There have been two meetings to date, and there has been a lot of work through WestEd, a nonprofit organization in California, to develop strategies that focus on workforce development and education. The Labor Agency has been seeking higher levels of coordination with the administration to make sure that they are leveraging all resources to have the outcomes that they want.

Abby Snay reported that the Hilton Foundation awarded half a million dollars to the Corporation for Skilled Workforce (CSW). CSW is a trusted workforce intermediary that has worked around the country to support the labor agency and other partners in articulating a youth workforce strategy that aligns well with the Career Education Master Plan and supports the Labor Agency's participation in the plan.

Jeremy Smith wanted to emphasize the importance of California's Master Plan of Education and Career Technical Education (CTE) to Mr. Knox and to the board as an advocate of 20 years for construction trade union workers. Smith mentioned that there has been a push for construction trade union workers to not only go through apprenticeships but also complete four-year colleges. Mr. Smith believes that the Master Ed Plan is a real opportunity to change how CTE in the state is run. Mr. Smith also commented on how education in the state lost funding in the past, including CTE. For example, high school used to prepare people either in post-secondary education in the college setting or a career - which Smith believes is now lost because of the lack of funding for CTE. Mr. Smith believes that the state has a responsibility to let kids know that there are many other opportunities out

there if college is not available in the future. Mr. Knox agreed with Mr. Smith and summarized that these are the types of conversations that are happening within the Master Plan Edge Council.

Diane Factor commented that she would like to see this apprenticeship concept apply to the service sector, healthcare, and manufacturing, which she believes is sorely needed due to the high growth of industries.

### **b. Legislative Update**

Mr. Knox reported a few high-level updates of legislation moving through the Labor Agency and that there are bills moving at all levels throughout the Labor Agency. There are 400 bills that are being tracked within the Labor Agency, with most bills through the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR), such as the labor commissioner's office, workers compensation, California Division of Occupational Safety and Health, and the Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) standards. The Employment Training Panel (ETP) bill is moving through, and several bills are moving through the CWDB.

### **c. State Plan Update**

Kaina Pereira provided an update on the State Plan; the CWDB submitted information to the Department of Labor (DOL) as required for compliance. The annual report also included responses from DOL that are currently going through revisions at CWDB. These updates include compliance revisions as well as further explanation of the details initially provided. The revisions are being reviewed by CWDB and by the Labor Agency. The updated report should be submitted on May 9, 2024, and at the next board meeting, the CWDB will provide a more comprehensive update on the finalization of the State Plan.

### **d. Review of California Workforce Development Board's Legislative Mandate and Compliance Efforts**

Brooke Barnum-Roberts, Chief Counsel at the CWDB, presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Board's Legislative Mandate and Compliance Efforts to date. The presentation's primary goals were to provide a legal refresher on the role and responsibilities of the CWDB, summarize compliance efforts, and help energize and mobilize the CWDB to engage with its legislative mandate. Under the Unemployment Insurance Code Section 14013, one of the main general duties of the Board is to promote the development of a well-educated and highly skilled 21st-century workforce and the development of a high road economy that offers an educated and skilled workforce with fair compensation and treatment in the workplace. The presentation also offered a review of the Board's Bylaws, which consisted of two sections: committees and attendance expectations. The full text of proposed amendments will be included in the May full board meeting information, and a discussion with the board to take action will be in the following August full board meeting.

Mrs. Barnum-Roberts concluded that the focus of the board moving forward would be to ensure compliance, fulfill the legislative mandate, and use the board more effectively. The full presentation is available to view on the CWDB YouTube Channel.

Diane Factor commented on the previous presentation at the March full board meeting regarding the SB150 presentation. Mrs. Factor wanted to address the lack of notice of the submittal of the SB150 report as well as the lack of time for the Board to submit feedback. Chairman Farooq noted Mrs. Factor's concern, and Mr. Knox explained that the lack of notice was due to a scheduling issue. Mr. Knox gave a further explanation that the SB150 presentation was for informational purposes only and

that by law, no action was to be taken or needed at the time of the meeting but also assured the Board that the Labor Agency would do a better job at giving the Board ample time to respond with feedback or any input.

Bob Redlo expanded on Mrs. Factor's concerns and emphasized that members of the Board want to ensure that they are involved in processes like SB150 to be able to provide meaningful change to the public.

Mr. Redlo also shared his thoughts on the goals and focus of the Board moving forward with new leadership. Mr. Redlo believes the Board needs to adjust the current structures to make programs at the CWDB run more efficiently. Mrs. Factor agreed with Mr. Redlo's statements. Mr. Pereira expanded on information regarding funding and future goals at the CWDB.

Chairman Farooq acknowledged Mr. Redlo and Mrs. Factor's concerns and commented that these issues will be taken into consideration moving forward. Chairman Farooq also introduced the possibility of having a committee within the Board to discuss enhancing employer or industry engagement.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

### **4. Other Business**

**a.** Chairman Farooq explained The Political Reform Act, which requires certain officials and employees who serve in positions designated in the CWDB's Conflict of Interest Code to file a statement of economic interest or FPPC form 700. The Chairman reminded the board members that this statement was due on April 2, 2024, and late statements are subject to a \$10 fine per day with a maximum fine of up to \$100. Board members are to reach out to the HR staff at the CWDB with any questions.

**b.** The next full board meeting is on May 22, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Jamil Dada motioned to adjourn; Jeremy Smith seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned in loving memory of Michael Gallo at 11:17 a.m.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

### **5. General Public Comments**

No general public comments.