

**BRIAN SANDOVAL**  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF NEVADA  
Office of the Governor  
101 South Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701  
(775) 684-5670

### Minutes

Name of Organization: P-20W Advisory Council  
Date and Time of Meeting: July 15, 2015, 2:00 PM  
Place of Meeting: State Capitol Building ,Guinn Room Annex  
101 North Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

and

Grant Sawyer State Building  
555 East Washington Ave, Suite 5100  
Las Vegas, NV 89101

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call  
Brian Mitchell, Education Fellow, Office of the Governor

Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Members Present: Crystal Abba, Erin Cranor, Caryn Swobe, Stacy Woodbury, Kimberly Regan, Dr. Kim Metcalf, Sue Dellenbach, Marilyn Dondero-Loop, Jacki Brown, Dale Erguiaga, Dennis Perea

Excused Members: Assemblywoman Heidi Swank, Senator Becky Harris

Guests Present: Glenn Meyer, Linda Heiss, Dave Schmidt, Corey Chatis

Staff Present: Brian Mitchell, Willy Ramirez

A quorum was declared.

- II. Public Comment (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item.)

No public comments.

- III. Introduction of Council,  
Brian Mitchell, Education Fellow, Office of the Governor

Brian Mitchell facilitated introductions of the members of the council.

- IV. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair (**for possible action**)  
Brian Mitchell, Education Fellow, Office of the Governor

Brian Mitchell provided a brief history of the Advisory Council and explained the need for a Chair and a Vice-Chair. He then opened the floor for nominations to appoint a Chair of the Council. Caryn Swob was nominated and unanimously elected as Chair. The floor was then opened for nominations to appoint a Vice-Chair. Marilyn Dondero Loop was nominated as Vice-Chair and elected unanimously.

- V. Review of Executive Order  
Brian Mitchell, Education Fellow, Office of the Governor

Brian Mitchell reviewed the 2011 Executive Order which created a longitudinal data system to track educational and workplace data, as well as for an advisory council to monitor and guide this system. He also reviewed the 2015 Executive Order which emphasized the use of the longitudinal data set to monitor transitions between the various levels of education, such as the transition from middle school to high school and high school to college. The Executive Order also highlighted the need for our lower education instruction to appropriately meet college and career needs and expectations. Mr. Mitchell said the Council needs to meet at least quarterly and have recommendations ready to present a report to the Governor by April of 2016.

- VI. Overview of Nevada's Education Data System  
Glenn Meyer, Director of Information Technology,  
Nevada Department of Education  
Linda Heiss, Senior Director of Institutional Research,  
Nevada System of Higher Education  
Dave Schmidt, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation

Glenn Meyer, Director of Information Technology for the Nevada Department of Education presented information regarding the longitudinal data system currently used in Nevada. He preceded this information by providing some historical background on previous education data systems. He went on to explain that the current system pulls data from the Department of Education (DOE), Nevada

System of Higher Education, and the Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation (DETR). These organizations choose what data they want to release to the system, which matches in a central hub. Mr. Meyer expressed some current challenges in tracking students through the various systems due to the differing forms of identification used by the three organizations. DETR data is exclusively sorted by social security numbers (SSN), whereas DOE data is sorted by name and birth date. Glenn Meyer said that the system was capable of matching student data between these databases for purposes of analysis within the central hub. An automatic matching of this data occurs yearly. Brian Mitchell asked what time of year the matching occurred. Mr. Meyer responded that the automated matching took place in May. He said that requested data could be matched any time of year through use of the research portal. Dr. Metcalf asked what types of data the system collected. Glenn Meyer responded that the system tracks all sorts of data including demographic factors, and various performance focused factors such as test score and grades. Dr. Metcalf asked if there was any way to measure growth from year to year using the system. Glenn Meyer explained that this was only possible for Criterion Referenced Test (CRT) data because all of the other tests were generally only taken once whereas the CRT's are taken in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, so it is possible to observe change in a student's performance in that interval. He also mentioned that there was no movement to integrate private schools into the system. With the passage of the new Education Saving Account (ESA) legislation, private schools will have to report the results of certain state mandated tests. Mr. Meyer indicated that this data may be included, but in order to protect student privacy, the information would likely be introduced as an aggregate of private schools rather than on an individual school basis. Mr. Meyer went on to review the vendor selection process for determining what private contractor would assist with the implementation of this system. He reiterated the way the system was structured around the central hub, but all of the data remained in sole control of the individual organizations. He then talked about the public portal to the system, dubbed "N-PWR", which he explained would be launched on July 22, with, full a press releases planned for the end of July. Glenn Meyer said he plans to apply for an additional 4.9 million dollars in grants to fund various reports. Mr. Meyer also spent some time discussing the need for sustainability funding to keep the program continuing once the grant money runs out. He explained that the program was located in DETR to separate the program from the negative public sentiment towards Common Core in regards to the DOE. Glenn Meyers introduced Linda Heiss, Senior Director of Institutional Research with the Nevada System of Higher Education, and Dave Schmidt, from the Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation.

Linda Heiss relayed the decision to focus research using this new data system on questions regarding research and evaluation, and college and career readiness. Ms. Heiss used the N-PWR beta site to demonstrate how the project could be used to provide a more in depth presentation and investigation of data beyond the traditional portable document format (PDF) format. Ms. Heiss highlighted in particular the data set regarding the financial outcomes associated

with various degrees to determine the career outcomes of Nevada graduates. Mr. Schmidt showcased the content and function of the average salary by industry and most common degree by industry reports. Linda Heiss briefly detailed the other reports that have been produced using the data program. These included reports on continuation rates from high school to higher education, math pathways, and remedial enrollment in Nevada institutions of higher education. Linda Heiss noted that the report on remedial enrollment featured a methodology change from simply tracking enrollment to tracking student placement scores. Ms. Heiss also described the process for sponsored researchers to utilize this new data system. Glenn Meyer expanded on this point and showcased the various security protocols facing researchers attempting to utilize this service, as well as showcasing the step-by-step process built in to the research component of the system.

VII. Discussion of Work Plan, Working Group Assignments and Meeting Schedule  
Caryn Swob, Chair **(for possible action)**

Linda Heiss briefly outlined some of the things the Council needs to do to ensure the success of this program moving forward. Ms. Heiss focused chiefly on the need to determine what research questions must be asked and what the priorities should be. She also mentioned the importance of engaging other agencies like the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to increase data and improve matching ability. Lastly, she highlighted the favorable legislation that helps this project run smoothly, and said that this sort of favorable legislation must be maintained.

Glenn Meyer briefly described the role of the Federal Department of Education in the development process of this project and introduced Corey Chatis. Ms. Chatis echoed Ms. Heiss's call for the prioritization of research questions. Ms. Chatis expressed that she believed Nevada's program was progressing well and stressed the need to continue to tailor the program to Nevada's needs and realities. Linda Heiss stressed the importance of protecting student anonymity to Nevada's data program. Crystal Abba voiced a desire to produce a more in depth investigation of continuation rates for eventual publication. Glenn Meyer asserted that the program had the bandwidth necessary to support the research needs of involved agencies as well as some outside research. He added that there was certainly room to expand the bandwidth. Ms. Chatis pointed out that human capacity to interact intelligibly with the data was going to be more limiting than bandwidth. Dale Erguiaga from DOE proposed that non-voting members could bring future research questions to the Council from their agencies. He added that once these questions were prioritized, the Council should see what questions are important to the public and outside researchers.

Brian Mitchell said that he would be drafting the final report with input from the Advisory Council determining how to pursue the various challenges and questions for the report to Governor Sandoval.

Dr. Metcalf expressed interest in testing the hub to ensure accurate matching of individual's data. Glenn Meyer assured Dr. Metcalf that the system has been

tested successfully. Ms. Chatis recommended that the Council create an independent Research Consortium to capitalize on outside research potential. Dr. Metcalf concurred with Ms. Chatis and maintained that such an approach would be beneficial and met with interest by students at Nevada's educational institutions. Based on Mr. Erguiaga earlier suggestion, a motion was made to have the various agency heads compile their agencies research needs and priorities and present them to the Council at a later date. The motion passed unanimously.

Brian Mitchell suggested that the Council meet again on October 2, in order to allow a visiting expert to meet with the Council. The Council agreed to October 2 as the next meeting date. Dr. Metcalf suggested that the meeting dates be set for the remainder of the calendar year. It was decided that the Council would meet every other month moving forward.

- VIII. Public Comment (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item.)

No public comments.

- IX. Adjournment

Brian Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 3:49 pm.