

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs  
2/1/2023

Sarah Buxton, *State Director of Workforce Development, Department of Labor*  
Michael Harrington, *Commissioner, Department of Labor*

Status of workforce development system

- Decline of individuals seeking services
- Changes:
  - Development of business services team
- Workforce innovation and opportunity act Fed. 2016
  - Changes the lens with which state workforce agency approached work
  - Before: began with the job seeker
  - WIOA asked to give equal attention to employers
    - What jobs do you have? What are the qualifications? Are they necessary?
    - Apprentice programs
  - Working with employers, working with job seekers
    - Two-armed system
- Sen. Ram-Hinsdale: If there is a group of job seekers that need training, are they steered towards an upscaling program?
  - S.11 investment in the “Work Based Learning and Training Program”
  - Funding that makes internships, apprenticeships, available
  - Work based learning and training
- Sen. Clarkson, we want upscaling, but we also want entry level
  - Study on people who are upscaled, study of their progression?
  - Ask for tracking on CCV trained individuals
  - Privacy issues
  - Population that has an investment of services
- CTE
  - Sen. Wendy Harrison, are we losing VT CTE individuals to other states?
- CTE 17 Ed. Centers in VT
  - Difference between young adult CTE programs and adult CTE programs
  - No clear owner of adult CTE programs, focused on workforce instead of continued school.
    - Occupational skills, work-based training
  - Will be receiving recommendations on how to manage this complex independent system from Agency of ED. Independently acting programs
    - What should the governance structure be?
    - Autonomous?
    - Secondary Ed. System?
    - Should they live with college systems?
- Post-covid people are not going out to offices to seek services
  - Rebuilding with new staff
  - Started to cut back on open office times
    - Not open in the same way because it’s a waste of resources

- #laboronlocation
  - Staff goes out to areas of potential client density
  - Builds partnership with the community
  - “We will come to you”
- Model is working well
  - Better in some counties than others
  - Needs are different in each area
- Sen. Brock, how does the job seeker find information?
  - Services are available online
  - QR codes, interest form
    - Will be contacted by case manager within 24 hrs.
- Sen. Clarkson asks that WD include Sen. Econ. Dev. And House Commerce in job statistic monthly updates.
- Takeaway, system of employers and job seekers needs to be connected