

Draft Meeting Minutes: Apprenticeship Advisory Board

Date: April 16, 2026
Prepared by: Nou Yang
Location: In person at the Minnesota, Department of Labor and Industry

Attendance (Attendees are listed alphabetically order by last name)

Members Present:

- Mary Berg
- Andrew Campeau
- Tom Dicklich
- Erin Larsen
- Norma Miller
- Don Mullin, Chair
- Sophie Thaden
- Sara Paul

DLI Staff Present:

- Vicky Castorena
- Des Culpitt
- Naomi Cowan
- Grace Ouellette
- Kelly Henriksen
- Annie Jenkin
- LaRohn Latimer
- Gerri McGimpsey
- Byron Millea
- Darcus Mitchell
- Paul Nikstad
- Jeremy Parker
- Meghana Shroff
- Mahdi Surosh
- Ruth Taylor
- Nou Yang

Visitors Present:

- Eric Abbett
- Sarah Copeland
- Joi Jones
- Mary Des Jarlaus
- Genna Hart
- Sherry Kinibrugh
- Wally Kirchoff
- Sara Lach
- Noelle Meyer
- Janelle Miller
- Caren Mogen
- Pete Teigland
- Steve Tuhy
- Jill Westfall

Agenda items:

1. Call to order

- The meeting was called to order by Don Mullin at 1:30 p.m. Roll call was taken by Erin Larsen, and a quorum was declared.

2. Approval of agenda

- A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the Apprenticeship Advisory Board Meeting agenda for April 16, 2026.

3. Approval of drafted meeting minutes

- A motion was made, seconded, and approved for the January 15, 2026, board meeting minutes.

4. Department of Labor and Industry greeting and update

- Kate Perushek, Deputy Commissioner at Department of Labor and Industry, provided an update on DLI's legislative proposals for Construction Codes and Licensing and highlighted Apprenticeship Week scheduled for April 26 - May 2, 2026.

5. Board member comments

- Don Mullin shared information about the connection between driver's licenses and construction trades requirements. Many students note that it is challenging to obtain their driver's license to enter an apprenticeship pathway.
- Norma Miller reported that many apprentices have been getting employed in the trades and are excited for the upcoming construction season.
- Sara Paul shared the first Teachers RAP cohort will be graduating in May.
- Sophie Thaden shared that Minneapolis Pipefitters have been receiving many applicants and are conducting ongoing interviews for new apprentices.

6. Clean Economy Occupations Grant Spotlight

- Pete Teigland, Training Director, Twin City Iron Workers Apprenticeship and Training Fund, shared how the Clean Economy Grant has benefited their registered apprenticeship program. A total of 125 apprentices benefited from the Clean Economy Grant.

7. Apprenticeship Program Development

- Paul Nikstad, Senior Field Representative, Minnesota Department of labor and industry shared updates on program development.

- New Programs added:
 - MN Teacher Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee – Education
 - Marshall Manufacturing Co – Manufacturing
 - Dignified Choice Care – Healthcare
 - Nordic Group – Construction
 - Central MN Jobs and Training Services, Inc – Public Sector
 - Welia Health – Healthcare
- Program Development Highlights
 - Increased industry and employer outreach
 - Increased inquiries related to Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding

8. Apprenticeship Program Compliance

- Gerri McGimpsey, Senior Field Representative, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry provided an overview of program compliance.
- 2026 Program Reviews:
 - 9 reviews completed in RAPIDS
 - 15 programs with no apprentices
- Review highlights
 - Sponsor used recommendations from last review to justify new tracking software for registered apprentices' OJL and RTI
 - Program implemented a mental health initiative in 2025 to benefit registered apprentices

9. Apprenticeship Minnesota Update

- Erin Larsen, Director of Apprenticeship, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry provided an update on registered apprenticeship programs:
 - Updated demographics
 - 11,636 active apprentices
 - 26% people of color
 - 8.5% women
 - 5% veterans
- Federal policy updates:
 - US DOL-ETA-OA: OA Circular 2026-01, OA Circular 2026-02, and OA Circular 2026-03
 - Program Completions rates will be recorded and used to evaluate the performances of registered apprenticeship programs
 - Workforce Pell is an expansion from the Pell Grant Program to provide aid to students in shorter term workforce-oriented programs
- Outreach updates:
 - There are multiple training events available for sponsors: Recruitment and Retention series, Standards Revision webinars, RAPIDS webinars, Workforce Development Professionals community of practice, and Recognized Apprenticeship Preparation Programs webinars.

- Apprenticeship Minnesota presented and attended at nine different outreach events during the last quarter
- Apprenticeship Grants updates:
 - Clean Economy Grant: \$737,000 remaining; applications closed on March 13, 2026, and final awards are being determined
 - Minneapolis Public Schools, Teacher Apprenticeship MN, and MN Teacher Apprenticeship Joint Training Committee were awarded state funded grants
 - Many Apprenticeship MN Grants are still open on the DLI website: [Apprenticeship funding opportunities | Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry](#).

10. Board Discussion-Approval of Report

- A motion was made, seconded, and approved.

11. Adjourn

- A motion was made, seconded, and meeting was adjourned. The next Apprenticeship Advisory Board meeting will be on July 23, 2026, at 1:30pm.