

Boulder County Workforce Development Board Meeting

(Full Board – In Person)

May 16, 2026

Boulder County Workforce Development Board Meeting called to order 8:04 a.m.

A quorum of the board members was in attendance. Executive Board Attending: Karl Gerken, Bernadine Sharp, Craig Foster, Matt Wiggins

Consent Items:

All consent items were approved unanimously without questions

Director Update – Erin Jones:

- Thank you to new board member. New perspectives are welcome.
- Melinda Gates grant was not awarded to WfBC
- Knight Foundation grant – Applied for grant support young adults and youth in creative arts industry. Calling it Art Works Boulder – should hear back soon
- Funding forecast: State has received allotments for formula funds. Funding is an increase overall with some programs increasing and some decreasing.
- HB 1317 Passed. Committee to be formed to make recommendations by December of this year to stand up department by July 2028. Will include local representation. Some members are automatically appointed while others will be appointed by House and Senate. Applications will open soon, commitment will be two full days per month.
- Did introductions since this was the first in person meeting with new board members

World Café Activity:

- Topics that were discussed in small groups included:
 - Implementing a strong Career Coaching model to support job seekers
 - Developing more Registered Apprenticeships in Boulder County
 - Strengthening partnership with local school districts to connect talent to postsecondary education and/or employment opportunities after high school
 - Growing our unique GED Learning Lab to embrace an "education to employment" model

Closing Remarks:

- Watch for a summer happy hour invitation
- Will be requesting that board members update their information
- If you have not completed the Skills First Hiring Initiative survey, please do so

Meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.