

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 01/27/2026 2:30pm – 3:30pm

Virtual Teams Meeting

1. **Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 2:30pm. The Chair welcomed the Board to the first meeting of 2026. Dan Schwartz, Vice Provost of Academic Operations, was welcomed as the new Executive Board member from UConn.

The Chair announced that the Board will vote to add the Department of Housing (DOH) to DataLinkCT. Julian Pierce, Deputy Commissioner, made comments to the Board about benefits of joining DataLinkCT.

2. **Public Comment**

No comments were made to the Board.

3. **Attendance**

Members Present: Easha Canada (DSS), Aynsley Diamond (CSCU), Patrick Flaherty (proxy for DOL), Eulalia Garcia (DOC), Scott Gaul (OPM), Timothy Larson (OHE), Christopher McClure (DMHAS), Maura Polci (proxy for CCIC), Alice Pritchard (CTECS), Gary Roberge (JBCSSD), Charlene Russell-Tucker (SDE), Daniel Schwartz (UConn), Elena Trueworthy (OEC), Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Chair (OWS)

Members Absent: Stacey Gerber (DCF)

Guests: Julian Pierce (DOH)

4. **Vote to Add New Participating Agency**

The Chair asked for a motion and a second to approve the DOH as a new Participating Agency. The motion was made by Timothy Larson (OHE), and seconded by Patrick Flaherty (DOL).

Scott Gaul (OPM) made the recommendation to add DOH. Comments supporting the motion came from members: Elena Trueworthy OEC, Charlene Russell-Tucker SDE, and Easha Canada DSS.

Motion to add DOH was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 01/27/2026 2:30pm – 3:30pm

Virtual Teams Meeting

5. 2026 Calendar

The Chair asked for a motion and a second to approve the 2026 meeting calendar. The motion was made by Timothy Larson (OHE), and seconded by Easha Canada (DSS). The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

6. Data Projects

Ajit Gopalakrishnan (SDE) presented on the Postsecondary Labor Market Outcomes project (#0050b). The study looked at earnings for high school graduates who attained college credentials compared with graduates who did not have college credentials. Discussion included comments and questions from Commissioner Barton-Reeves and Commissioner Russell-Tucker.

Rachel Leventhal-Weiner (OPM) provided updates on data projects for Disconnected and At-Risk Youth and Education and Workforce Pathways. An overview of the active Data Projects was also provided. It was announced that the Learning Agenda will be updated as part of development of the Research Collaborative.

7. Secure Data Enclave

Adriana Sanchez Dominicci (Consultant) provided an update of the milestones reached in the development of the secure data enclave. Katie Breslin (OPM) thanked the Board for their engagement and shared the planned timeline to functionality. Scott Gaul (OPM) encouraged agencies to sign any outstanding Data Sharing Agreements.

8. Legislative Updates & Reports

The Chair provided background and an on Public Act 25-119, which requires the Workforce Development Boards and public institutions of higher education to submit data annually. Katie and Scott Gaul (OPM) provided a status update.

There was a brief discussion about the impact of Workforce Pell. Scott Gaul stated that more information will be known by April meeting. Aynsley Diamond (CSCU) commented that it is an exciting opportunity for students.

9. Adjourn

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 3:32pm.