The SWB is an employer-led board working to convene workforce partners and align Maine’s workforce development efforts

- Workforce is an important criterion for employers interested in doing business in Maine
  - Need a streamlined training system to meet their needs for labor

- The current pandemic is affecting workforce needs
  - Employers struggling to find labor
    - Some employers are willing to provide job training to meet their needs
    - Others looking for training programs and financial assistance to train or upskill incumbent workers
  - Many workers lack childcare
  - Many workers lack transferable skills to jump to new industries

- Workforce development programs must serve both individuals and business

**Recommendations:**

- Explore and establish a collaborative link between MDOL, local job boards, other job boards
- MDOL and DECD conduct a survey of Maine employers to assess job training needs
- Marketing campaign for training programs targeted at unemployed Mainers
  - E.g. “CT Back to Work Initiative”
- Provide re-training for workers transitioning as a result of COVID impacts
- Leverage existing virtual learning platforms, like Coursera
  - Important component to effectively market these resources
- Build a program to reimburse employers who help their employees obtain new credentials

**Q&A**

- Tactics to expedite hiring
  - Explore regulatory barriers
    - Licensing and credential processes
    - Background checks
    - Committee may consider reaching out to Commissioner Head, Department of Professional and Financial Regulation
  - Long term v. short term training
    - Rapid training programs for displaced workers
• Stipends for workers in training programs
  o Paid internship for students
  o Micro-credentials and private sector partnerships
    ▪ University of Maine has received a grant to explore expanding micro-credential opportunities
    ▪ Workforce board working with UM system to develop micro-credentials for 3-D printing
  o Difficulty of reaching unemployed workers with substance abuse problems
    ▪ As a result of unemployment spike, more individuals struggling with substance abuse
      • The overall unemployed population has also substantially grown as a result of pandemic
    ▪ Committee may consider reaching out to Gordon Smith, Director of Opioid Response for more information
• The State Workforce Board has knowledge and experience in this field and can be a resource going forward
  o Board hopes to finalize a strategic plan in coming months

[meeting adjourns]