
Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Boards, Councils, and Commissions: August 2023 Update

Governor's Council on Migrant Labor (Wis. Stats. s. [15.227\(8\)](#) and s. [103.967](#))
<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/jobservice/MSFW/migrant-labor-council-description.htm>

Description

The Council on Migrant Labor advises the Governor on issues affecting migrant seasonal farm workers. Duties of the Council include advising DWD on matters affecting migrant workers, ascertaining working conditions of migrants, ensuring coordination of federal and state statutes regarding migrant workers, and reviewing rules submitted by the Department.

Membership

The Governor's Council on Migrant Labor consists of six employer representatives, six migrant representatives, and four legislators. Members serve three-year terms and are appointed by the Governor, except for the legislative members. Legislative members must be appointed by their respective Caucus. Members meet quarterly and meetings are open to the public.

Migrant Representatives

John I. Bauknecht, UMOS
Erica Sweitzer-Beckman, Legal Action of Wisconsin, Vice Chair
Laura Waldvogel, Family Health La Clinica
Jose Martinez, UMOS, Chair
Ben Obregon, UMOS and Legal Action Board of Directors Member

Migrant Employer Representatives

Erica Kunze, Lakeside Foods, Secretary
Kate Lambert, Nortera Foods, Inc.
Aimee Jo Castleberry, Seneca Foods Corporation
Carolyn Flyte, Flyte Family Farms
Andy Ferguson, Ferguson's Orchard
Ashley Ahl, Northern Family Farms

Legislative Members

Senator Robert Wirth
Senator Cory Tomczyk
Representative Jodi Emerson
Assembly Republican - vacant

Non-voting Council Liaison/DWD Staff

Kathryn Mueller, Program and Planning Section Chief - Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Programs and Job Service Call Center

Governor's Council on Workforce Investment ([29 U.S.C. § 3111](#), [20 C.F.R. Part 679 Subpart A](#), and [2023 Wisconsin Executive Order #182](#))
<http://www.wi-cwi.org/>

Description

The Governor's Council on Workforce Investment (CWI) is the federally mandated entity under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) that assists the governor in developing innovative and dynamic approaches to develop Wisconsin's workforce. CWI is charged with aiding Wisconsin employers in finding the workers they need and providing resources to enable workers to access training for in-demand careers with the goal of moving Wisconsin's economy forward.

CWI works closely with DWD to craft a comprehensive workforce development strategy that anticipates employer labor needs while building and strengthening Wisconsin's workforce; supports the development of a highly skilled labor force; and empowers individuals to pursue and retain good paying careers. CWI also leverages the strong partnerships that exist within Wisconsin's workforce development system to lay the foundation for continuing enhancements that will benefit Wisconsin businesses and workers.

Membership

Members include a majority of business leaders, as well as state legislators and local elected officials, representatives from educational institutions, community-based organizations, and labor representatives from throughout the state.

Governor Tony Evers
DWD Secretary-designee Amy Pechacek
Secretary Emilie Amundson, Department of Children and Families
Secretary Missy Hughes, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation
Superintendent Jill Underly, Department of Public Instruction
Rebecca Bartoszek, Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce
Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, UW Health
Lindsay Blumer, WRTP | Big Step
Jeff Buhrandt, Universities of Wisconsin
Meredith Dressel, DWD Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Dr. Morna Foy, WI Technical College System
Ann Franz, NEW Manufacturing Alliance
Dr. Eric Fulcomer, Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
Jacob Gorges, Wisconsin Literacy Inc.
Shah Haqqi, S&L Global Consulting
Carver Harries, Ashland Area Development Corp.
Amanda Hoefling, Dairyland Power Cooperative
Mark Johnson, CGI Accounts
Mark Kessenich, Associated General Contractors
Shaun McHugh, International Union of Operating Engineers
Dan Mella, Plymouth School District
Thomas Miller, Aurora BayCare Medical Center
Seth Lentz (ex officio), Workforce Development Board of South Central WI
Blake Moret, Rockwell Automation
Pravin Raikar, Lockstep Solutions LLC
Sara Rogers, Employ Milwaukee
Nora Roughen-Schmidt, US System Small Business Development Center
Kathi Seifert, Katapult LLC (Consulting)
Sachin Shivaram, Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry
Ann Zenk, Wisconsin Hospital Association

Corey Zetts, Menomonee Valley Partners
Sen. André Jacque, Wisconsin State Senate
Rep. Warren Petryk, Wisconsin State Assembly
Rep. Katrina Shankland, Wisconsin State Assembly

Health Care Provider Advisory Committee (Wis. Stats. s. [102.16\(2m\)\(g\)](#))
<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/wc/councils/wcac/hcpac/>

Description

The Health Care Provider Advisory Committee (HCPAC) was created under [2005 Wisconsin Act 172](#) that Governor Doyle signed into law on March 21, 2006. The purpose of the HCPAC is to establish guidelines for necessary treatment of employees with compensable worker's compensation injuries to prevent unnecessary treatment under Wis. Stats. s. [102.16\(2m\)](#).

Membership

HCPAC membership comprises agency-appointed experts to advise DWD on any contemplated rulemaking related to WC.

Christopher R. Anderson, DC, CIC, CCSP; Anderson Chiropractic Clinics
David A. Bryce, MD; Advanced Pain Management
Corey M. Cronranth, DO, MPH, MBA; Marshfield Clinic Health System
Andrew E. Floren, MD, MPH; Mayo Clinic Health System
Theodore Gertel, MD; Milwaukee Orthopedic Group, Ltd.
Barb Janusiak, RN
David J. Kuester, MD; Bonedoc LLC
Jennifer Seidl, PT; Auroa Sports Health
Kelly Von-Schilling Worth, DC; Spine and Joint Institute
Nicole Zavala; Froedtert Health
Chair: John Dipko, DWD WC Division Administrator

Self-Insurers Council (Wis. Stats. s. [15.227\(11\)](#)) and s. [102.28\(2\)\(c\)](#))
<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/wc/councils/self-insured/>

Description

The Self-Insurers Council (SIC) is a five-member body appointed by the DWD Secretary to assist and advise on the administration of the self-insurance program.

The 1913 Wisconsin Statutes contained a provision that allowed the Department to exempt employers from their duty to purchase worker's compensation insurance if the employer could demonstrate that they had the financial ability to pay all claims arising from injuries occurring in their workplace. This provision created the self-insurance program, and, subsequently the Self-Insurers Council.

SIC plays an instrumental role in ensuring that those employers applying for self-insurance are financially viable. SIC also monitors, in conjunction with the division, the financial status of employers that are in the self-insurance pool.

Membership

Jens D. Emerson, Froedtert South
Jill Joswiak, Alliant Energy Corporation
Jeff Kratz, Stoughton Trailers LLC
Jill Eitland, Kwik Trip Inc.

Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council (Wis. Stats. s. [15.227\(3\)](#) and s. [108.14\(5\)](#))
<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/uibola/uiac/>

Description

The Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council (UIAC) was created to advise the Legislature and DWD on matters concerning Wisconsin's Unemployment Insurance (UI) program, and to recommend changes to improve the state's UI laws. Recommendations of the UIAC reflect interests of employers who pay contributions and workers who depend on unemployment benefits in times of economic hardship. The UIAC's diverse opinions, perspectives, and knowledge of the program are key to ensuring a balanced representation of the interests of both workers and employers is maintained in Wisconsin's UI program.

During each regular session of the legislature, the UIAC submits its recommendations with respect to amendments to Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 108 and reports its views on any pending bill relating to this chapter to the proper legislative committee. DWD gives careful consideration to every proposal submitted by the UIAC for legislative or administrative action and shall review each legislative proposal for possible incorporation into departmental recommendations. Pursuant to Wis. Stats. s. [16.48\(1\)\(b\)](#), DWD prepares a [biennial report](#) for the UIAC regarding projections of UI operations including benefit payments, tax collections, borrowing or debt repayments/ and amounts of interest charges. The report also provides secretary's recommendations and an explanation for such recommendations, including specific proposed changes, if any, in the laws relating to unemployment insurance financing, benefits, and administration.

Membership

UIAC membership comprises five labor (employee) representatives, five management (employer) representatives, and one non-voting chairperson.

Labor Representatives

Di Ann Fechter, International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers
Sally Feistel, United Steel Workers District 2
Corey Gall, Wisconsin Pipe Trades Association
Shane Griesbach, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 139
Christopher Harris, United Steelworkers Local 7-209

Management Representatives

Kathy Thornton-Bias Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee
David Bohl, J.H. Findorff & Son Inc.
Michael Gotzler, Wisconsin Association of Staffing Services
Scott Manley, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce
Susan G. Quam, Wisconsin Restaurant Association

Non-voting Chairperson/DWD Staff

Janell Knutson, Director of the UI Bureau of Legal Affairs

Wisconsin Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council (Wis. Stats. s. [15.227\(15\)](#) and s. [106.40](#))
<https://dwd.wi.gov/waewdc/membership.htm>

Description

The Wisconsin Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council (WAEWDC) was created to:

- Increase the hiring and retention of well-qualified employees in industries related to agriculture, food, and natural resources.
- Promote the coordination of educational systems to develop, train, and retrain employees for current and future careers related to agriculture, food, and natural resources.
- Develop support for employment in fields related to agriculture, food, and natural resources.

- Recommend policies and other changes to improve the efficiency of the development and provision of agricultural education across educational systems.

In addition, WAEWDC advises state agencies on matters related to integrating agricultural education and workforce development systems, including the coordination of programs, exchange of information related to educational and workforce development needs, and monitoring and evaluation of programs. Annually, WAEWDC prepares a report that identifies the criteria for evaluating its activities, reports on the success of its activities, and includes reviews regarding the status of agricultural education programs in primary and secondary schools, the technical college system, and the University of Wisconsin System including UW-Extension.

Membership

WAEWDC is a function of DWD and consists of agency leaders or their designee from DWD, the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, Department of Public Instruction, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, and Department of Natural Resources; institutional leaders or their designee from the Wisconsin Technical College System, UW-System, and UW-Extension; K-12 administrators, teachers, guidance counselors, and other representatives from agricultural education entities; representatives from all facets of agricultural and natural resources industries and associations; and four legislators representing standing committees on education and agriculture.

State Agency Representatives

Secretary-designee Amy Pechacek, Department of Workforce Development
 Secretary Randy Romanski, Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection
 Deputy Secretary Sam Ridders, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation
 Sally Ladsten, designee on behalf of the State Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction
 Scott Loomans, designee on behalf of the Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

Educational Institution Representatives

Gwen Boettcher, DeForest School District
 Betsy Leonard, Wisconsin Technical College System
 Greg Cisewski, Northcentral Technical College
 Monica Gahan, Vincent High School of Agricultural Sciences, Milwaukee
 Bob Hagenow, Rio Community School Board
 Karl J. Martin, UW-Madison Division of Extension
 Michael Orth, UW River Falls
 Jill Runde, McFarland School District
 Nick Stadnyk, Rusk County Land and Water Conservation Department
 Jason Wood, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College
 Jeffrey Wright, Sauk Prairie School District

Agricultural and Natural Resource Industry Representatives

Gary Besaw, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Department of Agriculture and Food Systems
 Jeff Edgar, Silver Creek Nurseries, Inc.
 Ben Huber, Insight FV Cooperative
 Erik Huschitt, Badger State Ethanol
 Paul Palmby, Seneca Foods
 Tom Gillis, Wisconsin Corn Growers Association
 Corey Kuchta, Wisconsin Public Service
 Larry Lee, Brownfield Ag News
 Miranda Leis, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation; CROPP Cooperative/Organic Valley
 Shelly Mayer, Dairy farmer & Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin
 John Rosenow, Rosenholm Wolfe Dairy Farm & Cowsmo Compost
 Michelle Steen, Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery

Legislative Members

Senator Joan Ballweg, 14th Senate District
Senator John Jagler, 13th Senate District

Wisconsin Apprenticeship Advisory Council (Wis. Stats. s. [15.227\(13\)](#))
<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/apprenticeship/advisory-council.htm>

Description

The Wisconsin Apprenticeship Advisory Council's (WAAC) mission is to advise the Department of Workforce Development on matters involving the Wisconsin Apprenticeship System, including the enactment of laws, rules, and standards.

All members of WAAC must be persons who are familiar with apprentice-able occupations. Employee and employer members serve three-year terms and are nominated by statewide trade associations, employer groups, the state labor organization, and community-based organizations. Only designated members of the Council are authorized to vote. The Council generally meets three or four times a year or more often as needed.

Membership

WCAC membership is comprised of nine employer representatives and nine employee representatives who are appointed by DWD's Secretary; one representative appointed by the State Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction; one representative from the WI Technical College System (WTCS) appointed by the WTCS Director; two public members appointed by the DWD Secretary; and the DWD Director of the Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards serves as the nonvoting chair.

Co-Chairs

Corey Gall, WI Pipe Trades Association
Henry Hurt, Hurt Electric, Inc.

Employee Members

Dan Bukiewicz, Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council
Hollie O'Neill, IBEW 2150 WI Electric Power
Jim Cook, NECA IBEW Apprenticeship & Training
Lindsey Blumer, WRTRP / BIG STEP
Michael Bink, UAW Local 469
Rob Giese, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters
Shaun McHugh, IUOE Local 139
Tim Reiter, United Steel Workers

Employer Members

Bridget Willey, UW Hospitals and Clinics
Callie Hellenbrand, Alliant Energy Corp.
Gene Jacobson, Precision Drive & Control
Leigh Emrick, Associated Builders & Contractors of Wisconsin

Educational Representatives

Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, Wisconsin Technical College System
Karin Smith, Department of Public Instruction

Public Members

Seth Lentz, Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin

Wisconsin Rehabilitation Council ([29 U.S.C. 725](#) - Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1992)
<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/partners/wrc/>

Description

The Wisconsin Rehabilitation Council (WRC) was officially established by executive order of the Governor in 1993. Its purpose is to advise and assist DWD's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation with the preparation of applications, a state plan, a strategic plan, and amendments to the plans, reports, needs assessments, and evaluations required by Title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended).

WRC's mission is to work on behalf of Wisconsin residents with disabilities and review, analyze, and advise DVR regarding the performance of its responsibilities in providing quality services to people with disabilities. It is a catalyst for the emergence of DVR as a leader in the development and implementation of effective service programs and advocacy for people with disabilities throughout our state. It is our vision that people with disabilities will enjoy full equality of opportunity, complete integration in the life of our communities, and appropriate employment which fulfills each individual's needs and aspirations. WRC endeavors to:

- Build partnerships among people with disabilities, providers of service, advocacy organizations, and those other groups that can and should participate in the accomplishment of the mission and vision of the organization.
- Forge a spirit of trust and cooperation with the administration and staff of DVR and advocacy organizations for people with disabilities so that the use of scarce resources for accomplishing the mission and vision are optimized and conditions are created for acquiring additional resources.
- Reach out to people with disabilities throughout the state so as to create a true spirit of inclusion for every citizen including an opportunity to contribute to the work of the WRC.
- Hear and respond to the concerns and issues raised by people with disabilities, their advocates, and other concerned individuals so that the work of the WRC is as effective as possible and we are able to truly be a catalyst for positive change.

Membership

WRC members are appointed to staggered three-year terms by the Governor. The Administrator of DVR serves as an ex-officio member. Members of WRC consist of individuals with physical, cognitive, sensory, and mental disabilities; parents, family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives of people with disabilities who have difficulty in representing themselves or are unable due to their disabilities to represent themselves; and current or former DVR applicants or recipients.

Richard Straub, Chair, Business, Industry, and Labor
Elizabeth Kennedy, Vice Chair, Advocate for Persons with Disabilities
Alan Kaltenberg, Business, Industry, and Labor
Alexis Riggs, Advocate for Persons with Disabilities
Alice L. Belcher, Advocate for Persons with Disabilities
Alicia Reinhard, Department of Public Instruction
Ann Franz, Council on Workforce Investment
Dr. Deborah Lee, Advocate for Persons with Disabilities
Gadeen Taylor-Duke, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
Jaclyn Borchardt, Advocate for Persons with Disabilities
Jennifer Espinoza Forlenza, Client Assistance Program
Jennifer Felty, Community Rehabilitation Service Provider
Jolene Wanek, Advocate for Persons with Disabilities
Kathy Meisner, Advocate for Persons with Disabilities
Kyle Kleist, Member at Large, State Independent Living Council
Lindsey Kreitzman, Advocate for Persons with Disabilities
Lori Karcher, Parent Training and Information Center
Megan Bisonette, Native American Rehabilitation Program

Michael Jackson, Business, Industry, and Labor
Meredith Dressel, DWD Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Administrator
Natalia Graf, Advocate for Persons with Disabilities
Norene Lueck, Advocate for Persons with Disabilities

Worker's Compensation Advisory Council (Wis. Stats. s. [15.227\(4\)](#) and s. [102.14\(2\)](#))
<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/wc/councils/wcac/>

Description

The Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Advisory Council (WCAC) was created to advise the Department and Legislature on policy matters concerning the development and administration of the worker's compensation (WC) law, Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 102. One of the most important and enduring principles of the WCAC is maintaining the overall stability of the worker's compensation system without regard to partisan changes in the legislative or executive branches of government. The WCAC provides a vehicle for labor and management representatives to play a direct role in recommending changes in the worker's compensation law to the Legislature.

During each regular session of the legislature, the WCAC submits its recommendations with respect to amendments to Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 102 and reports its views on any pending bill relating to this chapter to the proper legislative committee. At the request of the chairpersons of the senate and assembly committees on labor, DWD schedules meetings with the WCAC and with the members of the senate and assembly committees on labor to review and discuss matters of legislative concern related to WC.

Membership

The composition of the WCAC is reflective of key players within the worker's compensation system. WCAC membership is comprised of five voting representatives from employees, five voting representatives from management, three non-voting representatives from the insurance industry, and one representative from DWD. The WCAC also has liaison representatives from the medical community.

Labor Representatives

Stephanie Bloomingdale, Wisconsin AFL-CIO
Ron Kent, AFSCME
Brett Large, Heat & Frost Insulators Local 19
Lisa Zarecki, International Association of Machinists ("IAM")
Brad Schwanda, UAW Region 4

Management Representatives

Rachel Ver Velde, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce
James Buchen, Buchen Public Affairs
John Tindall, Integrated Risk Solutions
Nicole Frank, Dave Jones Inc.
Christine Johnson, Ashley Furniture Industries

Non-voting Insurance Industry Representatives

Eric Fugina, Sentry Insurance
Dave Nettum, West Bend Mutual Insurance Company
Robert Streff, Liberty Mutual

Non-voting Chairperson/DWD Staff

John Dipko, WC Division Administrator

Ex-Officio Legislative Members

Representative William Penterman

Senator Patrick Testin

Liaisons to Council

Annie Early, Wisconsin Physical Therapy Association

Mark Grapentine, Wisconsin Medical Society

Laura Leitch, Wisconsin Hospital Association

John Murray, Wisconsin Chiropractic Association