

**Nebraska Statewide Workforce & Educational Reporting System (NSWERS)
Executive Council Business Meeting Notification and Agenda**

October 27, 2021 1:30 p.m.

Varner Hall Boardroom, 3832 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, NE 68583

Publicized notice of the Executive Council meeting was given by posting the date, time, and location on the NSWERS.org website.

1. CALL TO ORDER – President Ted Carter called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following NSWERS members in attendance:

President Ted Carter, President
Chancellor Paul Turman, Vice President
Commissioner Matthew Blomstedt, Secretary/Treasurer
President Paul Illich, Member

1.2 Announcement of the placement of the Open Meetings Act information

President Carter announced that information regarding the Open Meetings Act is posted on the wall in the Varner Hall Boardroom and is available on the NSWERS.org website.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comment.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

3.1 Additions or corrections to agenda

No agenda items were removed, added or corrected.

Approval of the agenda as presented passed with a motion by President Paul Illich, second by Chancellor Paul Turman.

President Paul Illich	Yea
Commissioner Matthew Blomstedt	Yea
Chancellor Paul Turman	Yea
President Ted Carter	Yea

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Matthew Hastings, Executive Director, NSWERS made a presentation on behalf of himself and the Management Team regarding the Strategic Plan and appraisal over the last 18 months. (See attached PowerPoint.)

Goal 1 – Establish a Data System. Dr. Hastings reported that this goal is approximately 31% complete, and facilitated the LB 1160 Report, which you have in draft form today, and is due to the Legislature on December 1. This report offers recommendations to the Legislature to direct state entities to enact new data collections and the sharing of existing data elements. Note that under the Nebraska Department of Education, a student's SSN is listed for record matching purposes. Dr. Hastings reminded the Council that this report is in draft form and realizes the significance of asking for a student's SSN at the K-12 level, but by having that information there is a much better possibility of tracking that student through data collected by the Department of Labor as well as the Department of Revenue. Dr. Hastings indicated that some data is not even being shared as the data does not show up from any entity if self-employed, not employed and in some instances, data may be exempt, like the railroad companies, as some information is exempt from their payroll.

The proposed draft of the LB 1160 Report also offers funding recommendations that an annual appropriation be directed to any of the nine NSWERS partner organizations specifically earmarked to support the NSWERS entity. Dr. Hastings reminded the Executive Council that the LB 1160 report is in draft form, and he will have conversations with each of the Executive Council members and the Management Team before putting the Report into final form and submitting by the December 1 due date.

Dr. Hastings reported that the updated comprehensive Strategic Communications Plan ensures a consistent and traceable flow of information that NSWERS will use to communicate with board and committee members, partners, affiliates, and relevant constituents, including the Legislature.

Dr. Hastings conveyed that, with input from the Executive Council and Management Committee, the Executive Council business meetings have been scheduled through April 2023. Also, Dr. Hastings reported that the Nebraska State Auditor of Public Accounts has approved the waiver request.

Dr. Hastings talked about the projected outcomes from the Information Agenda summary for Education and the Workforce and the process in which to reach same, which correspond to the strategic plan. The Information Agenda will help identify research to be done and assist in decision making.

Dr. Hastings reminded the Council of the robust data security process in place and as indicated earlier this year, additional Cyber Liability Insurance is needed as the NSWERS warehouse is further developed and the NSWERS data enterprise is established. The request for more cyber liability insurance is on today's agenda. NSWERS, in cooperation with NU ITS, has classified all NSWERS data as high-risk data and as such appropriate security controls are in place.

Dr. Hastings introduced new staff that have joined NSWERS and who are here today. Katie Bieber, Communications Manager; Alex Brodersen, Assistant Director, Research and Evaluation; Sam Kapoor, Assistant Director, Database/ETL Development; and, David Hefley, Application Developer. Dr. Hastings reminded Executive Council that the security of the data being collected is a high priority for NSWERS and NSWERS requires all employees to undergo intensive data security training. Core services and loaned employee agreement drafts are currently under review and on today's agenda.

Dr. Hastings provided drafts of the file specifications for defining NSWERS data collection: K12 File Specifications; Postsecondary Specifications and Workforce Specifications. Each of these file specifications describe the data elements collected by NSWERS and provides valid values and data validation rules that can be performed prior to data submission.

Goal 2 – Evaluate Efficacy. Dr. Hastings reported that this goal is approximately 31% complete; with the Information Agenda approximately 81% complete. An operational Information Agenda will allow NSWERS to manage procedures and progress to measure the efficacy of the system by adopting solutions for timeliness, relevance and accuracy allowing NSWERS to continue to push to support decision-making.

Dr. Hastings provided information sheets that illustrate a NSWERS Decision Dashboard as well as samples of data products that, with accurate dissemination, will lead to making informed decisions using data analysis and prediction operations.

Commissioner Blomstedt thanked Dr. Hastings for the update and inquired if the NSWERS products are or will be web based and as partners/entities move more to the right of the process (predict, forecast, simulate) how secure is the information? Dr. Hastings indicated that he is envisioning that this would be a web based portal for NSWERS and will be secure for NSWERS partners/entities and will have standard verification in place for each entity before downloading any data to that partner/entity.

Dr. Hastings did report that when looking at the POC, half of the students in K-12 cohort are not identified going forward to higher education. There are no matches with NDOL, that whole segment is gone, and the quickest and easiest solution would be to get student SSN from K-12 schools. The identity resolution process is proving to be a challenge and working around the SSN would take a lot of time, at least another 18 months, and put everything "on hold" and would include asking NDOL to have more information so more data could be matched. It is imperative to have correct data collected in order to have correct data analyzed to make informed decisions.

Dr. Blomstedt suggested that perhaps a conversation with the Legislature expanding on the significance of student SSN should be included when presenting the LB 1160 Report.

President Paul Illich asked if the partners/entities can have access to the raw data so they can create their own model from the data. Dr. Hastings stated that there will be a mechanism in place that that can be done. Data can be used as a product and as a service.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS (none)

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

6.1 Receive, review, and discuss legal advice from the organization's attorney regarding the proposed NU-NSWERS Service Agreement and loaned employee agreement.

Motion for the Council to enter closed session to receive, review, and discuss the legal advice from the organization's attorney regarding the proposed NU-NSWERS service agreement and loaned employee agreement as the motion is clearly necessary to protect the public's interest and to maintain the attorney-client privilege passed with a motion by Chancellor Paul Turman, second by President Paul Illich.

Commissioner Matthew Blomstedt	Yea
President Paul Illich	Yea
President Ted Carter	Yea
Chancellor Paul Turman	Yea

Executive Session began 2:21 p.m.

Motion for the Council to end the closed session to receive, review, and discuss the legal advice from the organization's attorney passed with a motion by President Paul Illich, second by Chancellor Paul Turman.

President Paul Illich	Yea
President Ted Carter	Yea
Chancellor Paul Turman	Yea
Commissioner Matthew Blomstedt	Yea

Executive Session ended 2:37 p.m.

7. ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Approve Minutes of NSWERS business meeting, July 28, 2021.

Motion to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2021 NSWERS Business meeting passed with a motion by Commissioner Matthew Blomstedt, second by Chancellor Paul Turman.

President Ted Carter	Yea
Chancellor Paul Turman	Yea
Commissioner Matthew Blomstedt	Yea
President Paul Illich	Yea

7.2 The Executive Council will discuss, consider, and take all necessary action regarding agreements with the University of Nebraska for core and technical services and the provisions of loaned employees.

Motion for the Executive Council to direct Executive Director Hastings, in consultation with NSWERS' legal counsel, to negotiate and finalize the terms of the proposed agreements with University of Nebraska for core and technical services and the provision of loaned employees, to ensure that the terms of those agreements are consistent with the Executive Council's expectations based on the proposals exchanged between the parties and to execute such agreements on behalf of NSWERS passed with a motion by Chancellor Paul Turman, second by President Paul Illich.

Chancellor Paul Turman	Yea
Commissioner Matthew Blomstedt	Yea
President Paul Illich	Yea
President Ted Carter	Yea

7.3 Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action regarding the proposed NSWERS Information Agenda.

Motion to consider and approve the proposed NSWERS Information Agenda, subject final edits and adjustments made in consultation with the NSWERS Management Committee passed with a motion by Commissioner Matthew Blomstedt, second by Chancellor Paul Turman.

Commissioner Matthew Blomstedt	Yea
President Paul Illich	Yea
President Ted Carter	Yea
Chancellor Paul Turman	Yea

7.4 Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action regarding the proposed data elements for NSWERS v1.0 data system.

Motion to consider and approve the proposed data elements for v1.0 of the NSWERS data system, subject to final edits and adjustments made in consultation with the NSWERS Management Committee passed with a motion by President Paul Illich, second by Commissioner Matthew Blomstedt.

President Paul Illich	Yea
President Ted Carter	Yea
Chancellor Paul Turman	Yea
Commissioner Matthew Blomstedt	Yea

7.5 Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action regarding the procurement of additional cyber liability insurance and the delegation of authority to negotiate terms and enter into an agreement.

Motion for the Executive Council to direct Executive Director Hastings to negotiate terms and enter into an agreement for additional cyber liability insurance consistent with the demands related to increased scope of NSWERS' work and data warehousing passed with a motion by Chancellor Paul Turman, second by Commissioner Matthew Blomstedt.

Discussion: Commissioner Blomstedt stated that he appreciates Dr. Hastings keeping this Council apprised of the importance of this cyber insurance and making sure that this system is never threatened.

President Ted Carter	Yea
Chancellor Paul Turman	Yea
Commissioner Matthew Blomstedt	Yea
President Paul Illich	Yea

7.6 Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action regarding contracting for technical consulting services and support for the development of NSWERS' data system and related IT web application and the delegation of authority to negotiate terms and execute an agreement.

Motion for the Executive Council to direct Executive Director Hastings, in consultation with the NSWERS Management Committee, to negotiate terms and enter into an agreement for technical consulting services and support for the development of NSWERS' data system and related IT web applications not to exceed the cost of \$500,000 passed with a motion by Chancellor Paul Turman, second by President Paul Illich.

Chancellor Paul Turman	Yea
Commissioner Matthew Blomstedt	Yea
President Paul Illich	Yea
President Ted Carter	Yea

8. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

8.1 Discuss draft of the LB 1160 Legislative Report – Dr. Matthew Hastings

As stated above, this is in draft format and will be updated after conversations with each Executive Council member and Management Committee before final is electronically submitted to the Legislature by December 1. The Executive Council and Management Committee will also explore the option of creating an opportunity to present a demonstration of animated visual site with interested senators.

9. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

9.1 NSWERS Proof of Concept (POC) Data Project – Alex Brodersen, Assistant Director, Research & Evaluation, NSWERS

Dr. Brodersen gave an update on the packaging product of the Proof of Concept (POC) data project. Data has been matched across education and workforce sectors and final edits were made to form an animated visual site. Dr. Brodersen gave a demonstration of the site. Can see data specific by institution. This site will be available to each Executive Council member and their entity once finalized. This site could potentially be used to demonstrate the POC to the Legislature once the LB 1160 Report is submitted.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORT

10.1 NSWERS Treasurer's Report – Commissioner Matthew Blomstedt

Commissioner Blomstedt presented quarterly Treasurer's Report. As reflected in the figures, NSWERS is starting to "drawdown" on the funds, as more NSWERS staff and contractors are in play in getting POC perfected for use by partners/entities. Dr. Hastings reports the Treasurer's Report at least annually to foundation contributors, or as they request.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the NSWERS Executive Council Business Meeting passed with a motion from Chancellor Paul Turman, second by President Paul Illich.

President Ted Carter	Yea
Chancellor Paul Turman	Yea
Commissioner Matthew Blomstedt	Yea
President Paul Illich	Yea

President Carter adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

A NSWERS Executive Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at a time and place to be determined.



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Executive Director's Report

Matthew J. Hastings, Ph.D.

Executive Director, NSWERS

NSWERS Executive Council – Quarterly Meeting

Varner Hall – Lincoln, NE

October 27, 2021



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Goal 1

Establish Data System





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Object	Description	Status	Change
Overall	Progress Towards Strategic Plan	31% Complete	+7%
Goal 1	Establish NSWERS Data System	34% Complete	+3%
Objective 1.1	Develop and Implement Foundational Elements	67% Complete	+11%
Objective 1.2	Define NSWERS Data Collection	15% Complete	-
Objective 1.3	Design and Execute Data Acquisition	20% Complete	+4%
Objective 1.4	Optimize Data Processing and Protect Digital Assets	77% Complete	+3%



1.1 Develop & Implement Foundational Elements

- 1.1.1 Define Organizational Strategies
 - 1.1.1.4 Legislative Report (LB 1160)
 - 1.1.1.6 Communications Plan
 - 1.1.1.7 Philanthropic Engagement
 - 1.1.1.8 Sustainable Funding Plan



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

February 2017



1.1 Develop & Implement Foundational Elements

- 1.1.2 Establish Organizational Structures
 - 1.1.2.1 Executive Council Meeting Schedule
 - 1.1.2.2 NSWERS Advisory Committee
 - 1.1.2.3 NSWERS Management Committee
 - 1.1.2.7 Audit Services
 - 1.1.2.8 Interlocal Phase Progression

- Reminder of Meetings
 - March 2, 2022 @ 1:00 p.m.
 - April 27, 2022 @ 1:30 p.m.
 - July 27, 2022 @ 1:30 p.m.
 - October 26, 2022 @ 1:30 p.m.
 - January 25, 2023 @ 1:30 p.m.
 - April 26, 2023 @ 1:30 p.m.

1.1 Develop & Implement Foundational Elements

- 1.1.3 Create and Implement Organizational Systems
 - 1.1.3.4 Information Agenda
 - 1.1.3.5 Data Warehouse v1.0
 - 1.1.3.6 Data Sharing Agreements
 - 1.1.3.7 Insurance

NSWERS INFORMATION AGENDA SUMMARY

Education				
OUTCOMES	EXPLORE	OUTCOME	EXPLAIN	PREDICT
What is already known about the outcome? How is it best measured?	What are the summary characteristics of the outcome?	How is the outcome influenced by or related to other factors?	What is the probability of the outcome occurring? What is the most likely outcome?	How do simulated changes affect the probability of the outcome?
High School Graduation				
College Going				
Postsecondary Apprenticeship				
Postsecondary Graduation				

NSWERS INFORMATION AGENDA SUMMARY

Workforce				
OUTCOMES	EXPLORE	OUTCOME	EXPLAIN	PREDICT
What is already known about the outcome? How is it best measured?	What are the summary characteristics of the outcome?	How is the outcome influenced by or related to other factors?	What is the probability of the outcome occurring? What is the most likely outcome?	How do simulated changes affect the probability of the outcome?
Time to Employment				
Employment Gap				
Industry Placement				
Industry Leadership				



1.1. Develop & Implement Foundational Elements

- 1.1.4 Acquire & Maintain Organizational Skills
 - 1.1.4.1 Multi-Tier Staffing Plan
 - 1.1.4.3 Specialty Contract Support
 - 1.1.4.4. Targeted Partnerships

1.2 Define NSWERS Data Collection

- 1.2.1 Ensure the Interoperability of NSWERS Data
 - DRAFT File Specifications





1.3 Design and Execute Data Acquisition

- 1.3.1 Develop and Implement a Secure Web-based Portal
- 1.3.2 Data Exchange Technologies
- 1.3.3 Quality Control Processes
- 1.3.4 Annual Calendar



1.4 Optimize Data Processing & Protect Digital Assets

- 1.4.1 Establish and Robust Data Security Process
- 1.4.2 Implement a Comprehensive Program of Data Governance



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Goal 2

Evaluate Efficacy





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Object	Description	Status	Change
Overall	Progress Towards Strategic Plan	31% Complete	+7%
Goal 2	Evaluate Efficacy	28% Complete	+11%
Objective 2.1	Create NSWERS Information Agenda	81% Complete	+17%
Objective 2.2	Establish Data Analysis and Prediction Operations	5% Complete	+3%
Objective 2.3	Report on Longitudinal Outcomes	15% Complete	+15%
Objective 2.4	Release Data and Disseminate Research Findings	11% Complete	+7%



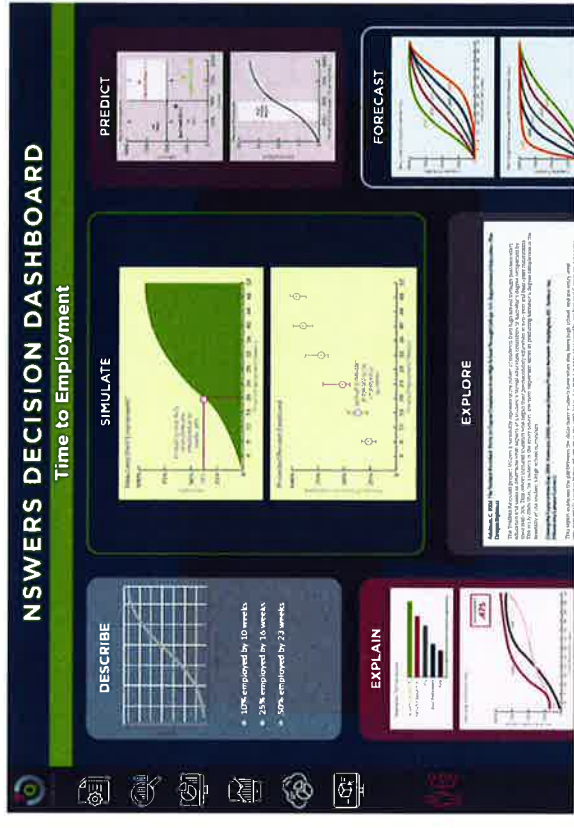
2.1 Create NSWERS Information Agenda

- 2.1.1 Adopt Solutions for Timeliness, Relevance and Accuracy
 - 2.1.1.3 Information Agenda Framework
 - 2.1.1.5 Refine Research/Decision Questions
 - 2.1.1.6 Draft Information Agenda
 - 2.1.1.9 Operationalize Information Agenda



2.2 Establish Data Analysis & Prediction Operations

- 2.2.1 Implement a Modern, Flexible and Scalable Analytics Unit



2.3 Report on Longitudinal Outcomes

- 2.3.1 Operationalize and Measure Education Outcomes
- 2.3.2 Operationalize and Measure Workforce Outcomes:



2.4 Release Data and Disseminate Research & Evaluation Findings

- 2.4.1 Establish and Maintain a data Clearinghouse to facilitate Data as a Product (DaaP) Enterprise
- 2.4.2 Establish and Maintain Data as a Service (DaaS) Enterprise
- 2.4.4 Strengthen Awareness, Facilitate Collaborations and Drive System Improvements





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Thank You

Next meeting March 2, 2021
@ 1:00 p.m. CST
Location TBD



NSWERS**Statement of Net Position****September 30, 2021 and June 30, 2021**

Unaudited

Assets	9/30/2021	6/30/2021
Current Assets:		
Cash & Investments	\$ 2,639,864	\$ 2,495,231
Accounts Receivable	290,740	17,500
Prepaid Expenses	13,057	18,861
Total Current Assets	<u>2,943,661</u>	<u>2,531,592</u>
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	21,201	33,293
Total Current Liabilities	<u>21,201</u>	<u>33,293</u>
Net Position		
Unrestricted	2,922,460	2,498,299
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 2,922,460</u>	<u>\$ 2,498,299</u>

NSWERS**Supplemental Information****September 30, 2021**

Unaudited

Contractual Services:	Contract Amount	Paid as of September 30, 2021	Remaining Contract Amount
Student 1	75,000	75,000	-
Magnolia Consulting	70,000	70,000	-
University of Nebraska	85,588	56,392	29,196
University of Nebraska IT	10,624	-	10,624
Nebraska Dept. of Education	14,400	2,100	12,300
KSB School Law	Billable Rate	26,209	N/A
Prepaid Expense:	Amount Paid	Cummulative Expense	Prepaid as of September 30, 2021
Aon Risk Services - 3/1/21 - 3/31/22	28,291	15,234	13,057