



State of Nevada  
**MERIT AWARD BOARD**



**“Good Government, Great Employees”**

515 E. Musser Street, Room 101  
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4204

**Joe Lombardo**  
*Governor*

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**MERIT AWARD BOARD  
FEBRUARY 5, 2025 – 1:00 PM**

**EICON Building  
515 East Musser Street,  
First Floor Conference Room  
Carson City, NV 89701**

**and**

**Eureka Building  
7251 Amigo Street, Room 120 Las  
Vegas, NV 89101**

**MINUTES  
Merit Award Board**

**Members Present:**

Shayne Powell, Governor's Finance Office, CHAIR  
Tracey Cook, Representative, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 4041  
Carrie Hughes, Division of Human Resource Management (DHRM), Secretary  
Brian Miller, Representative, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 4041

**Members of the Public:**

Kevin Meyer, UNR

**DHRM Attendees:**

Kelsey Walsh, Human Resource Analyst  
Pauline Ramos, Administrative Assistant

**Members Absent:**

None

## **AGENDA**

### **1. Call to Order, Welcome, Roll Call, Announcements:**

Chair Shayne Powell called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. All members were present in order to conduct the business of the Board.

Chair Powell noted that Senate Bill 78 has been drafted, and there is a proposal to change the current Board to the Merits and Honors Board, along with other changes that include membership count, who comes from where, and other things of the nature.

A motion was made by Chair Powell to close the agenda item and was seconded by Carrie Hughes. Motion carried.

### **2. Public Comment:**

Kevin Meyer noted that he was present to support his submission and answer any questions.

A motion was made by Chair Powell to close the agenda item and was seconded by Brian Miller. Motion carried.

### **3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:**

#### **A. July 17, 2024**

Carrie Hughes abstained as she was not part of the Board at the time.

A motion was made by Chair Powell to close the agenda item and was seconded by Brian Miller. Motion carried.

#### **B. September 17, 2024**

Carrie Hughes noted that one of her comments quoted should say propose instead of purpose, and when speaking on the topic of neon, it was not her but Chair Powell instead.

A motion was made by Brian Miller to approve this item with exception to the amendments to be added at a later date. The motion was seconded by Carrie Hughes. Motion carried.

#### **C. October 23, 2024**

Carrie Hughes noted a missing T for the word “the” under Item 3 regarding the Language Access Plan. Carrie Hughes added that items 4P and 4Q were noted as tabled although they were actually rejected.

A motion was made by Chair Powell to approve the minutes with the exceptions to the typo in the Language Access Plan and Action items 4P and 4Q. Seconded by Carrie Hughes. Motion carried.

**4. Tabled Suggestion from September 17, 2024 Meeting:**

A. Corina Thorne

Chair Powell noted that additional information was received from the Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) and the administrator said the concept had already been tested and was later rejected

Chair Powell introduced a motion to concur with the Agency's decision to deny the suggestion from Corina Thorne. This was seconded by Brian Miller. Motion carried.

B. Guy Puglisi

Chair Powell noted that the Board had received a response from the State Purchasing by way of the administrator Gideon Davis applauding the decision to shop for a best price for paper suppliers, but wanted the Board to take into consideration that value does not ultimately mean cost because it could be the relationship with the vendor, the time, etc.

Chair Powell motioned to concur with the DWSS's decision to deny this suggestion. Brian Miller seconded. Motion carried.

**5. Tabled Suggestion from October 23, 2024 Meeting:**

A. Yo Lee

Chair Powell noted that this was tabled due to most of the form was blank and there wasn't the ability to discern why it was denied. Chair Powell also stated the updated record is still blank.

Brian Miller motioned to table this item a second time until further information can be posted. Carrie Hughes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**6. Employee Suggestions:**

Chair Powell motioned to hear Agenda Item 6G prior to 6A since the party was in person. Brian Miller seconded. Motion carried.

G. Kevin Meyer

Chair Powell explained that Kevin Meyer's suggestion comes from Nevada System of Higher

Education (NSHE) University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and its metering wastewater usage. Chair Powell also noted that the response from UNR's administration was to deny it because they believed the cost to implement metering systems exceeds the estimated usage billing, as the campus is already being billed at a discounted rate. Chair Powell also stated that the suggestion supplied to the Board did not have any dollar amounts included.

Carrie Hughes quoted the response received via email on October 28, 2024 stating "there are no potential cost savings from the submitted suggestion." Ms. Hughes said that while they could table the motion, the university has stated there are none.

Brian Miller asked Kevin Meyer if he had anything to contest the decision.

Kevin Meyer noted that a response from the FMS offices dated September 11, 2024 had been sent stating that there would be approximately \$92,000 in savings with a onetime estimated cost of \$35,000 to implement the plan.

Carrie Hughes requested that a copy of the email be sent to the Merit Award Board's email address.

Kevin Meyer replied that he could not send that because it was an internal email from their group. Mr. Meyer noted that he would reach out to Mr. Pelletti to make sure he has sent in the email and information needed.

Brian Miller motioned to table the agenda item until clarity could be met on the agency's response and Tracey Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The motion was tabled as approved by the Board to do so and the next course of action would be to provide this to Mr. Pelletti to see if he agrees with the proposal as stated and if not why?

#### A. Amanda Alston

Chair Powell explained that Amanda Alston from the Division of Welfare and Social Services, suggestion was to close the office building to catch up on the backlog and for training. Chair Powell noted that the agency's response was to deny that because it would reduce the quantity and quality of services made available to the public. Chair Powell also stated that NRS 281.110 stipulates that offices are to be open all weekdays, excluding holidays, between the hours of 8 to 5, so the suggestion would require them to violate this or a change in legislation.

Carrie Hughes motioned to concur with the respondent agency's decision as explained in Agenda Item 6A. Brian Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### B. Kayle Bell

Chair Powell informed the Board that Kayle Bell's, from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), suggestion was recording, by county, gas tax receipts. Chair Powell summarized this suggestion to be when someone using a state vehicle crosses county lines, they take record of where that fueling took place and compare it to where the driving took place, as some counties have a different sales tax rate for fuel. Chair Powell explained that when calculating the data, there should be savings to be found. Chair Powell noted that the DMV requested additional information on how to calculate savings, yet received no response, and they were unsure if this would save money or even out because there is no data to prove otherwise.

Brian Miller motioned to concur with the respondent agency's decision as explained and reject the motion. Carrie Hughes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

C. Sabrina Brown

Chair Powell indicated that Sabrina Brown, from the Department of Public Safety, suggested to hire additional inspectors and enhance Commercial Vehicle Safety Inspector (CVSI) responsibilities. Chair Powell explained that the Department of Public Safety indicated that prior to Ms. Brown's hire, during the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session, they had already requested enhancement decision units to improve the number of CVSIs available, so their decision was to deny based on the idea already being submitted.

Brian Miller made a motion to concur with the respondent agency's decision as explained and deny the suggestion. Tracey Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried.

D. Tiffany Day

Chair Powell informed the Board that this suggestion is from Tiffany Day from the Administrative Services Division, which is part of the Department of Administration, to purchase the Ormsby House to be used as office space for the state. Chair Powell noted the Department of Administration, by way of the Director, indicates that the state strives to purchase buildings less than 20 years old due to surprises in terms of infrastructure, and that retrofitting a hotel to be accommodating to office space would add to the cost of the purchase. Chair Powell said the Director believed that the property could be rehabilitated and reused as a hotel, so in purchasing it, it would be limiting economic opportunities in the state.

Brian Miller made a motion to concur with the respondent agency's decision as explained and deny the suggestion. Carrie Hughes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

E. Oscar Garcia

Chair Powell explained that Oscar Garcia, from the Department of Business and Industry, suggested the implementation of blockchain technology to serve as a general ledger for state services such as titles, licenses, etc. Chair Powell noted the response from the state's Chief Information Officer, Timothy Galluzzi indicated that research was done in 2021, and not only did it cost a great deal of money, it would make constituent's personal data stored on the public ledger available to the public which would not be suitable.

Brian Miller made a motion to concur with the agency and deny the suggestion. Carrie Hughes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

F. Tatiana Mendoza

Chair Powell explained that Tatiana Mendoza from the Division of Welfare and Social Services suggested changing the application form for benefits to not automatically issue an EBT card. Chair Powell said his understanding is that when someone applies for benefits, the gears get turning to generate a card in the event it is approved as not to delay benefits from being received. Chair Powell noted that the agency contends it is not prudent for that to be removed as the application asks would you like an EBT card.

Carrie Hughes made a motion to concur with the respondent agency's decision as explained and

deny the suggestion. Brian Miller and Tracey Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### H. Rebecca Ortiz

Chair Powell discussed Rebecca Ortiz's, from Governor's Counsel on Developmental Disabilities, suggestion to require online appointments due to walk-ins and telephone adds additional burden. Chair Powell noted that the agency's response is that requiring online appointments limits the points of access, and making this available in any medium is beneficial to the Nevada citizens.

Brian Miller made a motion to concur with the respondent agency's decision as explained and deny the suggestion. Carrie Hughes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### I. Stephanie Rolloff

Chair Powell discussed Rolloff's, from the Division of Welfare and Social Services (DWSS) suggestion to allow the change of deadlines and appointment letters because the system does not take into account holidays, so a business day technically lapses, putting constraints on these deadlines. Chair Powell noted that the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) policy overarches DWSS, and their response was this put an additional burden on people needing benefits having to wait an extra business day, and it's a violation of DHHS published policy. Chair Powell stated that there were no projected savings to cost nor labor. Chair Powell stated that DHHS wanted to note that there are people eligible for expedited assistance, and giving staff the ability to change deadlines at their discretion would be of particular hardship to those families.

Brian Miller made a motion to concur with the respondent agency's decision as explained and deny the suggestion. Carrie Hughes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### J. Stephanie Rolloff

Chair Powell informed the Board that Stephanie Rolloff, DWSS, suggested to have some sort of board on display, similar to the DMV, or means of contacting people to let them know their spot in line. Chair Powell noted the agency's decision to deny was based on applying for benefits is sensitive and vulnerable, so having a name on display may be uncomfortable and possibly a violation of privacy act rights.

Brian Miller made a motion to concur with the respondent agency's decision as explained and deny the suggestion. Tracey Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### K. Edward Tyndall

Chair Powell informed the Board that Edward Tyndall with the Division of Welfare and Social Services (DWSS) has suggested increasing their social media presence. Chair Powell noted that the agency's contention is to deny based on the fact that the division already employs a Public Information Officer at both the division level (DWSS) and at the department level (DHHS). Chair Powell explained that it is policy of the department that both positions post to the most popular social media platforms at least monthly for programs, events, and employment.

Carrie Hughes made a motion to concur with the respondent agency's decision as explained and deny the suggestion. Brian Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

L. Michaela Van Dyke

Chair Powell indicated that Michaela Van Dyke's suggestion is pertaining to social media outreach for jobs, in that the DMV vacancy rates could be reduced, improving the quantity and quality of service, if the state posted on more than the Nevada Employee Action and Timekeeping System (NEATS) job board. Chair Powell noted that the agency contends that the Human Resources Unit at the DMV has an existing contract with Careers and Government that advertises openings on the top four professional networking sites in addition to NEATS and also posts jobs to private job boards as well as the top eight diversity employment websites.

Brian Miller made a motion to concur with the respondent agency's decision as explained and deny the suggestion. Carrie Hughes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **7. Discussion of Date of Upcoming Meetings:**

Tracey Cook noted that she will have a class at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesdays until the later part of August.

Carrie Hughes stated that the largest problem with scheduling is finding room space.

Chair Powell offered the Governor's Finance Office if the other options aren't available, noting it is the same size and has the same capabilities while having locations in the north and south. Chair Powell also reminded the Board that he is unavailable to attend on Tuesdays.

Carrie Hughes noted that in March she would be unavailable to attend on the 6<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>.

Tracey Cook explained that she would be unavailable to attend on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March.

Carrie Hughes explained that they will evaluate in a couple of weeks to make sure there are enough agenda items to hold a meeting.

The next meeting will tentatively be scheduled for the morning of March 13, 2025 at a location to be determined.

Brian Miller motioned to agree with the aforementioned scheduled meeting. Carrie Hughes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **8. Board Comments:**

There were no comments from the Board.

Carrie Hughes motioned to consider Action Item 8 as complete. Brian Miller and Tracey Cook seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

## **9. Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

**8. Adjournment:**

Brian Miller motioned to adjourn the meeting. Tracey Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.