

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Minutes of Meeting September 1, 2021

A meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Workforce Development Board (LWDB) was held Wednesday, September 1, 2021, in person, conference call and via Zoom.

Board members present in person and via Zoom meeting were:

MR. BEN ALDAMA, NWACC ADULT ED.
MR. EDDIE BARTLETT, BARTLETT FAMILY DENTISTRY
MR. DAVID BELL, DAVID BELL, LLC.
MS. SARAH BROZYNSKI, BAXTER REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
MS. CHERYL DAVENPORT, ADVANCED MARINE PERFORMANCE
MR. JOHN DYESS, ALTRONIC RESEARCH, INC.
MR. KEVIN ESTES, DHS SERVICES FOR THE BLIND
MR. WALTER HINOJOSA, NWA LABOR COUNCIL
MS. AMY JONES, ARKANSAS REHABILITATION SERVICES
MS. JANA KINDALL, AR DIVISION OF WORKFORCE SERVICES
MR. BOB LARGENT, HARRISON REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
MS. BILLIE REED, REED CONSULTING
MR. RICKY TOMPKINS, NWACC

Board members absent and excused were:

MR. ROSS PARKER, PARKER FARMS AND RENTALS, proxy Eddie Bartlett
MR. BO PHILLIPS, COX-RAPID SCALE, HARRISON, proxy John Dyess
MS. ERIN POE, TEC STAFFING
MR. KELLEY SHARP, UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FAYETTEVILLE

Others present were:

Ms. Susan Sangren, NWAEDD
Ms. Patty Methvin, NWAEDD
Ms. Karen Henry, NWAEDD
Ms. April Turner, NWAEDD
Ms. Michelle Ryan, NWAEDD
Ms. Chris Kellem, NWAEDD
Ms. Lorie McMaster, NWAEDD
Ms. Julie Smith, NWAEDD
Ms. Rebecca McWilliams, NWAEDD
Mr. Tim Simpson, NWAEDD
Ms. Tina Cole, NWAEDD
Mr. Taff Grice, NWAEDD
Mr. Nicholas Ryburn, Adult Education
Mr. James Moss, NWAEDD
Ms. Cherie Conner, Adult Education North Arkansas College
Ms. Mary Beth Hatch, North Arkansas College
Mr. Don Sugg, North Arkansas College
Mr. Elisha Snow, Office of Senator Boozman
Dr. Rick Massengale, North Arkansas College

Ms. Fawn Kurtzo, North Arkansas College Adult Education
Ms. Julie Garrett, North Arkansas College Adult Education
Mr. Elijah Snow, Office of Senator Boozman
Ms. Melissa Bray, North Arkansas College
Ms. Joyce Akidi, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services
Ms. Hannah Henderson, Office of Senator Boozman
Ms. Teri Garrett, Office of Congressman Womack
Mr. Dean Lee, Carroll County Berryville Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Chad Brown, ADWS
Mr. Robbie Cornelius, Fayetteville Adult Education

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by CHAIR JOHN DYESS. CHAIR DYESS informed the attendees that the meeting was being recorded and that each vote will be conducted through a roll call vote.

MS. PATTY METHVIN gave the quarterly staff report. MS. Methvin discussed the 2018 ADWS Final Determination for findings letter sent to each Northwest Workforce Board member and Northwest Chief Elected Officials. MS. Methvin shared that several other districts are encountering some of the same findings. Northwest is in substantive discussions with ADWS, and those discussions are continuing. MS. METHVIN explained in more detail the two findings that were referred to in the letter.

MS. METHVIN informed the Board that Northwest did receive the Out of School Youth Waiver for 2019/2020 on June 30. The waiver allows Northwest to use more of the youth funds for In School youth. With the waiver the percentages spent change to 50% for both Out of School Youth and 50% for In School Youth. Northwest has almost doubled the number of participants from past years and increased the number of worksites. MS. METHVIN monitored all the Summer Youth worksites and participants. MS. METHVIN shared how impressed with all the supervisors and the efforts they put into helping each participant grow and learn good work skills. The amount of work the participants have done at the worksites is very impressive. The participants are genuinely thankful for the opportunity to work and are just awesome people.

MS. METHVIN reported to the Board of 5 hiring events at the Harrison DWS office. Northwest has supported these events by reaching out to newspapers, radio stations and Chambers to help promote the hiring events. MS. METHVIN reported on several Business Services meetings held since the last meeting.

MS. METHVIN shared that Northwest has applied for a TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) grant. The participants (up to 36 participants) would be a NWAEDD employee for up to 6 months so that they can learn the skills needed for the job with the goal of being hired on as a full-time employee by the employer.

MS. METHVIN introduced new NWAEDD employees – Lorie McMaster, Mountain Home Career Advisor, Tim Simpson, Rogers Career Advisor, Rebecca McWilliams, Fayetteville Career Advisor. Northwest is currently advertising for a Business Services Coordinator position. This position will report to MS. METHVIN and be based out of the Fayetteville office.

Agenda Item 1 – Election of Officers

MR. DYESS referred to the current slate of officers listed on the agenda. MR. RICKEY TOMPKINS made a motion to elect Mr. John Dyess, Chairperson, Mr. Bo Phillips, Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Kelley Sharp, Secretary. MR. DAVID BELL seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Agenda Item 2 – Program Year Board Budget

MS. METHVIN explained that the changes to the Board budget are salary adjustments. A motion to approve the Program Year Board Budget was made by MR. EDDIE BARTLETT and seconded by MR. TOMPKINS. The motion carried.

Agenda Item #3: Updated Workforce Budget

MS. METHVIN informed the Board that there were no major changes in the budget. MR. TAFF GRICE was on the Zoom call and available for questions. MR. BARTLETT made a motion to approve the Updated Workforce Budget. MR. BELL seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Agenda Item #4: Program Year 2021 Full WIOA Budget

MS. METHVIN presented the Program Year 2021 Budget. MR. BARTLETT made a motion to approve the Program Year 2021 Full WIOA Budget. MR. WALTER HINOJOSA seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Agenda Item #5: NW OSO Program/Fiscal Monitoring RFP

MS. METHVIN updated the Board on the progress of the RFP. The RFP was advertised and sent to the bidders list and several other entities. There were 5 responses requesting the RFP. There were no bidders by the deadline. MR. BELL made a motion to accept and approve the work of the OSO Program and Fiscal Monitoring Task Force to date and to allow the Task Force to re-procure the Program and Fiscal monitoring. MR. RICKY TOMPKINS seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Agenda Item #6: Policy Changes: Work Experience

MS. METHVIN explained to the Board that the changes to the Work Experience policy was required by ADWS. MR. BARTLETT made a motion to approve the changes to the Work Experience policy. MR. BOB LARGENT seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Agenda Item #7: One Stop Operator Report

MS. SUSAN SANGREN presented the One Stop Operator Report to the Board. MR. LARGENT made a motion to approve the One Stop Operator Report. MR. BARTLETT seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Agenda Item #8: A motion was made to approve the consent agenda by MR. HINOJOSA and seconded by MR. BELL. The motion carried.

MR. BARTLETT moved to adjourn the meeting. MR. BELL seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.



John Dyess, Chair