

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Minutes of Meeting March 2, 2022

A meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Workforce Development Board (LWDB) was held Wednesday, March 2, 2022, in person, conference call and via Zoom.

Board members present in person and via Zoom meeting were:

MR. BEN ALDAMA, NWACC ADULT ED.
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
MR. ROSS PARKER, PARKER FARMS AND RENTALS
MR. KELLEY SHARP, UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FAYETTEVILLE
MR. RICKY TOMPKINS, NWACC

Board members absent and excused were:

MR. EDDIE BARTLETT, BARTLETT FAMILY DENTISTRY
MR. DAVID BELL, DAVID BELL, LLC.
MR. BO PHILLIPS, COX-RAPID SCALE, HARRISON, proxy Ross Parker

Others present were:

Mr. Joe Willis, NWAEDD
Ms. Susan Sangren, NWAEDD
Ms. Patty Methvin, NWAEDD
Ms. Karen Henry, NWAEDD
Ms. April Turner, NWAEDD
Ms. Michelle Ryan, NWAEDD
Ms. Chelsey Weaver, NWAEDD
Ms. Tania Overton, NWAEDD
Mr. Taff Grice, NWAEDD
Ms. Shana King, NWAEDD
Mr. Nicholas Ryburn, Adult Education
Dr. Rick Massengale, North Arkansas College
Mr. Cherie Conner, North Arkansas College Adult Education
Mr. Elijah Snow, Office of Senator Boozman
Mr. Aaron Johnson, DWS
Mr. Chad Brown, Arkansas Workforce Board
Mr. Eddie Thomas, ADWS
Mr. Jay Bassett, ADWS
Mr. Robbie Cornelius, Fayetteville Adult Education
Ms. Bertha Kitchens, Arkansas Department of Corrections

Ms. Hannah Henderson, Office of Senator Boozman
Mr. Tom Ginn, AEDC
Ms. Terri Garrett, Office of Representative Womack
Mr. Steve Clark, Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce
Mr. David Mason, North Arkansas College
Ms. Emily Cooper Yates, AEDC

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 bragged on the Operations Managers for their regularly scheduled staff meetings. The staff takes a policy or procedure and goes through it to answer questions and make sure that everyone understands the requirements. MS. METHVIN updated the Board on the participant that was in need of emergency housing. MR. JAMES MOSS and his staff have gone to great lengths to help the family find housing.

MS. METHVIN informed the Board that the TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) grant has been signed by Executive Director, Joe Willis. We expect to get the final grant soon. For this grant Northwest will provide Work Experience for up to 33 adults who qualify for TANF.

MS. METHVIN shared with the Board the makeup of the revised Youth Committee. Currently the committee has confirmed representatives from Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative, Ozarks Unlimited Resources Cooperative, North Central Educational Cooperative, NWACC Adult Education, North Arkansas College Adult Education, Baxter Regional Medical Center (Sarah Brozynski – Board Member/Youth Committee Chair), Job Corps, ASU MH Adult Education, and NWAEDD. MS. METHVIN asked that any Board members that would like to serve on the youth committee contact her. Also, to let MS. METHVIN know if any Board members know of anyone who would be an asset to the Youth Committee.

MS. METHVIN updated the Board on the status of ADWS Monitoring. NWAEDD has filed an appeal for the 2018 and 2019 Monitoring findings. NWAEDD received the 2020 monitoring report in the past week. The 2021 monitoring is scheduled for April.

MS. METHVIN called on Tania Overton to give her quarterly Business Services Coordinator report. MS. OVERTON has met with several of our Chambers, businesses, and partners. She has worked with WIOA Staff to help put together a Circle of Success Job Fair to be held March 29th as well as a Job Fair at the Fayetteville Library.

MS. METHVIN and MS. OVERTON have participated in several radio interviews to help promote the services that NWAEDD provides.

Agenda Item #1 – Updated Workforce Budget

MS. METHVIN presented the Updated Workforce Budget. A motion was made to approve the Updated Workforce Budget by MR. ROSS PARKER and was seconded by MR. WALTER HINOJOSA. The motion passed.

Agenda Item #2 – Policy Changes

Youth Additional Barrier – Added the language stating the documentation required for participant files. A motion to approve the changes in the Youth Additional Barrier policy was made by MR. BOB LARGENT and seconded by MR. PARKER. The motion passed.

Business Services Policy – MS. METHVIN explained to the Board that ADWS is requiring a Business Services Policy. MS. OVERTON created this policy based on the WIOA law. A motion to approve the Business Services Policy was made by MR. LARGENT and seconded by MR. PARKER. The motion passed.

Agenda Item #3 – One Stop Operator Report

MS. SUSAN SANGREN gave the One Stop Operator report. A motion was made to approve the One Stop Operator Report by MR. HINOJOSA and seconded by MR. PARKER. The motion passed.

Agenda Item #4 – Consent Agenda

MR. PARKER made a motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the December 1, 2021, LWDB meeting, the minutes of the December 2, 2021, LWDB Electronic meeting, the minutes of the January 27, 2022, called LWDB meeting and the list of approved Eligible Training Provider programs. The motion passed.

MR. PARKER made a motion to adjourn. MR. HINOJOSA seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45.



John Dyess, Chair