

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Minutes of Meeting June 1, 2022

A meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Workforce Development Board (LWDB) was held Wednesday, June 1, 2022, in person, via conference call, and via Zoom.

Board members present in person and via Zoom meeting were:

MR. BEN ALDAMA, NWACC ADULT EDUCATION
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
MR. BOB LARGENT, HARRISON REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
MR. ROSS PARKER, PARKER RENTALS
MR. KELLEY SHARP, UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FAYETTEVILLE
MR. RICKY TOMPKINS, NWACC

Board members absent and excused were:

MR. EDDIE BARTLETT, BARTLETT FAMILY DENTISTRY, proxy Bob Largent
MS. SAMMIE CRIBBS, NORTH ARKANSAS MEDICAL CENTER
MS. JANA KINDALL, AR DIVISION OF WORKFORCE SERVICES, proxy Aaron Johnson
MR. BO PHILLIPS, COX-RAPID SCALE, HARRISON

Others present or on Zoom 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
Mr. James Moss, NWAEDD
Ms. Katie Causey, NWAEDD
Ms. Shana King, NWAEDD
Mr. Nicholas Ryburn, Adult Education
Mr. Elijah Snow, Office of Senator Boozman
Mr. Stetson Painter, Office of Representative Crawford
Mr. Aaron Johnson, Division of Workforce Services
Mr. Chad Brown, Arkansas Workforce Board
Mr. Robbie Cornelius, Fayetteville Adult Education
Mr. Victor Beck, Arkansas State University, Mountain Home
Mr. Paul Edmonson, North Arkansas College Adult Education
Ms. Jennifer Scott, North Arkansas College Adult Education
Mr. Jeremy Ragland, NWAEDD

Ms. Joyce Akidi, Arkansas Division of Workforce Services
Mr. Tom Pittman, Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by SECRETARY KELLEY SHARP. MR. SHARP informed the attendees that the meeting was being recorded and that each vote will be conducted through a roll call vote. MR. SHARP recognized several guests that were in attendance. MR. AARON JOHNSON will be serving as a proxy for MS. JANA KINDALL. MR. BOB LARGENT will serve as a proxy for MR. EDDIE BARTLETT.

MS. PATTY METHVIN gave the quarterly staff report. MS. METHVIN welcomed new Board member MS. SAMMIE CRIBBS. MS. CRIBBS is the President and CEO of North Arkansas Medical Center in Harrison. MS. CRIBBS had a scheduling conflict with today's meeting. MS. CRIBBS will be replacing MS. BILLIE REED on the board. MS. METHVIN also introduced, MS. KATIE CAUSEY who will serve as Career Advisor in the Harrison office focusing on youth.

MS. METHVIN shared with the board that she and MR. JOE WILLIS met with EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHAD BROWN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR EDDIE THOMAS and DEPUTY DIRECTOR JAY BASSETT immediately after the March Board meeting.

MS. METHVIN informed the Board that the Youth Committee has met and is scheduled to meet bi-monthly. MS. SARAH BROZYNSKI is the chair of the committee and will give a report later in the agenda.

MS. METHVIN gave an overview of the extensive monitoring processes that are now the normal process. With the addition of a third-party monitor being required, there is some facet of monitoring happening throughout the year. The most recent monitoring by the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services (ADWS) has just been completed. ADWS bragged on Northwest for providing requested documentation quickly, commended our staff for our ability to recruit participants, and bragged on our Supportive Services Policy. Northwest was required to update the by-laws and the CEO agreement. MS. METHVIN reminded the Board that we have two appeals pending with ADWS.

Hightower Workforce Initiatives is in the process of monitoring One-Stop Operator, Program and Fiscal from 2017 to 2020. The process of uploading documentation began last week. Hightower will be on-site June 28-30, 2022 to review participant files.

MS. METHVIN highlighted meetings and conferences that she attended including:

- Quad State meeting in March
- North Arkansas College Manufacturing Day Committee
- Circle of Success event in Rogers. This event was created by the Rogers/Fayetteville staff.
- Meeting with AEDC representatives.
- Arkansas Community Development Society Conference (Past President)
- Spring Partners meeting (virtual)
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MS. TANIA OVERTON, Business Services Coordinator gave her report. The Business Services Team is meeting monthly. The first meeting included introductions, an overview of business services, a discussion of the Regional Planning and Sector Partnership grant and upcoming events. The second meeting included a discussion of holding a Virtual Business Services Open House. MS. OVERTON also reviewed several meetings and conferences that she attended.

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. RICKY TOMPKINS and was seconded by MR. ROSS PARKER. The motion passed.

Agenda Item #2 – By-laws Revisions

As a result of monitoring ADWS required that additional language be added to the Northwest Workforce Board By-laws. A motion to approve the additions to the by-laws was made by MR. LARGENT and seconded by MR. DAVID BELL. The motion passed.

Agenda Item #3 – Youth Committee Report

MS. BROZYNSKI gave the Youth Committee report. The Youth Committee met on April 14th. Introductions were made. MS. METHVIN gave an overview of the purpose of the Youth Committee as well as the definition of WIOA Out of School Youth. The Committee will meet every four to six weeks. Committee members were asked to share two to three top priority issues that the youth of our area are dealing with. Those priority issues will be discussed at the next meeting. The Committee is open to anyone who works with youth in our area and Committee members were encouraged to seek out additional committee members.

Agenda Item #4 – 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. PARKER and seconded by MR. TOMPKINS. The motion passed.

Agenda Item #5 – Eligible Training Provider Programs

MS. METHVIN explained that ADWS recommended that anyone working for one of our Eligible Training Providers recuse themselves from voting on the Eligible Training Provider Programs. The list of Eligible Training Providers was provided in the packet. A motion was made to approve the Eligible Training Provider Programs was made by MR. BELL and seconded by MR. AARON JOHNSON (proxy for MS. JANA KINDALL). MR. BEN ALDAMA and MR. RICKY TOMPKINS abstained. The motion passed.

Agenda Item #6 – Minutes of March 2, 2022, NW WDB Board Meeting

MR. PARKER made the motion to approve the minutes of the Northwest Workforce Development March Board meeting. MR. TOMPKINS seconded the motion. The motion passed.

MR. BELL made a motion to adjourn. MR. PARKER seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.



John Dyess, Chair

9-7-2022

Date