

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Minutes of Meeting September 7, 2022
Durand Center, Harrison, Arkansas

A meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Workforce Development Board (LWDB) was held Wednesday, September 7, 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. EDDIE BARTLETT, BARTLETT FAMILY DENTISTRY
MR. DAVID BELL, DAVID BELL, LLC.
MS. SARAH BROZYNSKI, BAXTER REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
MS. SAMMIE CRIBBS, NORTH ARKANSAS MEDICAL CENTER
MS. CHERYL DAVENPORT, ADVANCED MARINE PERFORMANCE
MR. JOHN DYESS, ALTRONIC RESEARCH, INC.
MR. WALTER HINOJOSA, NWA LABOR COUNCIL
MS. AMY JONES, ARKANSAS REHABILITATION SERVICES
MS. JANA KINDALL, ARKANSAS DIVISION OF WORKFORCE SERVICES
MR. BO PHILLIPS, COX-RAPID SCALE, HARRISON
MR. KELLEY SHARP, UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FAYETTEVILLE

Board members absent and excused were:

MR. KEVIN ESTES, DHS SERVICES FOR THE BLIND, Jana Kindall - Proxy
MR. BOB LARGENT, HARRISON REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
MR. RICKY TOMPKINS, NWACC

Others present or on Zoom were:

Mr. Joe Willis, NWAEDD
Ms. Patty Methvin, 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
Mr. Nicholas Ryburn, Adult Education
Mr. Chad Brown, Arkansas Workforce Board
Mr. Robbie Cornelius, Fayetteville Adult Education
Mr. Victor Beck, Arkansas State University, Mountain Home
Ms. Cherie Conner, North Arkansas College Adult Education
Mr. Jeremy Ragland, NWAEDD
Ms. Joyce Akidi, Arkansas Division of Workforce Services
Mr. Tom Pittman, Arkansas Division of Workforce Service
Ms. Donna Braymer, Harrison Daily Times
Ms. Diana Johnson, Northwest Arkansas Community College
Ms. Janie Wheeler
Mr. David Mason, North Arkansas College
Ms. Kim Edwards, North Arkansas College
Ms. Tina Cole, NWAEDD

Representative Jack Fortner
Mr. Henry Walker
Mr. Tom Ginn, AEDC
Ms. Brenzale Wooten, ADWS

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by CHAIR JOHN DYESS. MR. DYESS informed the attendees that the meeting was being recorded. MR. DYESS recognized several guests that were in attendance.

MS. PATTY METHVIN gave the quarterly staff report. MS. METHVIN bragged on Tania Overton, Business Services Coordinator. The Business Services Team is meeting monthly and has been very productive. MS. OVERTON will be giving a detailed report later in the meeting. The Youth Committee has also been meeting regularly. MS. BROZYNSKI will be giving the Youth Committee report later in the meeting. MS. METHVIN reported that the Summer Youth program is going well. Monitoring of the program was completed by MS. METHVIN. Hightower Workforce Initiatives has been to NWAEDD in person to begin monitoring the One Stop Operator, Program and Fiscal programs from 2017 to 2020. Hightower monitored 91 files and had a few general concerns and recommendations. MS. METHVIN was asked to meet with educators to share about the WIOA program at the Ozarks Unlimited Resources Educational Services Cooperative. Led a Customer Service Training for the North Arkansas College Adult Education staff. Served on the Boone County Hometown Health Initiative Executive Committee. Met with Wachter apprenticeship program, Trish Villines with the Arkansas State Chamber, DSI Trucking with David Mason of North Arkansas College, met with Canopy NWA, attended the Hustle in Heels event held by the Rogers Chamber, and attended the Non-Profit Roundtable and the Women in Business Roundtable held by the Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce.

MS. TANIA OVERTON gave the Business Services Team report. The Northwest Business Services Team held the first Virtual Open House sessions in July. Northwest also held its first Coffee Connection in July in collaboration with Rogers-Lowell Chamber. MS. OVERTON stated that the event exceeded our expectations and had an exceptional turnout. It was a great networking opportunity for all. The requests for Business Services have significantly increased since the last quarter, which means we are seeing a return on our investment in varied outreach approaches. Customized recruitment, hiring and small business growth and development are still our top requested services. Entrepreneurship is on the rise. Current outreach initiatives for Regional Planning and Sector Partnerships include the distribution of non-profit mailers and marketing materials, such as rack cards. MS. OVERTON continues to increase our executive presence in the community by attending workshops, employer forums, job fairs, roundtables, etc. MS. OVERTON and MS. CASSANDRA JOHNSON have been tasked with serving as leads for WIOA Targeted Populations Outreach. They will develop a coordinated approach to serving underserved populations with employer services in mind. The Business Services team continues to meet monthly and are inviting key stakeholders and industry experts to present to our team to keep us abreast of best practices and help us to learn more about what employers are seeking. The next Business Services Team meeting will be November 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Best Western Inn of the Ozarks in Eureka Springs with a guest speaker and professional development opportunity for our team.

MS. SARAH BROZYNSKI gave the Northwest Workforce Board Youth Committee report. The committee was asked to send in three or four issues that each committee member considered a high priority issue for the youth of Northwest. The committee identified transportation as one of the largest issues for our area. The second priority issues for youth in Northwest is mental Health. MS. METHVIN shared with the committee that NWAEDD is looking at providing training for staff through www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org. these trainings are both in-person or via Zoom. Staff will learn about risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis

situations, and where to turn for help. Other issues centered around connecting youth to educational opportunities, training, as well as job opportunities.

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. BO PHILLIPS and was seconded by MR. ROSS PARKER. The motion passed.

Agenda Item #2 – Program Year Board Budget

MS. METHVIN presented the Program Year Board Budget. An increase to the Board training and Board travel was included for attendance to the National Association of Workforce Board conference in Washington, D.C. A motion to approve the Program Year Board Budget was made by MR. PHILLIPS and seconded by MR. EDDIE BARTLETT. The motion passed.

Agenda Item #3 – One Stop Operator Budget

MS. METHVIN presented the One Stop Operator Budget. Changes to the budget include the costs for the 3rd party monitoring. A motion to approve the One Stop Operator Budget was made by MR. PARKER and seconded by MR. KELLEY SHARP. The motion passed.

Agenda Item #4 – Supportive Services Policy Changes

MS. METHVIN shared the changes to the Northwest Supportive Services Policy. Additions to the policy included adding the ability to provide Ride Share Vouchers to the policy which will allow staff to better assist participants to and from approved WIOA services like training and work experience. A motion to approve the changes to the Northwest Supportive Services policy was made by MR. PHILLIPS and seconded by MR. WALER HINOJOSA. The motion passed.

Agenda Item #5 – One Stop Operator Report

MS. METHVIN presented the One Stop Operator Report in the absence of MS. SUSAN SANGREN. A motion to approve the One Stop Operator Report was made by MR. PHILLIPS and seconded by MR. BEN ALDAMA. The motion passed.

Agenda Item #6 – 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 presented was made by MR. HINOJOSA and seconded by MR. ALDAMA MR. BEN ALDAMA and MR. KELLEY SHARP abstained. The motion passed.

Agenda Item #7 – Minutes of June 2022, NW WDB Board Meeting

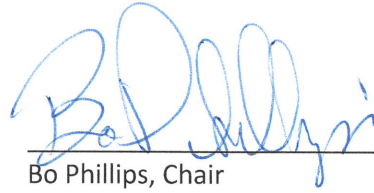
MR. BARTLETT made the motion to approve the minutes of the Northwest Workforce Development June Board meeting. MR. ALDAMA seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Agenda Item #8 – Election of Officers

MS. METHVIN referred to the list of Private Sector Business Representatives currently serving on the Board. MS. METHVIN reminded the Board that the Board Chair and Vice Chair are required to be from private sector businesses. Mr. PARKER made a motion to elect MR. BO PHILLIPS - Chair, MS. SARAH BROZYNSKI - Vice Chair and MR. KELLEY SHARP - Secretary by acclamation. MR. BELL seconded the motion. The motion passed.

MR. PHILLIPS took over as Board Chair. Several presentations were given to MR. DYESS for his many years of dedicated service to the Northwest Workforce Board.

MR. PARKER made a motion to adjourn. MR. BARTLETT seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m.



Bo Phillips, Chair



Date