

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Minutes of Meeting June 5, 2024
818 Highway 62-65-412 North, Harrison, Arkansas

A meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Workforce Development Board (LWDB) was held Wednesday, June 5, 2024, in person, via conference call, and via Zoom.

Board members present in person and via Zoom meeting were:

MR. AARON JOHNSON, ARKANSAS DIVISION OF WORKFORCE SERVICES
MR. CHAD VINCENT, UNITED STEELWORKERS
MS. CHERIE CONNER, NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE ADULT EDUCATION
MR. DAVID BELL, DAVID BELL, LLC.
MS. DIANA JOHNSON, NWACC – Proxy Eve Aldredge
MR. EDDIE BARTLETT, MITISERVE
MR. HUGH SMITH, SMITH AND TAYLOR TAX
MR. BO PHILLIPS, COX-RAPID SCALE, HARRISON
MR. KELLEY SHARP, UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FAYETTEVILLE
MR. KEVIN ESTES, DHS SERVICES FOR THE BLIND
MR. ROGER POTTER, ANSTAFF BANK
MR. RICKY TOMPKINS, ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGES
MS. SANDY STOUT, HARPS FOOD
MS. TRISH VILLINES, VILLINES ELECTRIC
MR. WILSON MARSEILLES, HARRISON REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
MS. YOLANDA WILLIAMS, APAC

Board members absent and excused were:

MS. CHERYL DAVENPORT, ADVANCED MARINE PERFORMANCE
MS. EMILEE TUCKER, O.U.R. EDUCATIONAL CO-OP
MR. JASON PATIENCE, WABASH
MS. KARLEA NEWBERRY, SIGNATURE BANK OF ARKANSAS
MS. JENNIFER RAGSDALE, ARKANSAS REHABILITATION SERVICES
MS. SAMMIE CRIBBS ROBERSON, NORTH ARKANSAS MEDICAL CENTER
MS. SONYA EDWARDS, JONES PHYSICAL THERAPY
MS. VICKI JONES, MODERN FENCE
MS. CHRISSIE LARCHEZ, HOPE COTTAGES
MR. MATT RUSSELL, JACK WILLIAMS VETERAN RESOURCE CENTER

Others present or on Zoom were:

Mr. Joe Willis, NWAEDD
Ms. Patty Methvin, NWAEDD
Ms. Chelsey Weaver, NWAEDD
Mr. James Moss, NWAEDD
Mr. Nicholas Ryburn, Adult Education
Ms. April Turner, NWAEDD
Ms. Karen Henry, NWAEDD
Ms. Amy Roberts, North Arkansas College Adult Education
Mr. Tom Ginn, AEDC

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Ms. Katie Causey, NWAEDD
Ms. Jana Kindall, ADWS
Ms. Shana King, NWAEDD
Mr. Landon Koch, NWAEDD
Mr. David Bell, NWAEDD
Mr. Jeremy Ragland, NWAEDD
Ms. Shelly Mencaci, North Arkansas College

The meeting was called to order at 11:06 a.m. by CHAIR JOHN "BO" PHILLIPS. MR. PHILLIPS informed the attendees that the meeting was being recorded. MS. PATTY METHVIN introduced two new Board members. MR. CHAD VINCENT – United Steelworkers and MS. YOLANDA WILLIAMS – APEC.

MS. PATTY METHVIN gave the quarterly staff report. MS. METHVIN reported that she and James Moss attended the Arkansas Apprenticeship Summit in Little Rock. Northwest continues to seek out diverse apprenticeships for our participants. MS. METHVIN shared with the Board that ADWS is requiring Northwest to have the Workforce Board certified again this year. Typically, Board certification is every two years. ADWS is also requiring that One Stop Centers also be re-certified. Center Certification is typically every three years. Both were certified last year. MS. METHVIN informed the Board that Chris Kellem will start working out of the Harrison office and we would be moving out of the Twin Lakes Literacy Council office. In addition to Center Certifications and Board Certifications revisions to the Local Plan are also due. MS. METHVIN gave an update on monitoring for Northwest. Currently the open monitoring reports are 2021, 2022 and 2023.

MS. METHVIN gave the Business Services Report. The Business Services Coordinator's written report is included on the agenda. THE Business Services committee met on April 26th to review the Self Evaluation Survey provided by ADWS.

MS. METHVIN gave the Youth Committee report on behalf of MS. EMILEE TUCKER. MS. METHVIN shared with the Board that the committee has been working on the second Youth Summit to be held on April 2 & 3 at the O.U.R. Educational Cooperative. The committee has met several times since the first of the year to plan the summit. Unfortunately there were a large number of cancellations at the last minute which caused the committee to decide to postpone the event until Fall of 2024.

There was no Disability Committee report.

MS. CHERIE CONNER gave the One-Stop Operator Committee report. The One-Stop Operator Committee will be meeting next month.

MR. RICKY TOMPKINS made a motion to approve the committee reports. MR. DAVID BELL seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 1 – Updated Workforce Budget

MS. METHVIN shared with the board that we have not received the projected funding for 2024-25 grants but anticipate another reduction in funds based on the amounts projected for the State. A motion was made by MR. ROGER POTTER and seconded by MR. KEVIN ESTES. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 2 – Transfer of Funds from Dislocated Worker to Adult

MS. METHVIN explained that WIOA allows for the transfer of up to 100% of funds between Adult and Dislocated Worker grants. Northwest is seeking approval for up to 75% of funds from Dislocated Worker to Adult. Northwest has a larger number of adult participants and the transfer will leave adequate funds for Dislocated Workers. MS. CHERIE CONNER made a motion to approve the transfer of up to 75% of funds from Dislocated Worker to Adult. MR. AARON JOHNSON seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 3 – One-Stop Operator Report

MR. JAMES MOSS presenting the One-Stop Operator report. There was not a quorum present at the time of the report. This will be included on the agenda for the September meeting for a vote.

Agenda Item 5 – Eligible Training Provider Programs

MS. METHVIN referred to the ETP list in the agenda. There was not a quorum present at the time of the report. This will be included on the agenda for the September meeting for a vote.

Agenda Item 6 – Minutes of the March 6, 2024, Northwest Workforce Board Meeting. There was not a quorum present at the time of the report. This will be included on the agenda for the September meeting for a vote.

MS. METHVIN reminded the board that the next board meeting will be held on September 4, 2024. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

John “Bo” Phillips

Date