

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Minutes of Meeting September 4, 2024

818 Highway 62-65-412 North, Harrison, Arkansas

A meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Workforce Development Board (LWDB) was held Wednesday, September 4, 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
MS. CHERIE CONNER, NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE ADULT EDUCATION
MS. DIANA JOHNSON, NWACC
MR. EDDIE BARTLETT, MITISERVE
MS. EMILEE TUCKER, O.U.R. EDUCATIONAL CO-OP
MR. HUGH SMITH, SMITH AND TAYLOR TAX
MR. BO PHILLIPS, COX-RAPID SCALE, HARRISON
MR. JASON PATIENCE, WABASH
MS. JENNIFER RAGSDALE, ARKANSAS REHABILITATION SERVICES
MS. KARLEA NEWBERRY, SIGNATURE BANK OF ARKANSAS
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. SAMMIE CRIBBS ROBERSON, NORTH ARKANSAS MEDICAL CENTER
MS. SANDY STOUT, HARPS FOOD
MS. TRISH VILLINES, VILLINES ELECTRIC
MS. YOLANDA WILLIAMS, APEC

Board members absent and excused were:

MR. CHAD VINCENT, UNITED STEELWORKERS
MS. CHERYL DAVENPORT, ADVANCED MARINE PERFORMANCE
MR. DAVID BELL, DAVID BELL, LLC.
MS. SONYA EDWARDS, JONES PHYSICAL THERAPY
MS. VICKI JONES, MODERN FENCE
MS. CHRISSIE LARCHEZ, HOPE COTTAGES
MR. MATT RUSSELL, JACK WILLIAMS VETERAN RESOURCE CENTER
MR. WILSON MARSEILLES, HARRISON REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Others present or on Zoom were:

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
Ms. Katie Causey, NWAEDD
Ms. Shana King, NWAEDD
Mr. David Bell, NWAEDD
Mr. Jeremy Ragland, NWAEDD
Ms. Tammy Predmore, WAPDD
Ms. Michelle Ryan, NWAEDD

Ms. Chris Kellem, NWAEDD
Mr. Ryan Czanstkowski, Vexus Boats
Mr. Elijah Snow, Congressman Crawford
Mr. Toliver Myers, Senator Boozman
Mr. Mike Nabors, Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Emily Yates, AEDC
Ms. Tracy Watson, ADWS
Mr. Ben Aldama, NWACC
Mr. Rodney Ellis, Springdale Schools

The meeting was called to order at 11:07 a.m. by VICE CHAIR KELLEY SHARP. MR. SHARP informed the attendees that the meeting was being recorded.

MS. PATTY METHVIN gave the quarterly staff report. MS. METHVIN reported that Northwest staff met with MR. EDDIE THOMAS and other staff from Arkansas Workforce Connections to discuss the Harrison One Stop Center changes and closings. Effective September 1 Wagner Peyser staff (Employment Services) will no longer be in the Center. Clients needing employment services as well as unemployment services will be given toll-free numbers to call for help. ADWS will continue to rent the same space as they are now.

MS. METHVIN provided an overview of the monitoring process. While we have not yet received the final determination for PY21, we anticipate only a small financial finding. Additionally, we have responded to the PY22 monitoring, which also resulted in a minimal financial finding. We are waiting on a response from ADWS in order to finalize the PY23 monitoring report.

MS. METHVIN reported that she had monitored all of the summer youth and their worksites. Northwest hosted MS. TAMMY PREDMORE and MS. FELICIA THOMISON from Western Arkansas Planning and Development District. Both are new to WIOA and wanted to see how the program works for Northwest.

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 September 4th, 2024.

MS. EMILEE TUCKER gave the Youth Committee report. MS. TUCKER shared with the Board that the committee has been working on the second Youth Summit to be held on October 25th at North Arkansas College. The committee has met several times to plan the summit. To ensure a successful event, we are introducing a contract requirement for participating schools, which must be signed by both superintendents and principals. This decision is in response to the challenges faced during the spring event, which was canceled due to last-minute school cancellations. The contract aligns with the state Chamber's Draft Day procedures, which are also implementing similar requirements due to a 50% attrition rate in many regions.

There was no Disability Committee report.

MS. CHERIE CONNER gave the One-Stop Operator Committee report. The One-Stop Operator Committee will be meeting September 18, and September 26th.

MR. JASON PATIENCE made a motion to approve the committee reports. MS. TRISH VILLINES seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 1 – Updated Workforce Budget

MS. METHVIN noted the new format for the Workforce Budget. This format is much simpler to help the board better understand our financial position. Northwest has not received any of the PY or FY 24 funds to date. We anticipate getting the Youth funds within a couple of weeks. A motion was made by MR.

EDDIE BARTLETT and seconded by MR. ROGER POTTER to approve the Updated Workforce Budget. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 2 – Updated Board Budget

MS. METHVIN explained to the board that the changes to the 2024 Board budget reflect current salaries and fringe. A motion was made by MR. BARTLETT and seconded by MR. PATIENCE to approve the Updated Board Budget. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 3 – Election of Officers

Current officers include: John Bo Phillips – Chairperson, Kelley Sharp – Vice Chairperson, Secretary – Roger Potter. MS. METHVIN reminded the Board that the Chairperson must be from the private sector business representatives. A list of private sector businesses is provided in the agenda. A motion was made by MR. BARTLETT and seconded by MR. RICKY TOMPKINS to re-elect the current slate of officers. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 4 – One-Stop Operator and Service Provider Procurement Policy.

MS. METHVIN explained to the Board that changes are being made to this policy are due to monitoring. A motion was made by MR. BARTLETT and seconded by MS. KARLEA NEWBERRY to approve the updated One-Stop Operator and Service Provider Procurement Policy. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 5 – One-Stop Operator Report

MR. JAMES MOSS presented the One-Stop Operator report. Due to not having a quorum at the previous meeting a motion was made by MR. AARON JOHNSON to approve both the June report and the September report and seconded by MR. BARTLETT. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 6 – Eligible Training Provider Programs

MS. METHVIN referred to the ETP list in the agenda. Due to not having a quorum at the previous meeting a motion was made by MR. BARTLETT and seconded by MR. POTTER to approve the June Eligible Trainings and the September Eligible Trainings. MR. KELLEY SHARP, MR. RICKY TOMPKINS, MS. DIANA JOHNSON AND MS. CHERIE CONNER abstained from the vote. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 7 – Minutes of the March 6, 2024, Northwest Workforce Board Meeting and Minutes of the June 5, 2024 Northwest Workforce Board meeting. Due to not having a quorum at the previous meeting a motion was made by MR. TOMPKINS and seconded by MR. PATIENCE to approve the March 6 and June 5th minutes. The motion passed.

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

DocuSigned by:

Bo Phillips

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John "Bo" Phillips

2/12/2025

Date