

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Minutes of Meeting December 4, 2024

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

A meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Workforce Development Board (LWDB) was held Wednesday, December 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. RICKY TOMPKINS, ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGES
MR. ROGER POTTER, A QUALITY ENTERPRISES
MS. SAMMIE CRIBBS ROBERSON, NORTH ARKANSAS MEDICAL CENTER
MS. SANDY STOUT, HARPS FOOD
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
MS. TRISH VILLINES, VILLINES ELECTRIC
MR. WILSON MARSEILLES, HARRISON REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Others present or on Zoom were:

Ms. Patty Methvin, NWAEDD
Mr. Joe Willis, NWAEDD
Ms. Chelsey Weaver, NWAEDD
Mr. James Moss, NWAEDD
Mr. Nicholas Ryburn, Adult Education
Ms. April Turner, 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. Michelle Ryan, NWAEDD
Ms. Chris Kellem, NWAEDD
Mr. Ben Aldama, NWACC
Mr. Rodney Ellis, Springdale School
Ms. Amanda Simon, NWAEDD
Ms. Joyce Akidi, ADWS
Ms. Tracy Watson, ADWS
Mr. Tom Pittman, ADWS

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m. by BOARD CHAIR MR. BO PHILLIPS. MR. PHILLIPS welcomed guests.

MS. PATTY METHVIN presented the quarterly staff report. She provided an overview of the monitoring process and mentioned that the final determination for the 2018 monitoring has not yet been received. The 2018 monitoring was appealed by NWAEDD to both ADWS and DOL. Ms. METHVIN shared that they have received what seems to be a positive ruling from DOL and are awaiting a response from ADWS. Northwest has also received the initial response for the 2023 monitoring and has responded, awaiting the final determination. No further issues are expected.

MS. METHVIN met several times with the Northwest Workforce Board Youth Committee, which hosted a Youth Summit on October 25th.

MS. METHVIN and MR. JOE WILLIS and other NWAEDD staff also met with MR. EDDIE THOMAS, MS. ANGELA COOK, MR. CODY WAITS, AND MS. MARICA MORRE from ADWS to tour the Harrison Workforce Center.

Additionally, MS. METHVIN reported attending the One-Stop Partner meetings in Harrison and Bentonville, the Statewide Business Services Team meetings, and the I-49 Corridor Workforce Summit in Bentonville. She also met with the Disability Committee, One-Stop Committee, and Youth Committee.

MS. METHVIN AND MR. JAMES MOSS met with Miles Crawford of DPI several times to discuss a potential On-the-Job Training (OJT) partnership. They also met with South Delta PDD from Mississippi to explore successful OJT program partnerships involving regional workforce boards, staffing partners, and employers.

MS. METHVIN attended the ADWS Partner meeting in Little Rock, the North Arkansas College's Strategic Planning Session and the DWS Career Advisor Training in Little Rock. She also met with Whitney Rogers from the Mountain Home School District to discuss the workforce program.

MS. EMILEE TUCKER presented the Youth Committee report. She shared that the Youth Summit on October 25th at North Arkansas College had 33 attendees, fewer than expected. The committee is evaluating whether to continue the event in the future.

MS. JENNIFER RAGLAND presented the Disability Committee report. The committee is serving as an informational hub for disability resources and providing expertise to other organizations. They plan to invite more partners to join and aim to host a resource fair by next summer. The Disability Committee will hold an in-person meeting on January 9th.

MS. CHERIE CONNER gave the One-Stop Operator Committee report. The One-Stop Operator Committee met September 18, and September 26th. More details will be provided by MR. JAMES MOSS in the One-Stop Operator report.

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

Agenda Item 1 – Updated Workforce Budget

MS. METHVIN noted that Northwest had received Youth funds, but Adult and Dislocated Worker funds are still pending, with expectations for receipt in the next few weeks. Northwest plans to increase participant numbers once funds are received. However, delays in both expected funding amounts and receipt of funds remain an issue. Additionally, Northwest applied for a disaster grant for the recent tornadoes, but ADWS missed the application deadline, preventing the grant from being awarded. A motion was made by MR. EDDIE BARTLETT and seconded by MR. KEVIN ESTES to approve the Updated Workforce Budget. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 2 – Annual Report

MS. METHVIN presented the Annual Report. MS. CHERIE CONNER noted that there was an incomplete sentence on page 9. MS. CONNER suggested that the sentence read “Non-High School graduates are served” A motion was made by MR. SHARP to approve the Annual Report with the amendments and seconded by MS. KARLEAH NEWBERRY to approve the Updated Board Budget. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 3 – Title 1 Program Provider

MS. METHVIN explained that in the CEO Agreement the CEO’s have authorized the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc., to act as grant subrecipient and fiscal agent on their behalf. A motion was made by MR. SHARP and seconded by MR. BARTLETT that NWAEDD be designated as the Title 1 program provider for the Northwest area as well as other grants as appropriate. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 4 – One-Stop Operator Report

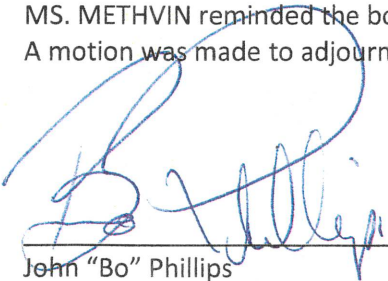
MR. JAMES MOSS presented the One-Stop Operator report. MS. CHERIE CONNER made a motion and MR. BARTLETT SECONDED the motion to approve the One Stop Operator report. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 6 – Eligible Training Provider Programs

MS. METHVIN referred to the ETP list on the agenda. A motion was made by MR. BARTLETT and seconded by MR. PATIENCE to approve the December 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 September 4, 2024, Northwest Workforce Board meeting. A motion was made by MR. ESTES and seconded by MR. AARON JOHNSON to approve September 4, 2024 minutes. The motion passed.

MS. METHVIN reminded the board that the next board meeting will be held on March 5, 2025. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.


John “Bo” Phillips


Date