

**West Central Workforce Development Board Minutes (Unofficial)**  
**August 8, 2019**

Smokin Style BBQ, Hot Springs, Arkansas

**WDB members present:** Clayton Caldwell, Larry Carr, Omar Clemons, Louisa Daniels, Aleah Duff, Kelli Embry, Neil Golden, Margot McLeod, Mike Lipton, Gary Walker and Bill Weston

**WDB members absent:** Kathryn Baxter, Johnathan Bibb, Greg Black, Karen Breashears, Raymond Chambers, Amy Ford, Jimmy Hart, Kyle Jones, Dean McDaniel, Alan Nolan, Brian Sanders and Scott White

**WCAPDD staff present:** LoTanya Bealer, Margaret Dearmon, David Moore, Ravonna Nichols, Marty Parker, Dwayne Pratt and Joyellen Rosamond

**Guests:** Kim Darling, Janet Edgar, Dawn Fitch, Kathleen Garrett, Charles Helms, Bill McLeod, Bill Ritter, Jessica Rohlman, Arnell Willis, Sr. and Kaitlyn Wright

Mr. Carr declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:39 a.m. and gave the invocation.

**Agenda Item 1 – Chair Comments - ACTION**

Carr asked guests to introduce themselves.

Mr. Carr directed members' attention to the minutes of the June 8, 2019 meeting. He asked if there were any additions or changes to the minutes. **Hearing none, a motion to accept the June 8, 2019 minutes, as presented, was made by Caldwell, seconded by McLeod, the motion carried unanimously with none opposed.**

Mr. Carr introduced new members: Omar Clemons, Neil Golden.

Mr. Carr stated that the following members have requested an excused absence for today's meeting: Amy Ford, Karen Breashears, Scott White and Judge Hart, and Raymond Chambers. Mr. Carr asked for motion to approve the excused absences as presented. **Walker motioned, seconded by Lipton to approve excused absences as presented, the motion carried unanimously with none opposed.**

Carr made reference to the PY-17 Monitoring Report that is in the packet. He reported that it has been official closed.

**Agenda Item 2 – Committee Reports**

**Executive Committee:** Mr. Carr reported on the two teleconferences that the Executive Committee had to have due to short deadlines. The first teleconference was on approving the Regional and Local Plans that had to be submitted to the State. The second meeting was to

approve the PY-19 Budgets. Discussion followed. **Walker motioned to approve the reports, seconded by Embry. Motion carried unanimously with none opposed.**

Planning and Performance Committee: Mr. Carr turned the floor over to Ms. McLeod to give the report on behalf of Ms. Baxter. Ms. McLeod reported that United Welding Institute contacted Ms. Dearmon after their programs were disapproved in June. Ms. Dearmon reported this to Ms. Baxter and she asked to investigate and report back to her and she would bring it to the Board. Ms. Dearmon met with the school discussed the questions and concerns that the Board had at the time they denied the application which are in the packet. Discussion followed. **Weston motioned, seconded by Walker to approve United Welding Institute's new applications if they pass the ADA requirements. Motion carried unanimously with none opposed.**

Ms. McLeod also reported that four schools communicated that they missed the application deadline and asked to be allowed to file late applications. It was determined by the committee that the four schools could submit the late application and it is a onetime only situation. **Black motioned, seconded by Daniels to allow ATU at Ozark, National Park, UACCM and UCA applications to be approved. Motion carried unanimously with Embry abstaining.**

McLeod presented two policies for approval – Transportation for Training Supportive Service Policy and Referral Policy. Discussion followed. **McLeod motioned, seconded by Walker to approve the policies. Motion carried unanimously with none opposed.**

### **Agenda Item 3 & 4 – Informational/Lunch with Speaker**

Carr turned the floor over to Lancaster to give her Business Engagement report. Lancaster reported that she has visited seven of the counties and made contacts with the other three. Lancaster reported she worked two job events - ACTI and Magic Springs. She reported that one job fair is scheduled for Morrilton in Conway County. This will be a multi-employer job fair.

Carr introduced Cindy White-Hamilton as the representative for the One Stop Operator. He turned the floor over to Ms. White-Hamilton. She passed out information and talked about what is going on in each office. She said each office may offer something a little different, but services are being provided. She talked about TAA petitions not approved yet involve JW Aluminum and Tel-Tech. She reported that ACTI and Sears don't meet the conditions where a foreign trade act has impacted their business.

Carr introduced ADWS staff Arnell Willis and Charles Helms, who came in late to the meeting.

Carr turned the floor over to Kathleen Garrett to introduce the guest speaker. - Kaitlyn Wright. She started off by talking about her lack of experience and moving to Morrilton and not being able to locate employment. Lacked interview skills and did not know how to use a resume. During her time participating in the program, she learned so much. She has now accomplished more than she thought possible. She said started out at the Housing Authority and learned how to answer phones and do office work. She learned to be patient and stay focused. She moved to D & R Railroad where new doors were opened. She said she learned about various train cars and how they worked. She was given opportunity to learn invoicing and have more responsibility and

worked to gain as much training as possible. With Ms. Kathleen's help, I enrolled in W.A.G.E. and passed 4 W.A.G.E. test with some of the highest scores. After completing the program, she said she has achieved the ability to gain full time employment at UACCM and has learned about programs she never used before. Her anxiety has subsided and her confidence has soared. Her dreams have turned into goals and she wants to thank the board and Conway County and Ms. Kathleen for her success.

Moore presented information about new grant application due to flooding of the Arkansas River. The grant was partially approved, giving \$199,000 to start. This will help 12 dislocated workers to work in Conway County and 8 dislocated workers to work in Perry County. They can do anything to do with the flooding. Work up to a year. State said that full amount of funding will be coming over time.

Mr. Carr adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m., on a motion made by Bill Weston, seconded by Lipton, and carried unanimously with none opposed.

Larry Carr  
Larry Carr, Chairman

12-12-19  
Date