

MINUTES
West Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Board

Thursday, December 8, 2022

The West Central Workforce Development Board convened its meeting through electronic means on December 8, 2022 beginning at 10:30 a.m. The meeting was conducted via TEAMS platform and a telephone line for members, non-members and the public. Vice Chair William Weston presided with the following members voicing their presence: Kimberley Baker, Greg Black, Tanif Crotts, Darla Crump, Neal Golden, Neil Harrington, Lisa Greene, Johnny Harris, Jimmy Hart, Matt Johnson, Cathy Jones, Cynthia Lanphear, Mike Lipton, Tammy Passafiume, Gary Troutman, and Bill Weston

Board members unable to attend the meeting were: Karen Breashears, Larry Carr, Allan George, Kelli Embry, Jeremy Hughes, Alan Nolan, Scott White, Stephanie Lipsmeyer

Staff preset: Margaret Dearmon, David Moore, Cora Easterday, Carrie Pratchard, Dwayne Pratt, and Joyellen Rosamond

Guests present: Ashley Williams, Bill Ritter, Mike Hawthorn, Mason Robinson, Kim Darling, Bill Allison, Andrew Ruh, Joyce Akidi, Thomas Pittman, Braden Taylor, Dawn Fitch, Amanda Barton, Andy Hightower and Lori Strumpf

Chair Opening Comments: Vice Chair William "Bill" Weston called the meeting to order at 10:30a.m. after staff conducted a roll call to determine a quorum.

Agenda Item 1 – Chair Comments:

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the August meeting needed to be approved. A question pertaining to denying approval of a salon in the August meeting was asked and answered. A **motion** was made by Tanif Crotts to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Greg Black and carried unanimously.

Approval of Excused Absences:

A **motion** to approve excused absences of Larry Carr, Herman Grayer, Allan George, Jeremy Hughes, Alan Nolan, Scott White was made by Tanif Crotts. Motion was seconded by Gary Troutman and carried unanimously.

Introduction of New Members:

Weston introduced the new board members: Johnny Harris, Cathy Jones, and Stephanie Lipsmeyer.

Agenda Item 2 – Action

Executive Committee - Ratification of Committee's Approval of ETP Programs:

The Executive Committee is recommending ratification of changes to the ETP programs. In discussion by the Board, Cora Easterday asked to add the DOL approved apprenticeships program in the West Central area to ETP to make more opportunities available for our clients. A **motion** was made by Tammy Passafiume to move ahead with the ratification as presented along with adding the apprenticeship policy after review of the staff and proper committee to ensure the Board is in line with the ETP guidelines. The motion was seconded by Jimmy Hart and carried unanimously.

Youth Standing Committee:

Darla Crump reported that the Youth Standing Committee voted to change the work duration period from 6 months to 1 year with an addition of 3 months under special circumstances. **Motion** to approve the duration period with the special circumstances clause was made by Tanif Crofts and seconded by Jimmy Hart. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Items 3 – Informational

New Business:

Changes in By-Laws: Dearmon reported that a notice was received by Joyce Akidi of the need to add that the West Central Arkansas Workforce Development Board meetings will allow virtual meetings to Function of the Board. A timeline will need to be established by the Executive Committee as to when the implementation of the functions will take place.

One Stop Operator Report – Andy Hightower and Lori Strumpf provided the board with a review of their report.

Business Engagement Coordinator Report: Cora Easterday provided an update of events that were held in the last quarter of 2022. These included:

- Wayne Smith Hiring Event
- Hot Springs Resource Fair
- Johnson County University of the Ozarks Career Fair
- National Park College Expungement Fair
- Clark County Workforce Training Career Exploration Fair
- Russellville Skilled Trade Expo

Upcoming events include a Pro Bono Bootcamp to be held at National Park College and an ARDOT hiring event.

Discussion of Workforce Development in Local Communities – Vice Chair Bill Weston board members to talk about any workforce development going on out in their local areas. There were no comments made.

Other Business:

Moore addressed the fact that WIOA had been monitored by the Department of Labor. Within the findings were some things the Board will need to start doing. Moore stated that there will be a need for committee meetings to discuss and prepare a timeline for addressing each bullet point

within the finding. Moore added that the agency also had a finding as to the RFP that was chosen. Moore asked that the Board's approval to have another RFP to find an external monitor. A **motion** was made by Tammy Passafiume and motion was seconded by Darla Crump. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12.28 p.m.



Bill Weston, Chairman

BW/lh