

WORKFORCE CENTERS

of South Central Kansas

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Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) Meeting Minutes July 25, 2018

1. Welcome and Introductions

Gabe Schlickau welcomed Board members, asked for self-introductions and called the meeting to order. New LWDB members, John Clark with Plumbers and Pipefitters Local #441 and Andrew Chance with Iron Workers Kansas Local #24, were introduced to the Board; they are replacing Mike Magennis and John Roby respectively.

2. Public Comment

No new public comment requests were received.

3. Workforce Alliance Community Impact Update

The Workforce Alliance (WA) leverages resources and aligns services to increase funding over and above the annual federal allocations for this region in order to increase community impact. The LWDB Community Impact Committee was created to lead and oversee projects for the Workforce Alliance that leverage state and federal funded employment and training programs through community development/job growth/business expansion and by leading/managing collaborative strategies.

Staff provided updates on significant community impact projects and strategies that the Workforce Alliance are engaging in and or leading: the National Fund for Workforce Solutions (NFWS), Kansas Advanced Manufacturing Program (KAMP) Grant, Registered Apprenticeship, Youth Employment Project (YEP) and Fair Chance. All of these programs support the Workforce Alliance's strategic goals for 2018-2020. They have been very successful and have achieved great outcomes. KAMP is on target in regard to participant numbers assisting the unemployed and underemployed. YEP has a much larger percentage of employer-subsidized pay for youth employment than in previous years and more youth in the region were served. The program has been very successful in promoting career awareness and providing training to young people. The challenge continues to be in finding more employers to offer work experiences.

The Board was asked to keep help the WA continue to build on these community impact projects by serving on committees and task forces, promoting WA activities or directly supporting the employment strategies led by the WA. The WA will continue to raise awareness and work on these projects as well as pursue any additional opportunities that may become available such as a Youth Build grant that will offer pre-apprentice opportunities in multiple trades. LWDB member Suzanne Scott indicated that Spirit Aerosystems would be interested in having a representative serve on the Community Impact Committee.

4. Panel Discussion on Adult Education

Adult Education (AE) is a core partner for the LWDB under the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Workforce Alliance AE partners have a number of innovative and effective strategies to connect AE students to skilled training opportunities. A panel of AE leaders discussed a number of current initiatives and creative strategies underway in South Central Kansas. The panelists were Chris Stanyer, Executive Director of NexStep Alliance; Sherry Watkins, Director of Adult Education at Butler Community College and Jennifer Anderson, Director of Adult Education Programs at Cowley College/LWDB Member. These panelists also serve on the LWDB's One-Stop Advisory Council (OSAC). The OSAC provides an opportunity for partner agencies to meet, keep each other informed about programs, events and services and discuss common issues.

Most adult education participants must overcome barriers such as finances, transportation, child care, language, criminal background, etc. in order to attain the training they need to obtain long-term employment and earning a sustainable wage. Participants are counseled that a GED is a high school diploma in Kansas and it is emphasized to employers that a GED is just as much or more desirable as a high school diploma due to its difficulty to obtain. Participants are encouraged to proceed in programs incrementally and given an opportunity to see what opportunities are available through tools like KansasWorks and referrals to partner agencies such as the Workforce Alliance, Department for Children and Families and Wichita Children's Home. The successes of participants are required to be tracked for two years upon completion of these programs, but it can be difficult to stay in touch depending on the circumstances.

5. Consent Agenda and Committee Reports

April 18, 2018 meeting minutes, budget report, LWDB committee reports, Workforce Center operations report and Performance Reports were distributed to the Committee for review. The operations report included information on the Veteran’s program and the Technical Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program, which was presented to the Board. The Veteran’s program placed 58 veterans into employment during the 2nd quarter. This number represents one of the highest job placements for any quarter for the Wichita Workforce Center and the highest placement number of any Workforce Center in the State of Kansas for the quarter. TAA is a federal program that assists workers who have lost jobs due to foreign trade. Workers who qualify may receive two years of training with income support, relocation assistance, and help with out-of-area job search expense. In an effort to increase awareness of the program, TAA staff are presenting to LWDB and community partners across the state. Alicyn Kidd, TAA supervisor at the Wichita Workforce Center explained the program to the board and the State’s TAA Program Manager Phyllis Gish will present information about the program at the September 12, 2018 LWDB Executive Committee meeting.

Kathy Jewett (Robert Giesen) moved to approve the recommendations as presented in the consent agenda. Motion Adopted.

6. Additional Topics/Community Updates

- A. The Kansas State Workforce Board will meet on August 1, 2018 at the Wichita Workforce Center. This a great opportunity to highlight the Workforce Center and the work of the LWDB.
- B. The United Way Spirit of Caring Award was presented to the Workforce Alliance. The WA has a high level of contributions in relation to its size and this the second time that the WA has been chosen for this award. LWDB members will be invited to participate in upcoming events for this fundraising year.
- C. LWDB member Kathy Jewett was appointed to the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB). She just returned from her first meeting in San Francisco. She indicated that other board members were impressed by the diversification of funding that the WA has achieved. Her participation on this board provides a voice regarding Local Area IV and Kansas workforce issues on the national level.
- D. The Blueprint for Regional Economic Growth (BREG) that resulted in sector identification and strategies has been reviewed by a third party consultant, Market Street. The outcomes of that review will be shared with the LWDB as well as how the WA will adapt strategies as result.

7. Adjourn (11:30)

Present LWDB Members

Gabe Schlickau, Chair
David Alfaro
Jennifer Anderson
Rod Blackburn
Andrew Chance
John Clark
Kerri Falletti
Robert Giesen
Michele Gifford
Robyn Heinz
Kathy Jewett
Gay Kimble
B.J. Moore
Tony Naylor
Gary Plummer
Suzanne Scott
John Waltner, LWDB Community Impact Committee

Guests & Staff

Peter Bodyk
Tisha Cannizzo
Aletra Chaney-Profit
Amanda Duncan
Denise Houston
Keith Lawing
Shirley Lindhorst
Mayor Jeff Longwell, CEOB
Kimberly Moore
Chad Pettera
Aaron Plume
Chris Stanyer
Sherry Watkins