



**Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)
One-Stop Advisory Council (OSAC)
Meeting Minutes
April 30, 2020**

1. Welcome and Introductions (11:34 am)

Tisha Cannizzo welcomed attendees, asked for self-introductions, and called the meeting to order.

2. Workforce Center (WFC) Operations & Workforce & Economic Impact (11:34 am)

Keith Lawing, of the Workforce Alliance, provided information about WFC operations including the approval of a TAA petition for the Spirit AeroSystems layoffs earlier in the year. The Workforce Alliance has applied for additional training funds and is looking forward to hearing about a determination soon. The WFC is getting ready to serve a larger influx of people for the next 6-12 months and are discussing delivering services digitally.

Amanda Duncan with the Workforce Alliance shared the KDOL summary of unemployment insurance weekly review. She also indicated that Rapid Response materials are available on the Workforce Centers website; the WFC is working with the state and employers to create video content for digital Rapid Response.

3. Kansas Unemployment Insurance (UI) Update (11:42 am)

Nicole Struckoff with Kansas Department of Labor provided an overview on current Unemployment operations. She shared that KDOL is working around the clock, has trained all of the departments to take UI intake calls, and hired 10 new people to assist with benefit calls. UI is experiencing record high claims; however, the trust fund balance for UI funds remains high. Deadlines for employer wage reports will not be extended.

She also discussed changes due to the CARES Act. The CARES Act expands UI to non-profits & self-employed people. DOL is working on getting systems in place to address those entities. The \$600 payments for claimants have gone out, but if the customer filed before April they may not have received their payment. No additional claims are required for the additional \$600; if a person is eligible, they get the money. KDOL is also working with employers who are calling back employees who do not want to return because of the \$600 payments as these people must be reported. Employers must call back employees to work in a "suitable" environment. Suitability will be decided by the governor; however, if an employer is providing a suitable environment for work and employees refuse work, the employee will be denied UI benefits.

4. Workforce Center Virtual Services (11:52 am)

George Marko with the Workforce Alliance reviewed the newly added virtual services for customers as well as discussed the specific plans for reopening the WFC to in-person meetings. The WFC has installed shields for face to face interactions, but is currently placing an emphasis on digital interactions. A virtual career center has been created on the WFC website to help meet customers no matter their situation (laid off, shut down, etc.). Customers can schedule virtual appointments for resume reviews, mock interviews, or to discuss training options. There are also links to job boards, general resume and interview

resources, and community resources. The virtual career center also includes a page for employer resources that includes information about the Small Business Association and Paycheck Protection Program programs. The WFC has also digitized workshops and created video content detailing resources available through the WFC. Next steps will be live digital workshops and reintegration of in-person services. Links to content will be available on the virtual career center soon. For now, they are available on YouTube.

Erica Ramos with the Kansas Department of Commerce shared information about RESEA staff's assistance with incoming UI questions. Staff have been answering basic FAQs from customers using the KDOL website. Ramos reviewed the information included in the meeting packet including the statistics on the number and type of calls.

5. Strategic Planning Update (12:12 pm)

Lawing shared information about the Workforce Centers strategic planning sessions that began earlier this year, but because of COVID-19 have changed venues. The time frame for completion has lengthened and will likely be completed by September. Zoom meetings have taken the place of in-person meetings; Lawing asked that partners and other stakeholders participate as much as possible in the meetings. There are three sessions scheduled over the course of a week allowing for flexibility of attendance and ideas are shared across sessions. July meetings will focus on establishing priorities and goals for the Centers.

6. Opportunities for Workforce System Collaboration (12:22)

Cannizzo reviewed the Quick Reference Guide for the partners' customer service activities during the Stay-at-Home order. She asked that she be kept updated on any changes as the SAH order is lifted and began to review the next-steps for partner collaborations. She requested input on how to better serve customers digitally and how we might consider pooling resources to better serve our mutual customers. Discussion was limited, and these items were tabled until operations settle down in the wake of COVID-19.

7. Training Provider Update (12:30 pm)

Denise Houston with the Workforce Alliance discussed recent meetings with Eligible Training Providers to update them on training programs available and eligibility for each. The ETPs were also asked to provide information about how they're delivering services and when classes will begin. Connections were made with some schools that are not on the ETP list.

An overview of TAA was provided during this time as well. Tonya Carlson, the TAA Supervisor, shared that TAA is a federally funded program for laid off workers (laid off due to foreign trade) that has training opportunities (130 weeks of training not tied to the ETP list), wage subsidies, health care programs and more. There are currently 10 active TAA petitions in our area. Houston and Carlson have been collaborating on an updated Partner Referral Form to help create a "no wrong door" approach to referrals.

8. Infrastructure Costs & Participant Counts (12:38 pm)

Chad Pettera encouraged the partners to review the in-kind line on the provided budget to ensure all activities were counted. If any need to be added, partners should email the details to Pettera or Cannizzo. Some organizations are still lacking any participant counts; those are required for the upcoming budget. Pettera also shared that there will be a rent increase starting July 1.

9. Advisory Council Partner Updates (12:41 pm)

Partners were invited to provide updates on projects or needs in their organizations:

- Butler Community College
 - Currently teaching students remotely through June. About 1/3 of students have internet and technology, about another 1/3 use USPS mail materials, and about 1/3 have lost contact during this time. Currently, ABE is not accepting new students. They will begin accepting new students in July if they are able to with social distancing guidelines in place in the classroom. Face to face classes will begin in August in accordance with state and local recommendations.
- Cowley Community College
 - Have begun screening students before they are allowed on campus. No more than 3 or 4 students in a group. Summer classes will all be online.
- Flint Hills Job Corps
 - Starting May 11th, distance learning will begin until students can be back on campus. They will be sending out Chromebooks. They're still doing case management and taking applications.
- Goodwill/NexStep Alliance
 - ABE and ESL services are being offered virtually. The A-OK to Work bill has been renamed Pathway to Careers and should be finalized in June. There have been furloughs on the Goodwill side; hopefully the retail stores will be able to open again next week. The Learn IT program is going virtual as well, first in 10 minute sessions and then in total.
- KS Department for Children & Families
 - Economic & Employment employees are working staggered shifts and working to get laptops out to staff. Still processing requests for food, rent, and utility assistance. Trying to meeting basic customer needs.
 - TANF Employment Services are working remotely, checking in with customers, and processing payments.
 - Vocational Rehabilitation staff are working from home, assisting customers through phone and email if possible. Many customers are reluctant to do much because of the virus; they have seen a drop in referrals. Some contractors are having issues completing work; evaluations are backed up because of staffing issues.
- KS Department of Commerce
 - MSFW Monitor Advocate is working with partners to assist clients, making connections with the farm bureau, Department of Agriculture, health programs, and sharing WFC services with those folks.
- SER
 - Have been working alternating days in the office, but expect everyone to return on Monday. Have been serving customers via phone, email, and through the mail. Computers and internet access is a barrier for their participants. They are not currently recruiting or doing any kind of outreach, only working on exits and job placements. Working with KDOL to determine what outreach & recruiting will look like in the future.

10. Consent Agenda (1:00 pm)

Minutes from the February 6th OSAC meeting were presented for review. No changes were requested

Carolyn Benitez (Chris Stanyer) moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion adopted.

11. Announcements

12. Adjourn (1:05 pm)



Council Members

Jennifer Anderson
Carolyn Benitez
Peter Bodyk
Tonya Carlson
Dustin Costello
Erin George
Wendy Inzunza
Erica Ramos
Chris Stanyer
Nicole Struckoff
Deb Weve
Sherry Watkins

Staff/Guests

Tisha Cannizzo
Amanda Duncan
Denise Houston
Keith Lawing
George Marko
Chad Pettera
Janet Sutton