



**Workforce Alliance Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)**  
**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
January 14, 2026 – 11:30 AM

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Workforce Alliance (WA) Executive Committee met on January 14, 2026 at the Wichita Workforce Center and virtually via Zoom. Board Vice Chair Scott Stiles welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order.

**2. Workforce Alliance 2026 – 2028 Strategic Planning**

The creation of the organization's new strategic framework is in the final phase.

Board members, stakeholders and attendees at the previous planning sessions were invited to attend a virtual meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup> to review the proposed strategic framework and provide comments. Feedback from the virtual session and the draft framework were reviewed with Committee members. Suggestions have been made to streamline the framework as concerns were raised about resource constraints and the ambitious scope of the plan. Staff are confident that the proposed framework is focused on revenue-generating opportunities and to align and leverage resources. The framework was shared with Mayor Wu, Council Member Hoheisel and Commissioner Blubaugh as well as any community leaders and partners.

The framework included proposed new WA mission and vision statements; however, based on feedback, staff proposed three options for review. After discussions and suggestions, staff will send a revised mission statement to the Committee to be reviewed before the board meeting. The final draft of the framework will be presented to the board on January 28 for adoption.

As part of the revenue generation aspect of the strategic plan, the Committee discussed the annual golf tournament's sustainability. Staff noted that while the event has been successful, changes may need to be made due to increased expenses and a decrease in sponsorships. Committee members agreed that a task force should be formed of three to five board members to explore revenue generating options whether that means possible changes to the current event or pursuing other revenue generating events.

*Report was received and filed.*

**3. Leased Space Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Wichita Workforce Center**

Chad Pettera provided an update on the RFP for the Wichita Workforce Center leased space. Staff and the preferred vendor (current landlord New Leaf Plaza), reached an agreement on a 10 year lease with some requested changes to the space pending building code review by the City of Wichita/Sedgwick County. Changes include additional offices, a conference room addition as well as traffic flow and security improvements. Completion is planned expected by July 1<sup>st</sup>. WA staff started the lease review with legal counsel and hope to have that completed soon; the lease will include exit provisions.

**4. Administrative Office Lease- Garvey Center**

The Workforce Center Lease RFP was released with a goal of combining the administrative function currently located at the Garvey Center (300 W. Douglas) with the Wichita Workforce Center. This consolidation is a cost-saving measure in response to projected reduced revenues in 2026–2027 and staffing reductions due to grants expiring on 2026. The Garvey Center lease includes provisions allowing for termination for convenience and funding reductions with 60 days' notice. WA staff requested committee approval to formally provide notice to the Garvey Center of intent to vacate the space once the new lease for the Wichita Workforce Center has been fully executed and construction there has been completed. The Committee took up Items 3 and 4 as a single action.



*Scott Stiles (Tony Naylor) moved to authorize the President/CEO to execute a lease with New Leaf Plaza pending legal review and notify the Garvey Center of WA's Termination of Leased Space at 300 W. Douglas in 2026 pending construction timelines. Motion adopted.*

#### **5. Youth Employment Project (YEP) 2026 Planning**

Amanda Duncan provided an update on YEP activities. A Summer Internship Interview Day is scheduled on February 7th at the Future Ready Center. A joint regional career exploration and job fair is scheduled for April 22nd at Century II. 40 area high schools are invited to bring seniors to the event to talk to employers about jobs and sophomores to meet with employers to explore career options. Employers will be from different industry sectors that align with the State of Kansas' 16 career pathway areas. Registration is open for this event as well as the summer internship interview day. More employers are needed to participate in both events.

Staff are working with Mayor Wu and Wichita Public Schools board chair Stan Reeser on a February 5<sup>th</sup> event; they will be personally inviting 25-30 community-minded businesses to this luncheon to promote youth internship opportunities. Michele Gifford, Textron and Cheryl Childers expressed interest in attending the event to speak about the demand for youth employment opportunities far outweighing those currently offered by employers.

*Report was received and filed.*

#### **6. 2025 Community Impact Projects**

- One Workforce Grant – This \$9.9 million grant to provide training in manufacturing and technology careers is ending this month and has been highly successful surpassing goals and coming in under budget. Staff plan to advocate for the retention of these funds and are working on a sustainability plan. A luncheon will be hosted on January 21<sup>st</sup> with grant partners and employers invited to review outcomes, share perspectives and gather feedback.
- Kaufmann Returning Citizen Consortium (RCC) Planning Grant (renamed Kansas Restorative & Opportunity Network (KRON)) – The grant proposal has been submitted; a decision is expected in April. If awarded, the grant would result in \$20 million dollars over five years beginning in July 2026 to assist justice-involved individuals in the Wichita and Kansas City area gain employment and provide services to address barriers to employment such as transportation. A one-page summary of the program was provided to the Committee for review.
- Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) – Referrals are being received and applications accepted for this three-year program. Staff are increasing outreach to agencies that serve veterans to increase awareness and educate regarding eligibility requirements of the program.
- EPA Brownfields Grant – This two-year training program for careers in environmental related careers got a slow start due to the Federal Government shutdown, but staff are now working to contract training providers. Currently, 53 referrals have been received for the program and individuals are being prepared to enter into training. A Request for Proposals is out for outreach services to increase awareness of the program.
- Community Talent Talks – These events are designed to improve communication and engagement between the WA, regional employers and community partners on employment and skills training priorities. Events have been held in Butler, Cowley and Sumner counties. Staff met with Butler Community College staff earlier this month to follow-up on the Butler event and a Butler Summer Youth Lunch and Learn is scheduled at the Butler Welcome Center on February 28th. A recent Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application for a summer youth employment initiative in partnership with the City of Caldwell originated from these talent talks.

*Report was received and filed.*



**7. Consent Agenda**

Approval of meeting minutes for December 10, 2025, Workforce Center operations and one-stop operator update for November, Program Year 2025 budget update and WA Communications, Corrections/Fair Chance and Registered Apprenticeship program updates were presented to the Committee for review and/or approval.

Angela Slattery was hired by One-Stop Operator (OSO) Goodwill to be the new OSO Manager and was introduced to Committee members.

The operations report data shows in-person traffic at the Wichita Workforce Center has decreased; online traffic has increased. Staff are looking at this in regard to impact on programming in order to address and make changes where needed.

Scott Stiles (*Tony Naylor*) moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion adopted.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM.

**Attendees:**

LWDB Executive Committee Members

Rod Blackburn  
Cheryl Childers  
Michele Gifford  
Kathy Jewett  
Pat Jonas via Zoom  
Tony Naylor  
Luis Rodriguez  
Scott Stiles, Vice Chair

Staff/Guests

Marcy Aycok  
Amanda Duncan  
Denise Houston  
Keith Lawing  
Shirley Lindhorst  
Chad Pettera  
Angela Slattery