

# WORKFORCE CENTERS

of South Central Kansas

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### Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) Youth Employment Committee Meeting Minutes January 18, 2022 – 11:30 AM

#### 1. **Welcome and Introductions**

The LWDB Youth Employment Committee assembled via ZOOM. Co-Chair Amy Williams welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order. New committee member, Laura Barker with Wichita Public Schools (USD 259) was introduced; she has replaced Kelly Bielefeld, USD 259 on the committee. Sara Van Horn was introduced as the new Work-Based Learning Intermediary for the Workforce Alliance.

#### 2. **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program Performance for Program Year 2021 (PY21)**

Program Year 2021 (PY21) began on July 1, 2021; the second quarter ended December 31, 2021. The Youth Program projected second quarter performance is to exceed the goal for Placement in Employment, Education, or Training 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, Placement in Employment, Education, or Training 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, Credential Rate, and Median Earnings. Local Area IV (LAIV) is projected to not meet the sanction level for Measurable Skills Gain, which is due to being a real time measure and data entry for the current program year has just begun. LAIV is projected to exceed the State in annual performance. LAIV is projected to exceed the goal for four measures and not meet the sanction level for one measure. The State is projected to not meet the sanction level for five measures. For Average Indicator Score LAIV is projected to exceed the goal for Median Earnings and Credential Rate, and not meet the sanction level for Employment 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, Employment 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter and Measurable Skills Gain. Due to the pandemic and resulting economic/employment impact, the employment-based measures will most likely be affected for the year or so both locally and statewide. At the end of the year, a statistical adjustment model will be reviewed and a possible renegotiation of goals with the federal government may be needed depending on the economic factors of the region.

Staff provided some additional information for the WIOA Youth Program regarding referrals, enrollments, active participants, some demographics and the kinds of youth elements they participated in. 2021 was a very challenging year due to pandemic in regard to gaining additional participants. The goal for 2022 is to grow the number of participants in the program and staff will be meeting to discuss strategies to achieve this goal. This information will be shared and discussed with Committee members at the next meeting to include ideas for additional referral sources. The WA has recently partnered with CPRF to provide some youth services and additional information will be sent to Committee members after the meeting.

*Report was received and filed.*

#### 3. **Work-Based Learning (WBL) Project Update**

The Governor's Education Council established a WBL Task Force to analyze the project and make policy recommendations to promote WBL across Kansas. The Kansas State Department of Education, Kansas Department of Commerce and all of the Kansas local area workforce boards are involved in a 3-year pilot project to implement WBL programs across the state. The Governor's Education Council recommended a third year of funding for WBL to grow and expand the capacity of these programs. The goal is to determine how to sustain this program long term and what funding sources will be used. WBL information from the Governor's Education Council's annual report was shared with the Committee; the full report will be sent to Committee members after the meeting. There is now a WBL Intermediary working in each workforce board local area to increase opportunities for internships that provide academic credit to students. WA staff are developing a training program for all WBL Intermediaries across the state. The pandemic is slowing progress for this year as many staff and students have been affected. Committee members were asked to shared any ideas that might have

to improve or participate in the program. The high schools that the WA are currently working with under the pilot are Circle, Clearwater, Wellington, El Dorado and Maize. Staff are currently working with the schools to provide training for toward for the Essential Skills Certificate, which is a six-hour workshop that reviews the skills needed to be a good employee and make students more marketable to potential employers. A Manufacturing Interview Day has been scheduled for April 9, 2022 and will be marketed through the Youth Employment Project (YEP) newsletter, social media and other communications. Participating employers are Textron Aviation, Spirit AeroSystems and Cox Machine who will be hiring youth aged 16 to 19 with a pay of \$13.00 an hour. Staff are working toward building up more internships for HYPE and have had discussions with some employers about offering engineering internship opportunities. Some information from Xello was presented on Individual Plan of Study for USD 259 students, which is a program used for career assessment. The data shows that early on, students are very unrealistic about what fields they have a reasonable expectation of achieving and this a big challenge for staff to overcome when working with students in the YEP/HYPE programs. Increased communication and involvement by parents, teachers, counselors and others is needed to educate students and make them aware of the options they have available and understand what is needed to achieve their goals. Opportunities for students to have more direct exposure to employers is important in achieving career awareness.

WSU Tech is working on a summer camp to attract and provide exposure to youth about CTE and STEM related fields. Committee members were asked to provide referrals and ideas to Catherine Bitting, WSU Tech.

*Report was received and filed.*

#### **4. Youth Employment Project (YEP)/Helping Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE) 2022 Work Plan**

The core HYPE partners, Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas (WA), Greater Wichita YMCA, City of Wichita and USD 259, collaborate to provide pre-employment workshops and career awareness tools, then work to place youth in a first job or work experience opportunity. Each HYPE partner operates their programs independently and they are funded separately. Through HYPE, the partners are able to leverage resources and align services to achieve significant community impact.

Staff reviewed the proposed work plan for 2022 with committee members and asked for comments and suggestions. The 2022 HYPE work plan will build on outcomes from 2019, 2020 and 2021 to create a sustainable model and become part of the recognized community strategy to improve education outcomes and better prepare youth for future careers. For 2022, the key goals for HYPE are to increase the number of employer partners including small business participation, and expand on the Camp HYPE model to create more opportunities to engage 14 to 15-year-old participants. The last two years have been challenging for staff and employers to achieve program goals. For 2022, the program has the ambitious goal of providing services to 3,500 young people. More employer engagement is needed and staff are trying to be more focused on who those employers are such as the engineering and financial services sectors in particular, but are not limited to those areas. Smaller businesses will also be targeted as well since those businesses' resources are limited, incentives need to be created and funding sources for this are needed. A list of employers that have participated in YEP/HYPE over the last five years was provided to the Committee. Members were asked to review the list and make suggestions for additional employer participants.

Camp HYPE was created in 2019 to address the challenge of finding employment for 14 to 15-year-olds as there are few employers willing or able to hire students of this age group. The camp is treated like a job and students receive a stipend for successfully completing the program. The program was piloted at North High School and expanded to other schools in 2020 and 2021. The plan is to return to the model used in 2019 prior to the pandemic. In that model, participants attended an all-day camp with participants spending the first half of the day engaging in soft skills training and the other

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half being transported by bus, through a partnership with Wichita Transit, to various employer sites for tours and career exposure. The camp workshops focus on soft skill development, career awareness, academic goals and financial literacy. A cash stipend will be provided as an incentive for completion and achievements during the camps. The expectation is for this opportunity to be treated like a job, and participants are expected to apply and be “hired” to join the camps. The career camps will be open to all schools and districts, depending on available resources and partnerships.

The following companies have committed to participate and financially supporting Camp HYPE in 2022 and other have been or will be contacted. Some of those businesses include Spirit AeroSystems, Textron Aviation, Evergy, FlagshipKansasTech.com, Ascension Via Christi, Conco Construction will partner with Hutton Construction for a construction camp and the Wichita Wind Surge. The WA plans to further develop partnerships with community agencies and employers with hopes to utilize various facilities for hosting the camps as well as expand the camps into Cowley and Butler counties to provide the same opportunities to more youth in the region. That will require additional partnership development efforts in those counties. Five camps are planned and an additional five camps are possible depending on attaining adequate funding.

The camps do have meals provided to participants by community businesses and more sponsors are needed. Rod Blackburn asked if it might be possible for the culinary programs at Butler Community College and Wichita Tech to provide meals and inform students about their programs. Staff were asked to provide information to committee members, Catherine Bitting, WSU Tech and Aletra Chaney-Profit, Butler Community College on what is needed and they will check with their respective institutions for a response.

Committee members were encouraged to continue to offer ideas and suggestions to staff after the meeting. The work plan will be presented to the full board on January 26, 2022 for approval.

*Laura Barker (Dr. Dennis Rittle) moved to approve the 2022 Helping Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE) Work Plan. Motion was adopted.*

**5. Roadtrip Nation (RTN)**

The Workforce Alliance is leading a coalition of partners to bring Roadtrip Nation to Wichita for a project in 2022. RTN is a nonprofit organization that humanizes career exploration through story and empowers individuals to connect their interests to fulfilling lives and careers. RTN is interested in doing a project in the Wichita area, and WA staff along with officials from USD 259, the Kansas Department of Commerce and Wichita State University are in conversation about the attached project proposal. The benefits and tools that would be created by an RTN project would be of great benefit to educators, students and employers in the region.

*Report was received and filed.*

**6. Consent Agenda**

Minutes from the November 16, 2021 meeting and the Workforce Center Operations/One-Stop Operator report were presented to the Committee for review and/or approval.

*Dr. Dennis Rittle (Rod Blackburn) moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion was adopted.*

**7. Next Steps**

- A. Staff to provide Butler Community College and WSU Tech with requirements for providing meals for Camp HYPE.
- B. Committee members review list of YEP/HYPE employers and provide suggestions/referrals to staff for additional employer participants.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:56 PM.

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**Attendees:**

*LWDB Youth Employment Committee Members*

Laura Barker  
Catherine Bitting  
Rod Blackburn  
Aletra Chaney-Profit  
Debbie Kennedy  
Dr. Dennis Rittle  
Sally Stang  
Amy Williams

*Staff/Guests*

Stacy Cotten  
Amanda Duncan  
Denise Houston  
Aliex Kofoed  
Keith Lawing  
Shirley Lindhorst  
Sara Van Horn  
Maria Bocco-Oyler, Kansas Department of  
Children and Families  
Deb Weve, Flint Hills Job Corps