

LWDB Program Operations and Performance (POP) Committee Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2022

1. Welcome and Introductions

The LWDB Program Operations and Performance Committee assembled via Zoom. Co-Chair Tony Naylor welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order.

2. Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Performance for Program Year 2021 (PY21)

Program Year 2021 (PY21) began on July 1, 2021; the second quarter has ended and the program year is halfway completed. Reports for performance measures for the WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth programs for Local Area IV (LAIV) and the State, Wagner-Peyser programs, Effectiveness in Serving Employers measures, Average Indicator Score and Average Program Score were presented to the Committee in addition to first quarter performance for the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). Due to the large layoffs that occurred, the pandemic and those associated employment trends, Employment Rate measures are not being met as well as they have been in the past and there is a concern that this measure may continue to be affected over the next year or year and half. Data collection is early and there are a large number of people in training that are being assisted in finding employment upon completion. This measure is being affected statewide not just in LAIV. At the end of the program year, there is an opportunity to request a renegotiation of measures/goals at the State level and the statistical adjustment model that is run at the end of the year may determine that economic factors impacted the ability to meet goals and decrease the goal standard.

Chip Reese, Supervisor for SCSEP for the Workforce Alliance (WA), was introduced and provided an overview of the program. SCSEP is a program for low-skilled adults, 55 years of age or older that provides subsidized employment to provide experience and training that can lead to unsubsidized positions. The program had a waiting list in Sedgwick County before the pandemic began. SCSEP participants were placed on paid leave by the federal government at the beginning of the pandemic and phased back in to work sites based on vaccination status by June of 2021 when all participants were again working. Currently, there are many job openings and it has been a struggle to recruit new participants. There are 44 participants in the program 58 slots for Sedgwick County where there are 34 participants. The program also serves Butler (eight slots), Cowley (seven slots), Harper (one slot), Harvey (four slots), Kingman (one slot) and Sumner (five slots) counties; counties may share slots. SCSEP began partnering with Senior Services Inc. of Wichita to increase recruitment opportunities and free up some workspace at the Workforce Center. SCSEP participants are retirees, persons that have become disabled, are transitioning to another type of job due to medical needs and have extreme barriers to employment (job gaps, formerly incarcerated, etc.) In partnership with Senior Services, the WA applied for an Older Kansas Employment Program (OKEP) grant to provide computers to 100 job seekers 55 years of age or older that live in Kansas and complete required computer workshops so that they can continue to work on computer skills and apply for jobs online.

Report was received and filed.

3. Report on Funding for Skills Training Projects and Programs

Workforce Alliance (WA) staff are conducting an analysis of expenditures of skills training and related projects over the past five years to help the Committee and Board determine how best to support economic recovery strategies in 2022. The WA is currently administering multiple funded projects that support some level of skills training and employment. The WA allocates as much funding as possible to client services to support job seekers and local employers. For job seekers these costs include tuition/scholarships for classroom training, supportive services such as childcare, transportation and tools or materials needed for training. Funds are invested directly with employers through On the Job Training (OJT) projects, Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) and special projects

to support career pathways or specific grants. The majority of funds to support skills training projects are allocated to education partners, employers or community-based organizations. A report was presented to the Committee tracking WA expenditures for the past five years in skills training funds invested with local education institutions, skills training funds invested with employers including Registered Apprenticeship (RA) and payments made to job seeker clients for supportive services. This report is preliminary and will continue to be edited and updated and will eventually be presented to the LWDB Executive Committee and the full Local Workforce Development Board. It is expected that the number of RA partners and training expenditures will increase over the next few years due to the State's planned investment into those programs as well as training provided directly by employers whether by OJT or other earn and learn models.

Report was received and filed.

4. Operations / One-Stop Operator Report

An update was provided to the Committee on operations at area workforce centers. Staff are continuing to assist customers apply for the City of Wichita's Wichita Emergency Rental Assistance Program (WERAP), which provides emergency rental assistance for those affected by the pandemic. On KansasWorks, there are over 65,000 jobs posted and just over 8,000 resumes posted statewide, showing that the trend continues for a large number of job openings and not enough job seekers to fill them. November Workforce Centers traffic was reviewed, there were 298 one-on-one appointments conducted in-person and virtually. Imagine Academy workshops continue to be offered, which offers certification in Microsoft programs in a self-paced program. The One-Stop Advisory Council (OSAC) is made up of Workforce Center mandated partners, stakeholders and community organizations to leverage resources and aligns services to improve the effectiveness of related services and programs. OSAC members had been meeting every other month, these meetings are currently being evaluated and staff are meeting with partners one-on-one to determine focus, format and content that will allow those meetings be more effective. Kansas Legal Services will be presenting to staff on expungement and drivers license reinstatement in order to assist customers with criminal backgrounds that need these services in order to find employment. Staff and One-Stop Operator are also working with Catholic Charities on referrals and job seeker services to help sheltered homeless individuals to become employed. It has been arranged for a WA staff member to provide workshops once a month to individuals transported by Catholic Charities to participate and then schedule appointments for individual services. The One-Stop Operator is also participating in the United Way Continuum of Care group that works with assisting homeless individuals. In November, Business Services representatives have been working hiring events, providing assessments and taking applications for companies with open positions and posting 717 jobs in KansasWorks, which has decreased some from the previous several months, but is still significant.

Report was received and filed.

5. Consent Agenda and Committee Reports

Minutes from the September 2, 2021 meeting were presented for review and approval.

Alex Munoz (Robyn Heinz) moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion adopted.

6. New Business/Announcements

A. Kerri Falletti has resigned from the Committee as she has accepted a position with the Kansas Department of Commerce's Office of Rural Prosperity.

B. With the recent COVID surge after the holidays, the Workforce Alliance has had at least five staff members test positive this week with more expected. The WA will continue to test staff and do everything possible to insure the health and safety of staff and customers while continuing to provide a high level of services.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:29.

Present Committee & Board Members

Tony Naylor, Co-Chair

Robyn Heinz, Co-Chair

Justin Albert

John Clark

Kami Moore

Alex Munoz

Erica Ramos

Staff/Guests

Amanda Duncan

Denise Houston

Keith Lawing

Shirley Lindhorst

Chad Pettera

Chip Reese

Tisha Cannizzo, Eckerd Connects

Jennie Heersche, Cowley College

Maria Oyler, Kansas Department of Children and Families