



**Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)
One-Stop Advisory Council (OSAC)
Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2020**

1. Welcome and Call to Order (11:35 am)

Tisha Cannizzo welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order.

2. Workforce Center Operations (11:36 am)

George Marko, of the Workforce Alliance, explained that the Workforce Centers (WFC) were not fully closed; they are operating by appointment only, administering WorkKeys assessments, conducting Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) group enrollments, and presenting Youth Employment Program (YEP) workshop.

The WFC also added a new opportunity for customers: “Tech Time” on Tuesdays and Thursdays 12-4. Tech Time allows customers to access WFC computers, phones, fax machines, and copier/printers while still allowing for social distancing. The WFC was closed this Thursday (10/1/20) for deep cleaning due to a staff case of Covid-19. The WFC will reopen on Monday; moving forward, the hope is not to be down more than 24 hours if another case is reported.

The WFC has also recently added @Home Workshops to its offerings. These workshops are live via Zoom and will cover topics like preparing for a virtual job fair, resumes start to finish, and others. Focus is currently on growing these virtual opportunities and eventually open back up to in-person workshops. The workshop coordinator, Amanda Hill, conducted “Train the Trainer” session on the previous Tuesday to help partners ensure all organizations are providing similar resume and interview guidance to customers.

There was a question about the best way to check to see if the WFC is open. Marko explained that social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter) and signs on the Wichita Center door would be the best way to check.

3. Kansas Unemployment Insurance (UI) Update (11:44 am)

Nicole Struckhoff, with Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL), shared that the Lost Wage Assistance program launches this Friday; payments will begin this day as well. Payments will not be in one lump sum, but there will be back pay. On the employer’s side, employers should expect to see mid-October annual charge statement; employers are not being charged for claims related to Covid-19.

Struckhoff warned that fraud is increasing with UI claims. These are not from KDOL breach, but from other data breaches. If employers receive notice that a current employee has filed a claim and suspect fraud, they should go to kansasemployer.gov, fill out the form, and clearly indicated “Fraud” somewhere on the form. Victims should report fraud as soon as possible.

There was a question about a potential increase in UI payments for employers in the future. Struckhoff explained that an increase in rates has been put on hold for 2021, but there

won't be a 0% increase. The standard rate charts will stay in the legislation, but the legislature is working on a plan for beyond 2021. The State still has 550 million dollars in the trust.

4. Federal Department of Labor (DOL) Review (11:57 am)

Chad Pettera, with the Workforce Alliance, discussed the recent US Department of Labor audit of the Workforce Centers. The Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) between the partners and the Centers were discussed in the audits; Pettera indicated that they would need to be modified, but they expire with the local plan in June 2021. Current MOUs will stand until then while updates are planned. Specifically, the MOUs will need to detail how services are provided among the partners; Pettera asked the partners to review the state MOU policy (a link was provided in the packet). Meetings to discuss MOU updates will be scheduled in the near futures. Chris Stanyer with Goodwill/NexStep Alliance shared that his organization had also had some issues with their MOU with WSU Tech and offered to share any new processes they come up with. Pettera added that the auditors did not like the current policy of using participant counts to calculate cost sharing; he asked the partners to think about a better way to calculate cost sharing.

5. Partnership Improvement (12:03 pm)

Cannizzo explained that WFC & the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) have begun meetings to discuss better collaboration. They have created 4 workgroups to assist with better collaboration: Employer Services will focus on working together to support employers and connect organizations with them; Leveraging Resources will focus on aligning programs across the organizations; Three-Way Partnership which brings together Catholic Charities' St. Anthony Shelter, DCF, and WFC; and Soft Skills which focuses on increasing access to soft skills training for job seekers.

Dustin Costello, with DCF, commented that through the meetings and workgroups they have found that some of the connection that they thought were working are not; Cannizzo further commented that they are developing relationships between customer-facing staff across organizations; trying to get a meeting together with those staff members to create those relationships. George Marko, of the Workforce Alliance, added that the meetings have been very relevant and the process is moving at an acceptable pace including as many people as necessary. Cannizzo invited the partners to reach out and start building relationships (not just with WFC).

Stanyer interjected that he was excited to hear about the growing partnerships and was wondering what exactly the ask will be of partners in a post-Covid-19 world. He also asked about an increase in WFC funding due to Covid-19. WFC staff explained that the WFC has received a National Dislocated Worker grant and TAA funding has been expanded, but most of the funding is tied to dislocated workers. There is a competitive Covid-19 grant, but it will likely be awarded to larger metro areas. The WFC will apply for extensions of existing grants if the Centers meet an existing threshold.

6. Advisory Council Partner Updates (12:15 pm)

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

- American Indian Council
 - Nicole Castellanos reviewed the purpose of the program and shared that she

is in the middle of tuition and textbook assistance for customers enrolled in higher education and also High School extracurricular activities. She is still working remotely to serve customers and is still taking referrals.

- Butler Community College & Wichita Indochinese Center
 - Sherry Watkins shared that Butler is having a few face to face classes, but they have to be small to accommodate social distancing. They are also running online classes, but most of the students want face to face instruction, so they choose to wait. Tomorrow is Mohan Kambampati's last day with the Wichita Indochinese Center; he is retiring.
- Cowley Community College
 - Jennifer Anderson shared their Fall project was a manufacturing program in the Winfield Correctional Facility (an A-OK program) and it will be working through the end of January. If students complete everything they will have college credit, vocational certificate, High School diploma, and several other certifications. Cowley is also having regular Adult Education classes on campus with Zoom option. There wasn't great turnout in September, but there are three times as many enrolled in October.
- Department for Children & Families
 - Erin George shared that Career Navigators are continuing to work with customers; business as usual just over the phone mostly. There is a new Career Navigator for El Dorado.
 - Pete Bodyk shared that Vocational Rehabilitation has 16 of their 17 counselor position filled, but there are support positions open. They are working with clients in whatever way works best for them with telework being the most popular. The new director, Dan Decker, may be able to attend a One Stop meeting in the future.
- Goodwill/NexStep Alliance
 - Chris Stanyer shared that face to face classes with social distancing are ongoing. They have opened a new learning center in the same area as WSU Tech South. Enrollment is going okay. They have a new program NexStep Unlocked: a re-entry program working with 100 parole/probation officers to refer people. Currently there are 7 people in the welding program and 3 in GED classes. Participants attend life skills and Adult Ed. classes, participate in case management with a graduation date in December. The next window for referrals is coming up. The LearnIT Grant will be ending in December but will continue the program through next year with a push to increase services in rural areas and expand services to employers by providing IT skills to staff.
- SER Corporation
 - Carolyn Benitez shared that SER was recently awarded NFJP funding through 2024. All of their offices are open with staff back and travelling to visit customers. Their number are high; they have been working with a sister program in Wisconsin that has an anonymous donor offering funding for agricultural workers not eligible for the stimulus check; it also includes funding for PPE.
- Workforce Alliance
 - Amanda Duncan shared that the new Pathway Home Program begins in January. Pathway Home is a 2 year grant to serve 100 incarcerated individuals 90 days to release and during reintegration. The grant may

include scholarships for training and intensive case management. The primary grant partner (and where referrals will originate) is the Department of Corrections. They are still working on some of the details but will plan to share more when it is known.

- Pettera shared that the Workforce Alliance has a Request for Proposals regarding WFC services in Cowley County open. They are hoping to have a partnership set up by January. Anderson shared that Cowley College is setting up a department to do workforce development.
- Stacy Cotten explained that the Youth Program has been providing more referrals for GED prep during the Covid pandemic; youth are particularly interested in accessing face to face classes. Youth staff have been providing the contact info for the ABE partners. Staff are encouraging referrals to the Youth Program AFTER they have attained their GED. Currently they've been enrolling 3-4 youth a monthly; mostly customers who are pregnant or parenting or folks with disabilities. These customers are interested in short term training.

7. Consent Agenda (12:44 pm)

Minutes from the May 21st and July 16th OSAC meeting were presented for review. No discussion or changes were requested.

Sherry Watkins (Pete Bodyk) moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion adopted.

8. Announcements (12:45 pm)

The next meeting of the One Stop Advisory Council is scheduled for Thursday, December 3, 2020.

9. Adjourn (12:46 pm)



Council Members

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

Staff/Guests

Cassandra Bell
Tisha Cannizzo
Stacy Cotten
Amanda Duncan
Denise Houston
George Marko
Chad Pettera
Janet Sutton