

**Workforce Alliance (WA) Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) Meeting Notes**  
October 25, 2023

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The LWDB assembled in person and via Zoom; Chair Jeff Longwell called the meeting to order. A quorum was not present. Committee members took actions to recommend approval of items to the Executive Committee for approval at their meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

**2. Public Comment**

No requests for public comment were received.

**3. 2023 Workforce Innovation Conference**

A number of WA staff as well as Board members Cheryl Childers, Alana McNary, Tony Naylor, John Clark, Erica Ramos and Alana McNary attended the Workforce Innovation Conference in Manhattan, Kansas on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Board that were present shared their takeaways from the event. McNary noted the large variety of topics such as professional identity, apprenticeships, youth employment, most notably businesses building partnerships with school districts to get involved and connect students to career exploration options, internships, work experiences, facility tours, etc. Childers shared that there was good conversation around workforce and employer partnerships. Erica Ramos announced that staff member Jocelyn Woods was recognized for her outstanding service. She also shared the topic of introducing career exploration earlier in the schools, the need for a skilled workforce and providing information to parents about what options are available. Naylor was recognized at the conference for his outstanding service to Workforce Alliance, Local Area IV.

*Report was received and filed.*

**4. Community Impact Project Updates**

Lawing presented slides with updates on some current WA projects that relate to the strategic plan (Home Base Wichita, MeadowLARK Grant, Youth Employment Project/Work-Based Learning, Roadtrip Nation (RTN), SNAP Education and Training, One Workforce Grant, Future of Work Project and partnership with Integra Technologies). The presentation will be sent to all board members after the meeting and posted to the website with other meeting documents.

Home Base Wichita, a program currently funded with American Rescue Plan funds from the City of Wichita assists military-connected individuals with employment opportunities. The goal is to build the program and generate revenue to make it sustainable into the future. A new executive director has been hired and will be working to attain the goals set for the program.

The WA is able to support the expansion of Registered Apprenticeship (RA) through the MeadowLARK grant by serving as an intermediary. The WA Executive Committee approved a policy to allow the WA to operate in this role. The program will help an employer with the administrative process of applying for and registering their RA program. It is hoped that this will assist in expanding RA by targeting growing and emerging employment sectors. In partnership with CD&H Inc. in El Dorado, the WA is submitting standards to the Kansas Apprenticeship Council (KAC) to create a Registered Apprenticeship for Construction Craft Labor.

*Robyn Heinz (Gabe Schlickau) moved to recommend that the LWDB Executive Committee approve Workforce Alliance submission of RA standards to the KAC on behalf of CD&H. Motion adopted*

The Youth Employment Project had a very successful 2023 with almost 2,400 young people being connected to employment and experiencing a large increase in engagement with employers. Three new Camp HYPEs were created - financial services, public safety and Camp McConnell at McConnell Air Force Base. These camps were developed to increase career awareness opportunities particularly for 14 to 15 year old youth. Staff are working with Wichita Public Schools and other school districts to expand the

model next year. Textron Aviation, Spirit AeroSystems and Cox Machine placed over 200 high school students in aviation and manufacturing internships. A full report with detailed data was included in the meeting packet.

In 2023, the WA received \$170,000 from the State of Kansas for Work-Based Learning (WBL). The Kansas Department of Commerce has added WBL to its budget for 2024. WA WBL intermediaries work in high schools to connect students to WBL opportunities and the WIOA Youth program.

The Roadtrip Nation (RTN) project includes a Build Your Future website and PBS documentary funded by the WA and other community partners. The purpose of the RTN project is to promote career awareness and retain talent in Kansas. The associated career awareness tools that are on the RTN website are promoted to students and teachers to use in the classrooms. As part of these tools, young people interview employers about their careers and post the interviews on the RTN website. Employers will be needed to be available to participate in these interviews.

The WA has entered in to an agreement with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to be an intermediary in SNAP (AKA food stamps) Education & Training (E&T). The goal is to use non-federal funding for allowable SNAP E&T services and supports, which are then eligible for a 50 percent reimbursement through the State's SNAP E&T program. Referrals into the program have been slow and staff are working with partners to increase them. Key partners are U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Goodwill, CPRF, City of Wichita and Sedgwick County.

One Workforce Grant progress is going well and a full report on enrollments will be presented at the Board meeting in January.

The need for a Business Feedback Loop resulted from the Deloitte Future of Work Study and so far this year, there have been three meetings with business and industry based on sector (advanced manufacturing, healthcare and data / technology). The WA and others are working with the Greater Wichita Partnership to use information gathered from these meetings to help design training and education programs to keep up with the needs of business and industry.

Integra Technologies plans a major expansion and has been awarded funds from the state and are now awaiting word on federal funding from the CHIPS Act. If successful, and their expansion occurs, the WA will assist in managing their workforce development plan.

#### **5. Workforce Alliance Committee and Task Force Appointments**

Chairman Longwell is appointing new members to some standing Board committees and creating a special task force. All Board members are invited to serve on a committee and if interested should inquire with the CEO. Appointments to WA Standing Committees are Laura Breese, Spirit AeroSystems to the Executive Committee and Jordan Buxton, Circle Public Schools Board of Education and Jakobe Davidson, Spirit AeroSystems to the Youth Employment Committee. A Funding Strategy Task Force is being formed to identify opportunities for the WA to generate revenue from public and private sources to create community impact beyond WIOA and support 2023-2025 Strategic Goals. Non-WIOA revenues comprise approximately 60 percent of the current budget, but a number of the funding streams will come to an end after 2024. The task force will report recommendations to the Board at its January 24 meeting. Vice Chair Alana McNary will lead the Task Force.

*Robyn Heinz (Russell Kennedy) moved to recommend that the LWDB Executive Committee approve the Committee and Task Force appointments as presented. Motion adopted.*

#### **6. Consent Agenda**

Approval of meeting minutes from July 26, 2023, WA Program Year 2023 (PY23) budget update, update on LWDB Executive Committee actions, 2024 LWDB meetings calendar, WA Operations/One-Stop Operator report, project report updates on Fair Chance, Registered Apprenticeship and Communications and the final report on the 2023 Jobs FORE Youth Golf Tournament were provided to board members for review and or approval. A list of actions taken by the Executive Committee since the last Board meeting was reviewed, which included some minor administrative policy changes. Board and committee meeting schedules for next year was discussed in regard to holding them virtually or in person as well as the

possibility of changing timeframes. Each Committee will be consulted at their next meeting in regard to their meetings for next year. Board members were asked if the current recurring quarterly meeting schedule still works for most. Most are comfortable with in person meetings with a virtual option. The operations report was reviewed; Workforce Center jobseeker traffic has been increasing steadily since the pandemic and is now operating on a walk-in basis rather than by appointment. Virtual workshops remain popular. The GetHired Job Fair is scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at the Wichita Workforce Center. Each day will focus on a different employment sector with the first 30 minutes of each day dedicated to veterans.

*Russell Kennedy (John Rolfe) moved to recommend that the LWDB Executive Committee approve the recommendations as presented in the consent agenda. Motion adopted.*

**7. Additional Topics/Announcements**

- The National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Forum is Sunday, 3/24 through Tuesday, 3/26 in Washington DC. Early Bird registration deadline ends 11/3. Interested Board members should contact Keith Lawing if they would like to attend. Information will be sent out to board members after the meeting
- Board member Alex Munoz was asked to discuss Creekstone Farms' grand opening of their onsite child care center last week for their employees. Child care is a major barrier to recruitment and retention for many employers. This is a great example of an employer-led solution to this problem. The WA continues to work with businesses and partners in pursuing options to overcome this issue in the community.

**8. Meeting was adjourned at 11:17.**

*Present LWDB Members*

- Cheryl Childers
- Robyn Heinz
- Pat Jonas
- Russell Kennedy
- Dr. Kim Krull via Zoom
- Kristina Langrehr via Zoom
- Jeff Longwell
- Alana McNary via Zoom
- B.J. Moore
- Alex Munoz via Zoom
- Tony Naylor via Zoom
- Erica Ramos
- John Rolfe via Zoom
- Gabe Schlickau

*Guests & Staff*

- Marcy Aycock via Zoom
- Keith Lawing
- Shirley Lindhorst
- Mary Mann
- George Marko
- Peter Bodyk, KS Dept. of Children & Families
- Will Dorr, Eckerd Connects
- Wichita City Council Member Hoheisel, CEOB