



## LWDB Program Operations and Performance (POP) Committee Meeting Minutes November 4, 2021

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

The LWDB Program Operations and Performance Committee assembled via Zoom. Co-Chair Robyn Heinz welcomed Committee members, asked for self-introductions and called the meeting to order.

### 2. Skills Training Report and Funding Analysis

To monitor and track the impact of funds that are directly allocated to support education and skills training programs, the Workforce Alliance (WA) releases a training report twice a year. This report's format has been modified and updated to be in line with the WA's strategic communication plan Jobs.Hire.Train. The report has been for internal use in the past, but will now also be released to partners and stakeholders to raise awareness about WA's training programs. Highlights from the most current report covering the time period from February through October 2021 were reviewed with Committee members. The report was not included in the meeting packet, but will be sent to all board members after the meeting. Since the last report, 830 participants are taking part in training, which was an increase of 79 from the last report and 147 participants have completed training. The employment sector with the most active participants in training was the advanced manufacturing sector in the aerospace industry. Increases in training participation also occurred in the data/information technology sector and registered apprenticeship. All training programs offered at the Workforce Center (Trade Adjustment Assistance, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act programs and discretionary grant programs) are included in the reporting. Staff welcomes feedback from Committee members on the report when it is sent out and it is a possible discussion item for the next meeting.

Since 2009, the WA has tracked the investment of funding for education and skills training projects to the major public area schools and education partners in the region. The idea is to demonstrate how federal funds and WIOA resources support schools that are funded with state and local dollars. The data is broken down by WIOA Program Year (July 1 to June 30). The report for Program Year 2020 was reviewed with the Committee. The \$2.6 million invested in Program Year 2020 (PY20) is the highest amount funded and only the second time it has been over \$2 million. WA staff have co-enrolled Dislocated Worker participants with the TAA program in order to better assist customers. The TAA program has more supportive services such as transportation, child care, rent and utilities assistance available than some of the other programs.

*Report was received and filed.*

### 3. Workforce Center Operations / One-Stop Operator Report

Job seeker traffic to the Wichita Workforce Center has decreased over the last couple of months. The My Reemployment Plan (MRP) program ended, which required customers receiving unemployment benefits to visit the center in order to continue to receive benefits. There continue to be a great many jobs and not enough people actively seeking employment. Currently over 63,000 jobs are posted on KANSASWORKS and only 11,000 resumes. Customer traffic – phone, in-person, workshops, etc.- is returning to pre-pandemic levels. At this time, there are twice as many virtual appointments as in-person appointments; in-person traffic at the center has been light. Workshops are being offered in-person, virtually, via YouTube videos and live workshops streamed online. Many customers register and less than half of those follow up and participate. YouTube viewing of workshops has not been tracked in the past, but will be added to the report in the future. The low number of job seekers in the area is a similar trend to what is occurring nationwide.

One-Stop Operator, Eckerd Connects, offers a learning system called Eckerd U for staff professional development. Supervisors has been participating in those sessions and will be rolling those out to staff soon. Staff continue to work to improve the partnership of the WA and the Kansas

Department of Children and Families as the two organization share many common customers.

The Business Services team continues to post a large number of jobs; there is a huge need by employers to hire workers. There have been many employers contacting the center that have never used WA services before, which may be a result of outreach efforts like the WA's partnership with KWCH on its Building You series. Job Fairs have been scheduled; however, job seekers attendance continues to be low and sometimes the number of employers exceeds the number of job seekers. The WA has been providing more On-the-Job and Incumbent Worker training opportunities for employers. John Clark asked is it was known how many of the open jobs posted had been filled and why so many people register for workshops that do not follow through. Staff will research the number of filled jobs to those posted by Local Area and provide that data at future meetings. In regard to Workshop attendance, staff do attempt to reach out to registrants to find out why they do not attend what they sign up for in order to address the problem; however, there has been difficulty in connecting with these customers in order to obtain feedback.

*Report was received and filed.*

#### **4. Consent Agenda and Committee Reports**

Minutes from the September 2, 2021 meeting, Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Performance for Program Year 2021 (PY21), Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) Kansas Department of Commerce Monitoring Review and an addition to the Eligible Training Provider (ETP) List from MedCerts were presented to the Committee for review and approval. The MedCerts program is a program that updates and replaces a program that was previously approved for the ETP list. The monitoring report for SCSEP did not have any findings and included a recommendation for coordinating outreach activities and cited some best practices for the program. The performance data provided in the packet is for the first quarter of the 2021 Program Year; staff have no concerns and data collection and entry are ongoing.

*John Clark (Alex Munoz) moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion adopted.*

#### **5. New Business/Announcements**

- A. National Apprenticeship Week is November 15<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>. In order to help recognize this week, both the Sedgwick County Commission and Wichita City Council will be adopting proclamations - Sedgwick County on November 10<sup>th</sup> and the City of Wichita on November 16<sup>th</sup>. These proclamations have been made in the past and all are invited to join staff to receive these proclamations and help the WA recognize its strong partnership with Registered Apprenticeship programs. An appreciation breakfast is scheduled at the Wichita Workforce Center on November 18<sup>th</sup>.
- B. The State of Kansas received a grant through the Department of Commerce and the WA has applied from funds along with some partners and an announcement should be made soon. It is hoped that through this grant that the registered apprenticeship model will be expanded across industries.
- C. All board members will be invited to attend an in-person workshop at the Wichita Workforce Center for an informal discussion on the most significant challenges facing employers and planning for Youth Employment Project in 2022. The workshop is scheduled in place of the regular monthly LWDB Executive Committee meeting.

#### **6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:14.

*Present Committee & Board Members*

Robyn Heinz, Co-Chair

Justin Albert

John Clark

Kerri Falletti

Kami Moore

Alex Munoz

Erica Ramos

*Staff/Guests*

Denise Houston

Keith Lawing

Shirley Lindhorst

George Marko

Chad Pettera

Tisha Cannizzo, Eckerd Connects