

WORKFORCE CENTERS
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Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2019 – 11:30 AM

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Jennifer Hughes welcomed Committee members, asked for introductions and called the meeting to order. Jordan Lambert an intern with Textron Aviation was introduced.

2. **LWDB Vice Chair**

LWDB Chair Jennifer Hughes nominated Melissa Musgrave, Head of Employment, Airbus to serve as Vice Chair of the Workforce Alliance (WA) Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB).

Gabe Schlickau (Tony Naylor) moved to approve the nomination of Melissa Musgrave as Vice Chair for the Local Workforce Development Board as presented. Motion adopted.

3. **Workforce Alliance LWDB Activities**

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires each Local Area have a Local Plan and update that plan every four years. Local Area IV's current Local Plan will expire on June 30, 2020. The Local Plan serves as a four-year action plan to develop, align, and integrate service delivery strategies and to support the State's vision and strategic and operational goals.

Part of the process of updating the Local Plan will include updating the Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with WIOA required partners including Infrastructure Funding Agreements (IFAs).

The WA LWDB adopts a strategic plan every two years and will engage in the strategic planning process in 2020 as the current plan expires; the strategic plan is used to guide the operations of the organization. A series of strategic planning sessions for LWDB members, partners and staff will be conducted in 2020 that will focus on key topics to review progress and outcomes related to the goals, and update the strategic plan for the next two years. A Request For Proposal (RFP) for facilitation services has been released. The goal is to adopt the new plan at the LWDB meeting on July 22, 2020.

A task force was appointed to review the RFP for facilitation services. Kathy Jewett, Jennifer Hughes and Rod Blackburn volunteered to be members of the task force; Michele Gifford and Melissa Musgrave will be invited to participate.

4. **Veteran Recruitment Pilot Project**

The WA is partnering with the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce and Textron Aviation to initiate a pilot project that will develop an ongoing and sustainable strategy to recruit military veterans and spouses to the region. As part of the Wichita Regional Chamber's Manufacturing Talent Pipeline task force, Wichita Mayor Jeff Longwell and Sedgwick County Commission Chair David Dennis suggested creating a greater focus on developing a strategic partnership with McConnell Air Force Base to increase the talent pool in South Central Kansas. A targeted strategy was created to leverage resources from multiple organizations to create a pilot project to develop a sustainable to expand and build on current programs on employment needs for veterans. Through the Department of Defense (DOD) SkillBridge project, Textron Aviation is loaning executive intern, Jordan Lambert to work with the WA, the Chamber and the Veterans Advocacy Employment Subcommittee over the next six months to raise awareness and lead these efforts. Jordan is a transitioning Air Force member serving at McConnell. Spirit AeroSystems is also

offering staff support for this strategy. A draft white paper summarizing the pilot project was distributed; the work plan includes recruiting veterans transitioning from the military stationed in Kansas and nearby military bases to connect to high demand-high skilled jobs/careers, locating and tracking Kansas veterans stationed out of state and recruit them back to Kansas; and engaging and recruiting spouses and dependents of military members/veterans to workforce opportunities.

Erica Ramos offered that the Kansas Department of Commerce operates a federally funded Veterans employment program at the Wichita Workforce Center to serve both job seekers and employers.

Receive and file

5. Pilot Project Led by San Diego Workforce Partnership on Income Share Agreements

The Workforce Alliance is one of six “learning communities” (organizations and LWDBs from Colorado, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York and Philadelphia) that are partners in a grant project with the San Diego Workforce Partnership (SDWP) to examine how Income Share Agreements (ISAs) can be leveraged with WIOA resources. SDWP has secured a grant through the Lumina Foundation to support the ISA pilot project and currently has a number of students in career based education programs funded through ISAs. The goal is to determine if the model can be scaled and sustained to transform the way lifelong learning and post-secondary education is financed by linking payments to increased earning potential by providing access to quality education and training opportunities to underserved and underrepresented populations. The WA is learning about the ISA model and analyzing the options for implementation.

Brooke Valle, Strategy Officer with the SWDP, was connected to the meeting to provide an overview of the pilot project and to answer questions from Committee members. ISAs enable students to finance their education or fill a gap in school financing by agreeing to make payments after graduation based on a percentage of their income for a set period of time. A forward-looking, income-based student financing product better aligns the cost of an education with the value a student receives from the education. Funders would be needed to provide the initial funds to begin the program. This program may appeal to new funders due to the model of incentivizing education providers to provide in-demand and quality education programs that will result in the skilled labor force that employers are looking for at the income level that job seekers need to be successful. Also needed would be the buy-in of education providers to accept the way that the program is financed. Once funded and implemented, the program allows for a renewable source of funds available for future participants. The program, which reduces the burden of student debt and use of WIOA funds, provides education funds at no interest and repayments are based on the ability to pay from the income obtained from the resulting new employment opportunity. Funds pay for training and other related expenses ie, transportation, childcare, etc. The education programs available are based on in-demand jobs determined by market data and direct employer feedback.

Background materials about ISAs were distributed to the Committee for review. Staff will present this information to the full LWDB at its meeting on January 22, 2020. Kathy Jewett suggested that the ISA materials be sent to LWDB members prior to that meeting with a request to review and prepare questions.

ISA materials will be sent to LWDB members and presented at the next LWDB meeting on January 22, 2020.

6. Consent Agenda and Committee Reports

Minutes from the September 25, 2019 meeting, Workforce Center operations update for November, PY19 budget report, one-stop operator Report, LWDB membership update, on-the-job

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training contact for Wickham Industries and Youth Program service contract for Aspire 2 Inspire U were presented to the Committee for review and/or approval.

The Workforce Center Operations Report was discussed. Traffic to the center has significantly decreased due to the low unemployment, on-line services and other technological improvements.

Aspire 2 Inspire U has submitted a proposal to provide leadership development services for the WIOA Youth program. Committee members expressed concern in regard to the proposed cost and agreed to approve the contract if cost could be negotiated to within 5% of costs charged by comparable contractors.

Kathy Jewett (John Weber) moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion adopted.

7. Other Business

- The Youth Employment Task Force has met and will meet again on December 20th. The task force will make recommendations to the Committee at a future meeting.
- Chair Jennifer Hughes secured \$15,000 funding for the WA's Youth Employment Project (YEP) from the Kansas Department of Commerce.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55.

LWDB Executive Committee Members

Jennifer Hughes, Chair

Rod Blackburn

Kathy Jewett

Pat Jonas, via phone

Mayor Jeff Longwell

Tony Naylor

Gabe Schlickau

John Weber

Staff/Guests

Keith Lawing

Tisha Cannizzo

Shirley Lindhorst

George Marko

Chad Pettera

Laura Rainwater

Erica Ramos. LWDB

Brooke Valle, San Diego Workforce Partnership via Zoom

Cynthia Centeno Garcia, San Diego Workforce Partnership via Zoom

Jordan Lambert, Textron Aviation