

WORKFORCE CENTERS

of South Central Kansas

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Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2021 – 11:30 AM

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

The LWDB Executive Committee assembled via ZOOM. Chair Melissa Musgrave welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order.

2. **Roadtrip Nation (RTN) Project Agreement**

The Workforce Alliance (WA) and community partners have been working with RTN, a nonprofit organization that humanizes career exploration through story and empowers individuals to connect their interests to fulfilling lives and careers. They seek out inspiring individuals who have built lives around what they love, then share their stories in award-winning documentaries on PBS and through an online archive featuring thousands of conversations about struggle and success. RTN also provides a framework for how to navigate the career journey, with programs and courses, career discovery resources, live events, and a New York Times bestselling career guide, “Roadmap.” RTN would like to begin a project in Wichita as they are intrigued by what is happening in the Air Capital and the region overall around aviation manufacturing and the impact of technology. The content that is produced will become recruitment, outreach and awareness materials for the region. Conversations have been underway for months with RTN about a project in the Wichita area for 2022. To date, the primary partners are the WA, USD 259, WSU Tech and the Kansas Department of Commerce. A proposal was submitted by RTN for a two-phase project to be conducted in 2022 - Phase I includes a Work-Based Learning virtual video production, student interview projects and Digital Community Hub; Phase II includes a Wichita Roadtrip and documentary; the proposal was shared with committee members. The total cost for the project is \$665,000 and at this time, there is \$335,000 committed to the project from the State of Kansas Department of Commerce (\$200,000) and the Strada Foundation (\$135,000). Securing funding for Phase II is being coordinated by WSU Tech, WSU and USD 259. In the event funds are not raised for Phase II, Phase I can be a stand-alone project that will produce significant benefits, but leadership from WSU Tech and USD 259 are confident that the full project can be completed. Approval of the RTN agreement by the WA will allow the project to begin. At this time, there are no plans for any of the RTN project to be funded directly from the WA. The WA will act as an intermediary to receive funding contributions from partners to pay RTN. WA staff consulted with legal counsel on the agreement and no concerns were found; staff are recommending approval by the Executive Committee. Staff will share links and data from previous RTN projects with Committee members to show some of the successful impacts the projects have had in other communities across the nation. Students chosen to participate in the project will be aligned with the school districts and focus on diversity, equity and inclusion. Employers chosen to participate will be those that are related to what the future of work is going to look like and board members will be asked to provide input. Staff will invite RTN representatives and funding contributors to the full board meeting in January.

Jeff Longwell (Tony Naylor) moved to approve the agreement with Roadtrip Nation as presented. Motion adopted.

3. **Workforce Alliance (WA) 2020-2022 Strategic Plan Implementation Update**

Updates on the implementation of the 2020-2022 WA strategic goals is a standing agenda item for this Committee in order to provide for continuous accountability and provide an opportunity for staff to report to the Committee on the progress made on implementing the strategic goals.

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The WA is currently hosting a site visit for representatives from the National Fund for Workforce Solutions (NF). The WA has been associated with the NF since 2008 and is one of 35 sites across the nation. The NF looks for opportunities to invest in programs that increase access to quality jobs and the WA has benefitted from many grants from the NF over the years. The NF invests funds into communities that provide businesses the opportunity to increase the quality of jobs through financial wellness, education and automation training that enhances worker productivity and improves their financial future and the company's success. XLT Ovens who works with the NF reports that over the last three years, employees have saved money and/or reduced their debt by \$1.4 million. There is value to an employer in taking the time to offer these programs since it is recognized that a major source of stress for employees are related to money issues. If they participate in financial wellness education programs, their concentration and overall well-being increases and they become less stressed and more productive, which benefits both the employee and the employer.

The WA and some of its board members were a part of a work group coordinated by the Kansas Department of Commerce to review Registered Apprenticeship (RA) programs and systems across the state and make recommendations. The group also discussed how RA can help business and industry meet their skills needs, which provides for growth. Some of the recommendations that came out of the group were to advise the State of Kansas to make a three-year commitment to increase investment in RA programs, increase resources to current RA staff while hiring a dedicated RA staff for each of the Local Areas, increase outreach and marketing efforts and offer incentives to employers to participate in RA programs. Staff will send the recommendations report to Committee members for review. It is hoped that the Lt. Governor will be acting on these recommendations with the legislature in the upcoming session.

Improving community outreach efforts is a large part of achieving the WA's strategic goals. The most current Digital Media Report and a report on the continuing collaboration with KWCH's "Building You" series was provided to Committee members for review.

4. **Consent Agenda and Committee Reports**

Approval of meeting minutes for September 8, 2021, regional labor market report, 2021-2022 Program Year budget update, Workforce Center Operations / One-Stop Operator report, an On-the-Job Training (OJT) contract for Spirit AeroSystems and a Youth Provider Contract for Pyxis, Inc. were presented to the Committee for review and approval.

An update on Workforce Center Operations was provided; traffic to the center has trended lower over the last several months. Staff are reaching out directly to job seekers and customers to determine the immediate needs of these customers, so that services can be enhanced to meet these needs. Customers are being seen approximately 50% in-person and 50% by phone with some virtual appointments. There have still been many no-shows and cancellations for workshops and appointments. Job Fairs appear to be gaining in jobseeker attendance. The Business Services team continues to post an extremely large number of jobs; the employer need continues to be great with not enough people actively searching for jobs. Melissa Musgrave asked if the WA had ever coordinated a hiring event out of state to recruit talent for in-demand jobs here in the region. The WA has hosted virtual job fairs that included participants from out of state. While it is not possible for the WA to solely organize an in-person event due to conflict with other Workforce Development Boards; it may be possible to work with other community partners like the Chamber and the Greater Wichita Partnership to host such events and staff and board members may discuss this possibility in the future.

In regard to the item for OJT contract for Spirit AeroSystems, committee member Amy Williams is an employee of Spirit AeroSystems, Consent Agenda items were approved as follows: *Tony Naylor (Kathy Jewett) moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, with the exception of Item E.,*

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“On-the-Job Training Contract for the Eligible Training Provider List for Spirit AeroSystems”.
Motion adopted.

Jeff Longwell (Pat Jonas) moved to approve Consent Agenda Item E., “On-the-Job Training Contract for the Eligible Training Provider List for Spirit AeroSystems”. Amy Williams abstained from the vote. Motion adopted.

5. **Other Discussion / Announcements**

It was noted that Marcus Curran with the Sheet Metal Workers and Maria Oyler with the Kansas Department of Children and Families (DCF) were attending this meeting. Marcus works with LWDB member, Jeff Townsend and is learning more about the LWDB and the WA has been working closely with DCF over the last several months to improve that partnership and provide better services and referrals to customers that need related services.

6. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM.

Attendees:

LWDB Executive Committee Members

Road Blackburn
Commissioner Jim Howell
Kathy Jewett
Pat Jonas
Jeff Longwell
Melissa Musgrave
Tony Naylor
Matt Peterson
Amy Williams

Staff/Guests

Keith Lawing
Shirley Lindhorst
George Marko
Chad Pettera
Laura Rainwater
Erica Ramos
Tisha Cannizzo, Eckerd Connects
Marcus Curran, Sheet Metal Workers
Jennie Heersche, Cowley College
Maria Oyler, DCF
Jeff Townsend, LWDB