

# WORKFORCE CENTERS

of South Central Kansas

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### Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) Youth Employment Committee Meeting Minutes February 21, 2023 – 11:30 AM

#### 1. **Welcome and Introductions**

The LWDB Youth Employment Committee assembled via ZOOM. Co-Chair Rod Blackburn called the meeting to order.

#### 2. **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Performance Reports for Youth Program**

An update on performance for the WIOA Youth Program for Program Year 2022 (PY22) was provided. PY22 began on July 1, 2022 and while it is midway through the third quarter, it is still fairly early in the program year for performance outcomes.

In order to increase the number of participants in the program and the number of employers willing to engage in work experience opportunities, WIOA Youth staff and leadership have been focusing on outreach activities targeting previous partnerships with community organizations and businesses as well potential participants and employers. Referral processes have been updated and implemented and presentations on WIOA services are scheduled. In the last three months, five new work experience sites have been developed and there are two additional potential work experience sites in the pipeline. For the 18 to 24 year old population it is important to go out into the community where they are to bring awareness of services available and establish trust. A good number of these youth have aged out of foster care and are now homeless. It is difficult to reach the WIOA Youth population and the program requirements are complex. The WA makes every effort for the Youth Employment Project and Work-Based Learning programs to leverage resources and align services with WIOA Youth.

Performance is on track for most measures and as the year progresses, measures now indicated as not being met are anticipated to change to being met or exceeded; there are no concerns on meeting performance measures based on the data so far or any corrective action plan requirements. Data for Measurable Skills Gain data for all programs has just started being entered and as a result are low at this time. Local Area IV (LAIV) is projected to do a little better than the State in annual performance.

*Report was received and filed.*

#### 3. **Work-Based Learning (WBL) Project Update**

WBL is in its third year of a pilot program. Each Local Area now has two WBL Intermediaries that work directly in the schools with youth on WBL activities - job fairs, classroom encounters, career mentoring, job shadowing, mock interviews, facility tours, paid/unpaid internships and registered apprenticeship. A report of outcomes was shared with the Committee. The report included data on student participation and the schools, school districts and businesses engaged. The report also included the number of students in each of the Kansas State Board of Education recognized career paths and those that have participated in the different types of WBL experiences. This reporting of outcomes will be presented to the state in order to demonstrate why the state should continue to fund the program past July 1<sup>st</sup>. The Kansas Local Areas will be conducting training sessions to share best practices and coordinate reporting outcomes to the State of Kansas. An outline of the sessions was provided. The training sessions will occur in the next month or so and the schools will be very involved. Laura Barker offered that emphasis needs to be placed on the WBL experiences of facility tours, paid/unpaid internships and youth registered apprenticeship.

*Report was received and filed.*

4. **Roadtrip Nation (RTN) – Leveraging WIOA and WBL**

An update on the RTN project was provided. One of the goals of the project is to connect to area youth and increase awareness about the WIOA Youth program. The Build Your Future, Digital Community Hub is active and being utilized in area schools and as a tool to help support the WIOA Youth program. Staff from USD 259 and the WA have incorporated the tools into their programs. The filming for the one-hour public television documentary is complete and will air sometime later this year. The release will be publicly announced and a launch party scheduled. As WIOA Youth Program funds were used to help fund the project, the WA must be able to demonstrate that the Youth program participants benefit from the RTN tools. It has been a challenge to engage youth to use the tools and complete the lessons and interview projects. Staff requested that the Board approve a revision to the WIOA Youth policy to increase participation in Road Trip Nation activities, which the Board adopted at its meeting in January of this year. The change is to offer gift cards as incentives to Youth participants to complete the lessons and activities. It is hoped that adding these incentive options will increase usage. Additional contests and incentives are being discussed. The release of the documentary will provide another opportunity to promote the RTN tools and activities. Schools are also being more intentional in their efforts to increase student participation. A possible community of practice may be formed with other workforce boards across the country that work with RTN to share information and best practices.

*Report was received and filed.*

5. **2023 Youth Employment Project (YEP)/Helping Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE) Update**

Planning for HYPE / YEP events is underway. Career camps are being scheduled with some similar to last year; possible additions include public safety with the Wichita Crime Commission and McConnell Air Force Base. Engaging additional employers to participate in the programs continues to be a challenge. It is important to show employers why their engagement is valuable to their business, the youth and the community as a whole. Staff are currently targeting employers in the financial / accounting services and engineering fields as well as contacting small businesses through the Wichita Independent Business Association. The Committee was provided a brief overview of current activities and staff will plan to distribute more detailed information in the next week or so.

*Report was received and filed.*

6. **Consent Agenda**

Minutes from the November 15, 2022 meeting and an update on the budget for the youth program for program year 2022 was presented to the Committee for review and/or approval.

*Alana McNary (Laura Barker) moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion was adopted.*

7. **Next Steps**

Staff will send more detailed information on upcoming activities for YEP/HYPE such as the Camp HYPE schedules.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 PM.

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**Attendees:**

*LWDB Youth Employment Committee Members*

Laura Barker, USD 259  
Rod Blackburn, Partners in Education, Co-Chair  
Cody Griffin, WSU Tech  
Debbie Kennedy, Wichita Children's Home  
Alana McNary, Professional Engineering  
Consultants

*Staff/Guests*

Maria Bocco-Oyler, KS Dept. of Children  
& Families  
Alex Hamel, Spirit AeroSystems  
Denise Houston  
Keith Lawing  
KC Schumacher  
Shirley Lindhorst  
Chad Pettera  
Deb Weve, Job Corps