



**Workforce Alliance Program Operations and Performance (POP) Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
March 6, 2025

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Workforce Alliance (WA) Program Operations and Performance (POP) Committee assembled virtually via Zoom. Co-Chair Tony Naylor welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order. WA board members Marcus Curran and Luis Rodriguez are new members to the Committee and were introduced.

**2. Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult, Dislocated Worker (DW) and Youth Program Performance for Program Year 2024 for Local Area IV (LAIV)**

Program Year 2024 (PY24) began on July 1, 2024 and is now into the third quarter. The program year will end on June 30, 2025.

The reports indicate many measures are not being met at this time due mostly to it being so early in the program year for reporting and staff are still in the process of entering data. Of note, particularly for the Credential or Measurable Skills Gain measures on the Adult and DW programs, enrollments are very small. There are no participants currently in that Measurable Skills Gain performance measure. WIOA training funding has decreased over the last few years and there are fewer participants enrolled in these programs. The WA has many training programs funded through grants that are outside of WIOA funding and that is where most training funds are being spent. Fewer participants increase the opportunity for not meeting performance if there are some customers not successfully completing the program. Houston also noted that some of the performance goals for the current program year are significantly higher than last year, particularly for DW Measurable Skills Gain, and are impacting performance results for LAIV and the State as well.

Kami Moore asked how staff are addressing the low Adult program enrollment numbers, specifically regarding Measurable Skills Gain. Houston discussed the challenges faced by the Adult program due to consistent funding cuts. The WA has grants and other funding streams to pay for training outside of WIOA. Staff will be focusing more on co-enrolling these participants in other programs where it makes sense so they can be captured in the data. Naylor asked about the co-enrollment strategy and how the WIOA funds tie in with grant funds. A budget is prepared for the Executive Committee and Board meetings; it provides a breakdown of funds spent in WIOA and non-WIOA programs. This information is included in meeting packets and sent to all board and committee members prior to each meeting; it is also posted on the WA website. WIOA program performance type reporting charts are not done for the grant funded training programs as they are subject to other criteria and monitoring. Naylor also asked about the measures in red (not being met) for the measures with no enrollment, to which Houston responded that she has clarified with the state that the calculations done for measures with no enrollment must be adjusted; this will improve the result.

Rodriguez emphasized the importance of understanding the activities and effort that drive performance results. He suggested tracking barriers empirically, such as the amount of foot traffic, to better understand the context of the results and shine a light on obstacles to address in order to solve and improve. Houston explained the two categories of measures used: employment-related and training outcomes - the number of customers engaged in training and how many successfully completed. Challenges to performance include high barrier customer population (lack of digital skills, language, etc.) as it takes more resources to assist this population. Aida Avalos, from the Kansas Department for Children and Families, stated that there has been a significant reduction in collaboration with the WA due to funding issues for the training programs they were working on together. The new Goodwill OSO staff will be looking to work on referral processes between the WA and its partners.

*Report was received and filed.*

### **3. Local Area IV Registered Apprenticeship (RA) Report**

Houston reviewed the most recent monthly RA program report, which included an update on activities and highlighted the number of active and pending apprenticeships at various employers as well as those pending approval and in development. In LAIV, there were 802 active apprentices enrolled in 50 RA programs at the end of 2024. WA RA Coordinator Melody Head is retiring at the end of March and staff are working on a transition plan.

*Report was received and filed.*

### **4. Workforce Center Operations / One-Stop Operator (OSO) Report**

The most current report on Workforce Center operations and OSO activities for January was presented for review by Lindsay McWilliams, OSO, Goodwill. There was a decrease in traffic due to weather closures and federal holidays. The report provided a breakdown of services (workshops, walk-in appointments, job fairs) at the Wichita Workforce Center and program enrollments. Alex Munoz raised concerns about the downward trend in traffic over the last few months and the need for regularity in the data. Houston noted there have been fewer job fairs over the last couple of months. There has also been a decrease in traffic at the Butler Center that is being evaluated. Staff will continue to monitor traffic and look for ways to address issues that may be impacting it. A new Goodwill OSO staff member has been hired and is in the process of onboarding and training.

*Report was received and filed.*

### **5. Consent Agenda**

Meeting minutes from November 7, 2024 and a report on the recent merger of Kansas Local Area I and II were presented to the Committee for review and/or approval.

Kansas Local Areas I and II have merged into one Local Area, which is now referred to as Local Area I East and Local Area I West. There are now four Local Areas instead of five; and no Local Area II. WA staff submitted public comments to the KansasWorks State Board during the merger period expressing support but also highlighting a missed opportunity for a broader review of local areas and concern that boundaries are not consistent with the labor markets. A copy of the WA's public comments and the State's response was provided. The response included agreement that an analysis and discussion of local area boundaries should be performed, but no timeline was provided. The governor has the final say on local area configurations, with recommendations from the Department of Commerce. For the remainder of PY24, the areas will be reporting separately and begin reporting as one area in PY25.

*Marcus Curran (Luis Rodriguez) moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion adopted.*

### **6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16.

#### *Present Committee Members*

*Tony Naylor, Co-Chair*

*Justin Albert*

*John Clark*

*Marcus Curran*

*Kami Moore*

*Alex Munoz*

*Erica Ramos*

*Luis Rodriguez*

#### *Staff/Guests*

*Denise Houston*

*Shirley Lindhorst*

*Lindsay McWilliams*

*Chad Pettera*

*Aida Avalos, Kansas Dept. of Children and Families*