



Workforce Alliance
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Wichita Workforce Center and ZOOM
April 10, 2024 – 11:30 AM

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Workforce Alliance (WA) Executive Committee met on April 10, 2024 in person and via ZOOM. Chair Jeff Longwell welcomed Committee members, asked for self-introductions and called the meeting to order. It was announced that Amy Williams has departed Spirit AeroSystems and is no longer a member of the committee.

2. One-Stop Operator (OSO) Procurement Update

The WA released a Request for Proposals for one-stop operations. One proposal was received and it was from Goodwill; staff have been negotiating an agreement with them. A scope of services and draft budget were provided for review. Staff and the OSO taskforce met with Goodwill on February 21, 2024 to review their proposal and the taskforce directed staff to continue to negotiate with Goodwill. The budget includes two full-time staff. One focus of the scope of services will be on partnerships and coordinating services with co-located and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) mandated partners. The proposed term of the agreement would be for June 1, 2024 through June 30, 2028 with an annual extension available. If the scope of services or budget should need to be changed an amendment will be completed and presented to the committee. WA staff reached out to the Kansas Department of Commerce (KDC) to seek sole source approval since Goodwill was the only proposal to be received and that request has been approved. WA staff plan to present this information to the Chief Elected Officials Board (CEOB) on April 11, 2024 to seek their approval. Laura Ritterbush, Goodwill's President and CEO, was present to provide information and answer questions. As she is on the WA board, staff are mindful of possible conflict of interest issues and will be managing those issues throughout the process. Longwell noted that though Goodwill as a one stop operator is new to Wichita, it is not new nationwide and is they do have experience in one-stop operations. Ritterbush indicated that the Goodwill of Kansas board is aware of this contract and it aligns well with their mission services. Lawing expects this to be an impactful change and will increase the visibility of WA operations and provide the ability to leverage new resources into WA operations.

Michele Gifford (Rod Blackburn) moved to approve an agreement and draft budget not to exceed the presented scope of services and recommend approval by the Chief Elected Officials Board (CEOB). Motion adopted.

3. Affiliate Workforce Center Certification

WIOA, state and local policy requires that affiliate one stops be certified at a minimum of every three years. The OSO assists in certification of the one stops as part of its scope of services. During the OSO contract termination transition, it was discovered that Eckerd conducted the One Stop Certification for all the affiliate sites in September 2023. The forms completed during the review of the Affiliate One Stop Centers in Butler, Cowley, and Sumner counties were sent to board and committee members in addition to the meeting packet and will be posted with the meeting materials on the website. The process includes reviewing services at the site as well as ensuring legal notices are posted, staff are present and knowledgeable, customer accessibility, etc. Staff review of the forms indicates all the affiliate one stops met the criteria to be certified by the Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) and CEOB and forwarded to the Kansas Department of Commerce. The WA Program Operations and Performance Committee reviewed and approved the certification at their meeting on March 7, 2024.



Rod Blackburn (Kathy Jewett) moved to approve the certification of the affiliate one stops and recommend certification to the CEOB. Motion adopted.

4. Leveraged Funds Strategy Task Force

A task force was formed to identify opportunities for the WA to generate additional revenue from other sources to continue to create community impact beyond WIOA funding. The task force chair, Alana McNary, provided a review of recommendations for discussion. A report will be presented to the full board for discussion and adoption at its next meeting. One of the focuses of the task force is to look at ways to increase and improve participation and involvement of WA board members in order to represent and improve the visibility and credibility of the WA. Board members have more impact than staff in demonstrating to businesses, community and elected officials that the WA has value and is an investment in economic development. State and local funding opportunities exist that board members can assist the WA in obtaining. There is a need to be more deliberate, intentional and aggressive in pursuing these opportunities. It is important to identify legislative packages and elected officials that can be contacted and educated about WA programs and the funding needed in order to show them that providing funding to WA programs is an investment that will grow. Without lobbyists and a marketing budget, board members and their organizations are the only representation or advocates that the WA has in the community. Michele Gifford suggested that a page of bullet points needs to be created for board members that they can use in representing the WA's interests that explains benefits to employers, economic development and community. *There was consensus that the proposed task force strategy be discussed further at the next board meeting.*

5. Regional and State Labor Market Information

Amanda Duncan presented some slides regarding labor market data from the Kansas Labor Information Center and trends in employment patterns that impact the regional economy. Data shows that the labor force has continued to decline across the state over the past few years. Labor force participation rates in the local area has a lower participation rate compared to the state and higher than the U.S. but has been on a steady decline. The number of employer job postings is much higher than the number of active resumes/individuals seeking employment in the KANSASWORKS system. There are fewer people looking for jobs and a higher number of job postings. There is concern that the Wichita region may require an increase in labor market with the possibility of Integra adding 2,500 jobs and with the potential acquisition of Spirit by Boeing, there is concern of and how much work stays in Wichita. Businesses could be concerned that Wichita might not have a sufficient skilled labor force available. Staff will continue to monitor these trends and make changes where necessary. Commissioner Howell pointed out that employers are going to have to be more realistic about the wages they offer to workers in this competitive job market and uncertain economy. Jeff Longwell suggested that staff reach out to the Greater Wichita Partnership (GWP) and ask them what they are doing to recruit workers. Staff currently partner with the GWP on these efforts and will request a report to share with the Committee at a future meeting. *Report was received and filed.*

6. Workforce Alliance Community Impact Project Updates

Updates on the Youth Employment Project (YEP) and Home Base Wichita were provided. Duncan reviewed the current YEP report outlining outcomes, activities, goals and measures for the program. Internship interview days have been scheduled. The "Easy as Pie" campaign was rolled out to assist employers in developing internships and/or providing other opportunities that contribute to youth employment that can be tailored to their type of business and needs. Informational meetings were held for employers to learn about best practices for engaging young adults in work experiences. The career based Camp HYPE's are scheduled for the summer and accepting applications. A good deal of progress has been made in creating more summer internship opportunities for young people; however, there is a



great need for more employers to participate and staff are laying the groundwork to meet higher goals for next summer. Funding has been received from Bank of America and United Way; however, with it being less than previous years; not as many Camp Hype's will be able to be funded. Staff are pursuing other funding opportunities.

Tamara Ray, Director of Home Base Wichita (HBW), provided an update on the program on an increase in referrals, job placements and employer participation. A Skillbridge Internship event has been scheduled for April. The goal is to increase the number of employers that participate in the Skillsbridge program and is another way to attract and retain military members and their family members to the Wichita area after they depart the military. In May, a military appreciation event is scheduled with Mayor Wu scheduled to speak. Invitations to the Skillsbridge and military appreciation events as well as an approved list of Skillbridge employers in the region will be sent committee members.

Report was received and file

7. Consent Agenda

Approval of meeting minutes for February 14, 2024, Program Year 2023 budget update, operations report, communications report, registered apprenticeship report, policy revisions, additions to the Eligible Training Provider list and on-the-job training (OJT) contracts for CMJ Manufacturing, Hall Industrial, PB Hoidale, UV&S and Yingling Aviation were presented to the Committee for review and approval.

Kathy Jewett (Michele Gifford) moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion adopted.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Attendees:

LWDB Executive Committee Members

Rod Blackburn
Michele Gifford
Commissioner Jim Howell Via ZOOM
Kathy Jewett
Pat Jonas via ZOOM
Jeff Longwell
Alana McNary
Gabe Schlickau via ZOOM

Staff/Guests

Marcy Aycock
Amanda Duncan
Denise Houston
Keith Lawing
Shirley Lindhorst
Mary Mann
George Marko
Chad Pettera
Tamara Ray
Janet Sutton
Laura Ritterbush, Goodwill
Erica Ramos, Kansas Dept. of Commerce