



**Workforce Alliance (WA) Youth Employment Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
April 15, 2025 – 11:30 AM**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Workforce Alliance Youth Employment Committee assembled via ZOOM. Chair Rod Blackburn called the meeting to order and self-introductions were given.

**2. Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program and Work-Based Learning**

KC Schumacher provided an update on the WIOA youth program. Staff have obtained additional work experience sites, including a new Goodwill Store, Andover Senior Center, and a position through the WA's partnership with Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation (CPRF). Staff are pleased to announce a new partnership with Elite CDL School offering training to customers and a new English tutor that will provide services to GED customers and training customers. Staff continue to offer virtual program orientations and now can register themselves online without having to have a referral.

Denise Houston presented an update on WIOA Youth performance for Program Year 2024, the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter has just begun. It is still early in the year for data entry and there was an increase in goals for this year. All goals are being met or exceeded for employment and measurable skills gain; however, the sanction level for median earnings and credential attainment is not being met. The State is not meeting any of the measures. Currently, the WIOA Youth program is performing better than the other two WIOA programs, Adult and Dislocated Worker. Blackburn asked why the State is exceeding this Local Area in median earnings and staff anticipate this number will increase.

Dr. Marcy Aycock provided an update on current work-based learning (WBL) data across the State so far for 2024; a report was included in the meeting packet for review. Data includes schools served, businesses participating, school districts and schools served as well as internships provided, work experiences and referrals to the WIOA Youth program.

*Reports were received and filed.*

**3. 2024 Youth Employment Project (YEP) Planning**

Amanda Duncan presented the current year-to-date statistics for YEP highlighting progress in workshop participation and badges awarded. Job fair attendance has already exceeded last year's numbers and still more are planned. The program is trending ahead in many categories. Chelsea Daniel provided an update on the High School Interview Day on April 5<sup>th</sup>; there were 55 student participants, five employers and 23 job offers. Upcoming events include the Maize Senior Job Fair on April 16<sup>th</sup> as well as a workshop and internship events in El Dorado. The Camp HYPE career camps will begin in June. Staff are currently registering youth for the nine camps that are planned. Staff are making a strong push in the schools to increase registrations and will be promoting on the WA's regular KWCH segment next week. Blackburn asked how recruitment for was going for the camps scheduled in Sumner and Cowley counties. Staff are confident that both will be well attended and are working with respective economic development representatives. Dr. Rachel Bates, Cowley College, expressed that she and the college are continuing to work with WA and county representatives on processes to strengthen collaboration. Dr. Aycock noted that the WA was hosting a Talent Talk in Cowley County this week and are working with the college and economic development. She also discussed the increasing interest of local governments in providing high school internships, with examples from Sedgwick, Derby, El Dorado, and Valley Center. WA staff are providing guidance, resources and support to these local governments, including job descriptions and recruitment tools. These internships are often funded by the local governments and are seen as a way to pave the way for students' future careers.

*Report were received and filed.*



#### 4. **New Job Fair/Career Exploration Proposal**

Laura Barker, USD 259 and Dr. Lindsay King, Maize Career Academy proposed the idea of organizing a regional Career Exploration Job Fair for high school sophomores and seniors in Wichita. The event would be a collaboration between USD 259 and Maize, and would involve employers from various districts. The aim is to provide career awareness and exploration for sophomores and job and internship opportunities for seniors. The event would replace the current large job fair for seniors, and would be open to surrounding school districts. The proposal was well-received, with the suggestion that it could be a powerful event for the city and big a big benefit to the students, schools, employers and region. By having one large fair, employers could then narrow down the number events they make arrangements to attend. A very large venue would be needed for potentially over thousands of youth. Barker asked the Committee if they could help support such an event. February was suggested as a potential date, but weather-related cancellations have occurred in that month. Barker and Dr. King suggest holding the event in April, but open to working with schools and employers to come up with ideal date that meets everyone needs. Stacia Kaylor noted that for Textron internships, earlier would work better due to their application period.

Barker, King, Aycock and Kaylor will work together to form a work group of some committee members and others to plan and organize the event. The committee should consider involving city and county partners, as well as regional superintendents. The goal is to begin planning before this school year ends with implementation in the next school year. Lawing agreed to assist with securing a venue and assisting with employer outreach to participate in the event.

#### 5. **Report on State of Wisconsin Pre-Apprenticeship / Youth Apprenticeship Model**

WA staff are reviewing models on pre-apprenticeship and youth apprenticeship programs to learn best practices. Dr. Aycock presented information about Wisconsin's youth apprenticeship program, which started in 1992 and now involves over 5,000 youth across the state. The program is state-supported and includes two types: a standard two-year apprenticeship and a shorter level one option. Regional consortia are responsible for implementing the programs, working with schools, businesses, and the Department of Workforce Development. WA staff would like to explore the possibility of implementing a similar program in Kansas, as it could complement existing workforce initiatives and registered apprenticeship programs. The committee discussed the differences between internships, pre-apprenticeships, and youth apprenticeships, as well as potential challenges in implementation, particularly for smaller employers. Presentation slides on the Wisconsin's youth apprenticeship program will be shared with committee members. The Milwaukee youth apprentice coordinator has offered to meet with WA staff to assist in possibly implementing this model. Staff are interested in exploring pre-apprenticeship and youth apprenticeship programs as part of evolving work-based learning initiatives in a variety of industries.

*No immediate action taken - staff will consult with the States' office of apprenticeship regarding youth apprenticeship programs and do more research on the subject to determine next steps to bring back to the committee in the future.*

#### 6. **Partner Updates**

- Textron Aviation pre-employment process for summer interns, with a focus on shop floor hands-on roles. They will hire 170 interns this summer, which is more than last year.
- The YMCA's Job Prep program, is in its final phase for the year with mock interviews starting next week and interviewing for jobs the following week.
- The City of Wichita's Way to Work program has 175 youth aged 14 through 17 years beginning employment orientation on May 28th and officially starting summer employment throughout the City on June 1st. Participants are between 14 and 17 years old.



- Committee meetings are held on the third Tuesday every other month beginning in February. The next meeting would be in June during the summer break sit was previously scheduled to send out youth update reports in lieu of an actual meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup>. The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 19<sup>th</sup>. Rod Blackburn intends to depart the WA board and this committee and mentioned that a new chairperson is needed.

**7. Consent Agenda**

Approval of the minutes from the December 17, 2024 meeting and Program Year 2024 Youth Program budget update were presented to the Committee for review and/or approval.

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

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 PM.

**Attendees:**

LWDB Youth Employment Committee Members

Tyrone Baker, YMCA  
Laura Barker, Wichita Public Schools  
Rod Blackburn, Partners in Education, Chair  
Jakobe Davidson, Spirit AeroSystems  
Stacia Kaylor, Textron Aviation  
Phet Namphengsone, Textron Aviation  
Angie Carr for Debbie Kennedy, Wichita Children's  
Home  
Alana McNary, Professional Engineering  
Consultants  
Amy Williams, Interim Executive Director Kansas  
African American Museum  
Na'Shell Williams for Sally Stang, City of Wichita

Staff/Guests

Stephanie Anderson  
Dr. Marcy Aycock  
Auston Cooley  
Chelsea Daniel  
Amanda Duncan  
Denise Houston  
Keith Lawing  
Shirley Lindhorst  
KC Schumacher  
Dr. Rachel Bates, Cowley College  
Lindsay McWilliams, Goodwill