

Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2022

1. Welcome and Introductions

The LWDB assembled in person and via Zoom; Chair Melissa Musgrave called the meeting to order. Bill Cantwell was present and introduced as a new board member replacing Suzanne Scott for Spirit AeroSystems. It was announced that Dr. Dennis Rittle, President of Cowley College who is on the LWDB Youth Employment Committee will be leaving Cowley College to accept a position in Arkansas.

2. Public Comment

Musgrave asked staff if any requests for public comment were received; none were received.

3. Nomination for Workforce Alliance Board of Directors Vice Chair

Due to recent unexpected board member transitions, the position of Vice Chair for the Workforce Alliance LWDB has been vacant and Chair Melissa Musgrave nominated Board Member Jeff Longwell, Eck Auto Group, to fill this vacancy. The role of the Vice Chair is to lead the Finance Committee and to chair Board meetings in the absence of the Board Chair. The Board Chair serves a term of two years and then the Vice Chair becomes the Chair upon Board approval. Longwell is well qualified to take on a leadership role with the WA and has been an LWDB member for many years. *Rod Blackburn (Robyn Heinz) approved the nomination of Jeff Longwell to serve as the Vice Chair of the Workforce Alliance Board.*

4. National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Forum

Keith Lawing and LWDB Members Melissa Musgrave and Kathy Jewett attended the NAWB Forum in Washington D.C. earlier this month and provided an overview of their experiences at the event. Although the event was somewhat scaled back from recent years due to the pandemic, it was very successful with over 1,300 people from across the country attending. Sessions and workshops were attended that focused on the roles and work of board members as well as topics that related to the WA's strategic goals. NAWB also worked with Brookings to focus on the issue of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). Boards and staff from across the nation were surveyed on ways to identify and address DEI related issues. Information will be shared with board members. Lawing shared a video that was presented at the Forum by Employ Indy in regard to their youth employment program. WA staff are interested in being more targeted with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program in the future. Musgrave indicated that she would be sharing notes, presentations and tools that she received at the NAWB Forum with all Board members. *Report was received and filed.*

5. Workforce Alliance (WA) Project Update

The WA is administering several grant projects and exploring a number of initiatives to address the employment and skills training challenges facing the regional economy. An update was provided on a few of these projects.

The Youth Employment Project (YEP) is an initiative to assist young adults in finding a first job or work experience opportunity in partnership the Helping Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE) is a collaboration. The HYPE partners including the Workforce Alliance, the City of Wichita, the Greater Wichita YMCA and USD 259. These partners all have well established youth employment programs and work together to achieve significant community impact. YEP / HYPE Activities for 2022 are

underway and highlights include engaging over 2,400 area high school students, awarding 590 Essential Skills Certificates, working with 93 employers, partnering with 21 schools in 10 school districts, holding a Manufacturing Day Job Fair event for 150 summer internships with Spirit AeroSystems, Textron Aviation and Cox Machine as well as scheduling Career Camps for High School Students with financial support from several businesses and organizations in the region.

For the past two years, the WA has been involved in the statewide Work Based Learning (WBL) Intermediary pilot project. There is funding in the current state budget proposal to expand the WBL initiative and directly fund the five Local Workforce Development Boards in Kansas. The WA is working with several school districts. A full report on WBL activities for the current school year will be provided to the Youth Employment Committee and then to the full Board at the July meeting.

Roadtrip Nation (RTN) – Project Wichita is underway. To date, the primary partners are the WA officials from 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. The total cost for the project is \$665,000. Securing funding is being led by the WA and WSU Tech, USD 259, WSU and Sedgwick County have pledged support. Phase I (Work-Based Learning Virtual Video Production, Student Interview Projects and Digital Community Hub) is being rolled out this summer and the community collaborative continues to raise funds for Phase II (Wichita Roadtrip and Documentary), which is a video featuring three local students. A funding gap of \$130,000 remains to begin this project.

Activity for the One Workforce grant project is ramping up with several projects underway with multiple employers and a number of scholarships that have been awarded to students based on employer demand. The One Workforce Advisory will be meeting in May and a full project update will be given to the Workforce Alliance Board in July.

To address future job growth possibilities as more technology is deployed in advanced manufacturing, Deloitte is partnering with the Greater Wichita Partnership on a research project examining the Future of Work and Workforce. The information from this report will be valuable for guiding activities and strategies for the One Workforce Grant. The WA was well-represented in the Deloitte project with Keith Lawing and Faith Martin participating in focus groups along with Board members Ebony Clemons-Ajibolade from Evergy and Luis Rodriguez from Keycentrix. The results of the full project report will be available soon.

Report was received and filed.

6. **Consent Agenda**

Approval of meeting minutes from January 26, 2022; budget update for Program Year 2021-2022; Workforce Alliance Operations / One-Stop Operator report, WIOA performance reports, regional labor market update; on-the-job training contracts for Airbus, O2 Corporation/Yart Manufacturing and Tran Aerospace; contract extensions for AGH paymaster services, Wichita Workforce Center lease, Allied Health, Butler Community College, Sunflower Counseling, WSU Tech Occupational Skills training for WIOA youth elements; and work experience employer of record for Manpower and The Arnold Group were presented to the Board for review and approval. Customer traffic has increased at the Wichita Workforce Center, which had been low due to the pandemic. Participation for the WIOA Youth Program was discussed and staff are making some changes and adjustments to the program in an effort to increase the number of participants.

Robyn Heinz (Rod Blackburn) moved to approved the Consent Agenda as presented. Melissa Musgrave, Airbus and Dr. Kim Krull, Butler Community College abstained from the vote. Motion adopted.

7. **Additional Topics/Announcements**

- The next LWDB Executive Committee roundtable is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11th and the topic of discussion will be child care issues and how they affect employers and the workforce. All LWDB members are invited to attend.
- The next Workforce Alliance Local Workforce Development Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 27, 2027. The meeting will be held in-person at the Wichita Workforce Center and a virtual option will be available.

Adjourn (11:22)

Present LWDB Members

- Rod Blackburn
- Bill Cantwell
- Robyn Heinz
- Kathy Jewett
- Pat Jonas
- Russell Kennedy
- Dr. Kim Krull
- Kristin Langrehr
- Jeff Longwell
- B.J. Moore
- Alex Munoz
- Melissa Musgrave
- Tony Naylor
- Luis Rodriguez
- Ashley Scheideman
- Gabe Schlickau
- Sally Stang

Guests & Staff

- Amanda Duncan
- Denise Houston
- Keith Lawing
- Shirley Lindhorst
- George Marko
- Chad Pettera
- Jamey Regier
- Tisha Cannizzo, Eckerd Connects
- Cody Griffin, WSU Tech
- Jennie Heersche, Cowley College
- Carol Noblit, County Clerk Kingman County, CEOB
- Commissioner Greg Thompson, City of Winfield, CEOB
- Jeff Townsend, Sheet Metal Workers
- Cherie Wenderott, Senior Services of Wichita
- Mayor Brandon Whipple, City of Wichita
- Sherry Whitson, Wichita State University