



Workforce Alliance Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2026 – 11:30 AM

The Workforce Alliance (WA) Executive Committee met virtually on April 8, 2026 via Zoom. Board Chair Alana McNary welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order.

1. Wichita Workforce Center Remodel Update

- Staff completed moving administrative offices at the Garvey building downtown to the Wichita Workforce Center in March.
- Workforce Center remodel construction began close to schedule and remains on track for the anticipated a 60-day timeline.
 - Several offices and a conference room are complete and ready for paint.
 - Youth Services space is being reconfigured; walls are being removed and Career Center operations will move into that area. Youth Services will still have designated space and access to shared rooms.
 - A sliding, badged glass door will be installed to increase security near the information desk.
 - Badge access installations are expected in the coming weeks.
 - Glass doors and ADA glass have an approximate three-month supply backlog; expected installation likely May–June.
 - Final staff desk moves and permanent workstation assignments anticipated mid-to-late May or early June, pending completion and further coordination with partners and staff.
- Some items remain in storage and will be addressed once renovations are complete.
- A facility tour will be scheduled for an upcoming in-person board meeting, even if construction is not fully complete.

2. National Association of Workforce Board (NAWB) Forum 2026

Board members Alana McNary and Cheryl Childers and staff Keith Lawing and Amanda Duncan attended the annual National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Forum in March and discussed some highlights and takeaways from the event.

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) was a dominant topic across breakout sessions.
- Board accountability and social media engagement as well as a need for an introductory workforce data course.
- Recommendation to explore Intro to Workforce Data (101) training for board members and partners.
- Discussion on defining organizational roles and responsibilities (“lanes”) and overlap among Workforce Alliance and community and education partners.
- Reflection on whether all necessary stakeholders are represented at the board table.
- Concern over removing the human element from job descriptions and resumes via AI.
- Highlighted potential risks regarding resume’ fraud and data integrity.
- Emphasized trust, ethics, and alignment with community partners.
- Be prepared to pivot in response to changing circumstances.
- Framed AI as a tool, not a replacement for human judgment.

Committee Discussion -

- Important to train people to use AI responsibly and practically.
- Use caution of the hype and over-promising of AI’s impact.
- Focus on fundamental AI literacy rather than advanced applications at this stage.
- The subject of AI and workforce impact will continue to be discussed at the next board meeting.

State Proposed Training Expenditure Policy

Federal and state policy discussions include:

- Potential Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) reauthorization
- A new waiver process allowing states flexibility in workforce system structure
 - Concern about Kansas possibly moving toward a single-state workforce delivery system, which could negatively impact local boards in regard to local operations, funding flexibility, and training capacity.
 - Oklahoma's experience with similar waivers raised concerns, including potential legal challenges.
 - The State of Kansas has released policy updates for public comment with a deadline of April 3, 2026.
 - Board members will be contacted to review and provide feedback to comments before they are submitted.
 - Staff will share formal comments with the State Workforce Board Chair and Vice Chair, requesting delay of proposed policies pending further discussion.
 - Proposed invitation to Lieutenant Governor / Secretary of Commerce David Toland to meet with the WA Board, employers and partners.

3. Community Impact Project Updates

- Momentum: Explore, Discover, Hire Youth, a city-wide career fair is scheduled for April 22, 2026 at Century II.
 - The WA is partnering with Wichita Public Schools and Maize Career Academy on the event.
 - Thousands of students from 40 high schools are expected to attend.
 - More employers are needed from the region to participate and provide career awareness and exploration for sophomores and job and internship opportunities for seniors.
 - Goal of over 80 employers (currently just over 50 confirmed) – Booth cost is \$250.
 - Board members are encouraged to recruit employer participation through their networks.
- Kaufmann Returning Citizen Consortium (RCC) Planning Grant – renamed Kansas Restorative & Opportunity Network (KRON)
 - Application has been submitted and a decision is expected in May. A funding decision is expected soon.
 - The project includes multiple partners in the Kansas City and Wichita region for five years at approximately \$20 million to assist justice-involved individuals (JII) gain employment and provide services to address barriers to employment.
 - An employer engagement outreach breakfast event is planned for May 15th with an anticipated audience of approximately 40 to 50 participants for potential employer partners to learn more about participating in the program.
- Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program referrals are increasing after a slow start.
- EPA Brownfields grant activity is ongoing.
- Additional funding opportunities are under exploration (apprenticeships, workforce programs).

4. Consent Agenda

Approval of meeting minutes for January 14, 2026 and March 11, 2026, Program Year 2025 budget update, Workforce Center operations and one-stop operator update for February and WA Communications, Corrections/Fair Chance and Registered Apprenticeship program updates were presented to the Committee for review and/or approval.

Scott Stiles (Kathy Jewett) moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion adopted.

5. Workforce Alliance Updates

The WA's Revenue Generation Task Force met on April 7th.

- The annual Jobs FORE Youth Golf Tournament is scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2026 at 9:00 AM at Willowbend Golf Club. More details including new sponsorship levels have been discussed.
- Additional fundraising ideas are being explored.
- Task force information will be presented and discussed at the board meeting in April, with follow-up at the July meeting with recommendations

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 PM.

Attendees:

LWDB Executive Committee Members

Rod Blackburn
Cheryl Childers
Kathy Jewett
Pat Jonas
Alana McNary, Chair
Luis Rodriguez
Scott Stiles, Vice Chair

Staff/Guests

Marcy Aycock
Denise Houston
Keith Lawing
Shirley Lindhorst
Chad Pettera
Angela Slattery, One-Stop Operator, Goodwill