



Workforce Alliance Program Operations and Performance (POP) Committee
Meeting Notes
May 1, 2025

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Workforce Alliance (WA) Program Operations and Performance (POP) Committee assembled virtually via Zoom. Co-Chair Robyn Heinz welcomed Committee members, asked for self-introductions and called the meeting to order. A quorum was not present and no formal action was taken.

2. Spring 2025 Skills Training Report

The WA releases two training reports a year to track trends, review funding levels and identify leveraged resources supporting jobs seekers and employers in Local Area IV (LAIV). The 2025 Spring Training Report was presented by Janet Sutton for review. Staff are continuing to see an uptick in Registered Apprenticeships in the area, there are 833; 44 of which are supported by WA programs. There are a total 975 in active training, which includes the 833 RAs. The report includes an Employer Training Provider breakdown along with details.

Report was received and filed.

3. WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth Program Policies: Self-Sufficient Wage Review

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) tasks the Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) with setting an economic self-sufficiency standard for the local area. The LWDB undertakes this review annually alongside the review of the occupations approved for training. The self-sufficient wage is used as a requirement for on-the-job training and incumbent worker training contracts as well as inclusion on the occupations approved for training list. The LWDB must review the wage at least once a year and more if it is felt necessary; however, there is no requirement to make a change.

Currently, the self-sufficient wage for LAIV is \$16.15 an hour for all programs. For this year (PY2025), staff again used the MIT Living Wage calculator to assist in recommending the self-sufficient wage for this area (Wichita Metropolitan Statistical Area) and that data shows it should be \$19.79 per hour, which is a significant increase of \$3.64 per hour (22.5%). Last year (PY24), a large increase was indicated as well, however, due to a concern about the impact that such a large increase might have on employers getting workers into approved on-the-job (OJT) and incumbent worker training, the Board approved a 3.5% increase, in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This year, the Midwest region CPI has increased 2.7% since March 2024. If the Board chose to raise the self-sufficient wage by 3.5% again this year, no demand occupations would be affected. The average wage for current OJTs is \$19.52 per hour; currently, there are two OJTs paying under \$17 per hour. Staff recommend a 3.5% increase in the self-sufficient wage to \$16.72 an hour. Heinz asked if there are any concerns with the increase not being high enough considering it is still considerably under what research is showing it should be, wanting to be sure change is not being limited. Alex Munoz stated that the primary goal for the board should be to ensure that funding streams are not limited and can be used by employers to get as many people trained as possible.

As a quorum was not present, no action was taken and this item will be forwarded to the WA Executive Committee or WA Board for review and action.

4. Demand Occupation List for Program Year 2025

It is an annual function for the WA LWDB to review and update the Demand Occupations List for WIOA programs. Staff has researched current labor market trends, surveyed staff, employers, partners and Board members, and reviewed regional initiatives to determine occupations in demand in LAIV. This list does not include the WA's One Workforce Grant training.

Surveys indicate that the majority of respondents would like to keep the occupations currently on the list. There were a few suggestions on occupations to add. Additionally, there were some concerns

expressed in the surveys regarding Artificial Intelligence's (AI's) possible effects on the IT occupations for consideration at some point. Those suggestions were evaluated and were included for discussion on this item's report. For Program Year 2025 (PY25), staff recommends retaining all the current occupations and not actively add any on the approved training list. The proposed PY25 Demand Occupations List and supporting documentation were included in the meeting packet.

As a quorum was not present, no action was taken and this item will be forwarded to the WA Executive Committee or WA Board for review and action.

5. 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. Last meeting, there was some concern about the decrease in traffic in January and February due to weather closures and federal holidays. March did see a healthy rebound in traffic and is trending that way for April. Job fairs in particular are driving more traffic and general traffic is up as well. The report provided a breakdown of services (workshops, walk-in appointments, job fairs) at the Wichita Workforce Center and program enrollments. The new Goodwill OSO staff member and working with Lindsay to restart Workforce 101 meetings and community partner involvement. Great strides have been made in the way customers can register for services by accessing the Workforce Alliance website. Customers can pre-register for job fairs, register for workshops and Workkeys, WIOA Youth Program orientations as well as other services.

Report was received and filed.

6. Consent Agenda

Meeting minutes from March 6, 2025 and WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth Program Performance for Program Year 2024 were presented to the Committee for review. Denise Houston reported that program performance will be final the end of August and there is more data entry to do and an increase in numbers is being seen and are doing a bit better than the state in projected annual performance. As discussed previously, there was a significant increase in some of the performance goals for this program year and has affected LAIV and the state. Staff are monitoring performance closely and files are being reviewed to ensure that that all data has been recorded. At the end of the year, a statistical adjustment model will be run that looks at a number of factors and this could bring some goals down. Heinz asked if there is discussion at the state level about LA's and the state not meeting goals. Houston replied that the state can ask to renegotiate some of the measures with the U.S. Department of Labor at the end of program year with detailed documentation. Heinz also asked about how reporting is being done considering the recent Local Area merger. The areas will be reporting as separate LA's through the end of this program year and report as one local area beginning on July 1, 2026.

Report was received and filed.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52.

Present Committee Members

Robyn Heinz, Co-Chair

Justin Albert

Marcus Curran

Alex Munoz

Staff/Guests

Amanda Duncan

Denise Houston

Shirley Lindhorst

Chad Pettera

Janet Sutton

Lindsay McWilliams, Goodwill