

WORKFORCE CENTERS

of South Central Kansas

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Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) Executive Committee Meeting Minutes May 13, 2020 – 11:30 AM

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Executive Committee assembled via ZOOM. LWDB Member Gabe Schlickau welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order.

2. Regional Economic Impact Report

A Workforce Alliance (WA) report on how businesses and the economy are being impacted in the region due to the cumulative effects of the Boeing 737 Max layoffs and the COVID-19 health crisis was provided and discussed. Staff participate in the region's COVID-19 task force that is addressing the needs of the community. Spirit recently announced an additional 1,450 layoffs. Virtual Rapid Response meetings are scheduled. Some Spirit staff will be to fulfill a contract to produce medical devices until October. The Kansas Department of Labor's Unemployment Insurance (UI) Weekly Review is a report that shares claims, payments and other unemployment related data on its website:

<https://klic.dol.ks.gov/admin/gsipub/htmlarea/uploads/UI%20Weekly%20Review.pdf>. The current report was shared with the Committee. For the first time in several weeks, the number of first time claims has decreased. The WA was officially notified that it has been awarded a \$1.9 million National Emergency Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, which will significantly assist the WA to continue to provide training and services to dislocated workers in many sectors of the economy, not just aviation manufacturing. It is hoped that Local Workforce Development Boards will receive additional funds through the first CARES Act passed by Congress.

Report was received and filed

3. Workforce Center Operations

Workforce Alliance (WA) operations and programs are being implemented while the Workforce Center is closed and most staff are working at home until the Workforce Center reopens. Customers are being assisted over the phone, website, KansasWorks' chat function and other virtual services. A "Virtual Career Center" has been established on the Workforce Centers website. Customers are able to visit with workforce center staff by way of one-on-one via virtual appointments and have been increasingly taking advantage of this service. Workshops have been recorded and are available online by accessing the Workforce Center You Tube postings. Other job seeker and employer resources are available on the website. The Kansas Department of Commerce has purchased a platform to provide virtual job fairs that all workforce centers in Kansas will be able to use; the WA will host their first one on May 27th. Reopening of the Workforce Center to customers will occur on May 26th on an appointment only basis and with other protocols in place. Some staff will return to the center to provide face-to-face services and others will continue to work from home. News of the reopening along with customer expectations such as making appointments and wearing masks will be relayed to the public via social media and press releases. Virtual services will continue to be offered and encouraged. Staff are obtaining the necessary safety supplies and equipment and have implemented other safeguards to protect staff and customers such as additional security and plexiglass shields.

Report was received and filed

4. Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Allocations – Program Year 2020

The WA received its allocation for WIOA programs for the fiscal year that starts July 1, 2020. These allocations have been decreasing each year as is the case again this year. The Program Year 20202 (PY20) budget is still be developed, but it is planned that the budget will be 29% WIOA with 71% coming from other sources. The Finance Committee will be meeting in early June to

review a budget for PY20 and make a recommendation to the CEOB and LWDB. Funding for the WIOA programs at the federal level will have an \$86-million-dollar increase for PY20. For Kansas, WIOA is taking a total reduction of -\$779,871 or about 6%. WIOA funding across Kansas is decreasing in all areas except LAIV (South East Kansas). All other areas are taking a significant decrease. In total for PY20, LAIV is receiving \$1.859 million, which is the lowest WIOA allocation over the past 17 years. The WA has questioned the allocation and the formula and methodology is currently being reviewed; therefore a change may be possible. Much of the formula depends on excess unemployment in the area. There is a potential meeting with Kansas Department of Labor to discuss allocation issue such as formula and transparency. The engagement of members of Congress and Senate may be needed to look into why when the federal allocations are increasing, Kansas allocations are decreasing. This topic will be discussed further in upcoming strategic planning sessions in order to review the models of other LWDBs. The WA's continued strategy of obtaining other more diversified funding is even more critical.

Report was received and filed

5. Youth Employment Project (YEP)/Helping Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE)

The Youth Employment Task Force has been reviewing the operations of the Helping Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE) project, and working on recommendations to the Workforce Alliance (WA) Board and its partners to increase community impact in 2020 and beyond. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, modifications have been made to the 2020 HYPE work plan and goals to scale back from previous years and use this year as a bridge to a more expanded program in 2021. HYPE will continue to do everything possible to assist youth with immediate employment opportunities and also equip them with tools and awareness that will help with academic success and long term career goals although it is unlikely that employers will be able to provide a first job or work experience opportunity in 2020. The Youth Employment Task Force met on May 8 and approved a work plan for this summer that was discussed with the Committee. The number of youth served and camps offered depend on available funding and resources. There are other pending requests for funding and resources that have been made to HYPE employer community partners. These resources will be invested to support WA operations and incentives to youth that participate in workshops. The plan is to offer a series of career workshops to youth that have at least completed their freshman year of high school and have not yet graduated. These workshops will be held at the Wichita Workforce Center and will focus on soft skill development, career awareness, academic goals, financial literacy, leadership, entrepreneurship and also be sector based focusing on career interests in manufacturing, information technology, healthcare, construction, etc. Youth will have to apply to attend and a cash stipend will be provided as an incentive for completion and achievements during the camps. Three, two-week camps are planned with each camp will cost approximately \$5,000 each and more funds are needed. Employers such as Spirit, Textron and many others are being contacted to encourage their participation.

Tony Naylor (Rod Blackburn) moved to approve the Helping Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE) 2020 Work Plan as presented. Motion adopted.

6. Workforce Alliance 2020-2022 Strategic Planning Update

The Workforce Alliance (WA) Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) adopts a strategic plan every two years and has begun the process for 2020 through 2022. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the strategic planning process has been adjusted with the goal now being to view a draft plan in September and adopt the new plan in October rather than July 2020. Stan Odenthal. The Odenthal Group, is facilitating the strategic planning sessions and producing the strategic plan. The sessions are being operated via Zoom. A schedule with the topics, dates, times and links to register were sent to LWDB members and stakeholders. The first two planning sessions, "Planning for the Future in this Economic Crisis" and "The Youth Program and Youth Employment Project

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(YEP)” have been completed. Sessions for the third topic, which will focus on One-Stop Operations/Partners and funding strategies, will begin May 18th. Stan discussed outcomes and participation levels of the first two sessions and outlined next steps. Additional sessions are planned for June depending on outcomes of the first the first three topic discussions. One topic discussed was how the LWDB can be more effective and the structure of the LWDB committees. More participation from LWDB members is needed and staff will be sending targeted invitations to LWDB members encouraging their participation in the process. The Committee will continue to review information from the sessions in July and a formal plan will be presented to the LWDB in October.

Consent Agenda and Committee Reports

Minutes from the April 8, 2020 meeting, Program Year 2019 budget report, WIOA Youth Program Service Provider Contracts and additions to the Eligible Training Provider List (ETP) were presented to the Committee for review and/or approval.

An extension of all Youth Program Service Provider contracts through December 31, 2020 was requested by staff in order to allow for a new procurement process to be completed.

Butler Community College has requested and staff recommended to the Committee that 90 of their online programs be added to the Eligible Training Provider (ETP) List. All programs on the ETP List must be approved by the Committee.

Kathy Jewett (Rod Blackburn) moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion adopted.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 PM.

LWDB Executive Committee Members

Rod Blackburn
Kathy Jewett
Pat Jonas
Tony Naylor
Gabe Schlickau

Staff/Guests

Keith Lawing
Tisha Cannizzo, Eckerd Connects
Amanda Duncan
Denise Houston
Kristina Langrehr, LWDB
Keith Lawing
Shirley Lindhorst
Chad Pettera
Laura Rainwater
Erica Ramos, LWDB
Jeff Townsend, LWDB
Stan Odenthal, The Odenthal Group