



Workforce Alliance Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2026 – 11:30 AM

The Workforce Alliance (WA) Executive Committee met virtually on May 13, 2026 via Zoom. Board Chair Alana McNary welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order.

1. Wichita Workforce Center Remodel Update / Butler Workforce Center

- Project is nearing completion, with an estimated timeline of two to three weeks remaining.
- Remaining construction items include installation of glass partitions at the front desk, carpet installation in main walkways, hanging interior doors and activating security badge systems
- Staff relocation within the center is planned for early June following the El Dorado transition.
- Tours of the updated facility are available to board members; an open house is planned in the coming months.
- El Dorado Workforce Center Closing and Staff Transition
 - Partnership established with El Dorado Chamber to relocate WA services to the Civic Center.
 - Approved space will include dedicated staff workspace with public access computers as well as shared meeting and event space.
 - Current center closes May 21st and movers are scheduled May 27th.
 - Minor service disruption anticipated but minimized due to timing with holiday.
 - New location expected to enhance collaboration with employers and community partners.

Report was received and filed.

2. State Proposed Training Expenditure Policy

The WA provided comments on a policy proposed by the Kansas Department of Commerce (KDC) and the KansasWorks State Workforce Board that could have unintended consequences to “One-Stop” operations and support for skills training opportunities.

- The State Board deferred their decision on the policy to June 2nd. Keith Lawing will reach out to State Board Chair before that meeting.
- Key concerns raised:
 - State board lacks consistent quorum and engagement.
 - Stakeholder comments were not shared with board members.
 - Proposed policy could negatively impact current service integration model.
- The WA’s integration approach was recently recognized as a best practice in the recent KDC Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Monitoring Report creating concern over conflicting state direction.
- There is a need to improve direct communication with state board members and leadership and board committee members are encouraged to directly contact state board members.
 - Staff will develop concise talking points summarizing the current success of the local model and potential impacts of proposed policy to distribute to Committee members to use in communications with state board members, elected officials, etal.
 - Staff will also forward a list of state board members, a copy of the previously submitted WA comments and the monitoring report to board members.
 - Potential invitations to the Lieutenant Governor and state workforce members to visit the Workforce Center.

Report was received and filed.

3. **WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth Program Policies: Self-Sufficient Wage Review for Program Year 2026**

WIOA tasks the Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) with setting an economic self-sufficiency standard for the local area.

- Current wage is \$16.72/hour - Living wage benchmark per MIT is \$20.78/hour.
- Staff proposed a \$3.5% increase to the Program Operations and Performance (POP) Committee at their meeting on May 7th. The committee supported a higher initial increase of 4% (\$17.39/hour) to help close the wage gap with the caveat that staff evaluate impacts on training providers and employers and broader regional entry-level wage indicators.
- Current OJT wages already exceed proposed threshold, minimizing employer impact.
- Staff will implement updated wage requirement across all programs and conduct further wage analysis for demand occupations and monitor employer and program impacts.

Kathy Jewett (Michele Gifford) moved to approve the Program Operations and Performance Committee recommendation for an initial increase to the self-sufficient wage by 4% bringing it to \$17.39 per hour. Motion adopted.

4. **Demand Occupation List for Program Year 2026**

An ongoing function of the WA LWDB is to annually review the Demand Occupations List (Occupations Approved for Training) for Local Area IV.

- An annual review was completed based on labor trends and training availability.
- Staff proposed the following changes:
 - Removal of 11 occupations lacking local training providers
 - Removal of one duplicate/unused certification program
 - Addition of dental assisting as a new occupation
- Staff will continue monitoring training provider availability and reassess removed occupations if training access returns.
- The WA Program Operations and Performance Committee approved the list with staff proposed changes at its meeting on May 7th.

Tony Naylor (Cheryl Childers) moved to approve the Demand Occupation List for Program Year 2026 as presented. Motion adopted.

5. **WIOA Memorandum of Understanding for Required One-Stop Partners**

The WIOA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for required one-stop partners is expiring and being renewed for Program Year 2026.

- The comment period ended with staff receiving minimal feedback.
- Minor updates included personnel/organizational changes and clarification of responsibilities between WSU Tech and Goodwill.
- MOU outlines roles, service coordination, and cost-sharing among partners.
- Final approval required prior to July 1st deadline.
- Staff will submit MOU to CEOB for approval in June and distribute finalized MOU to partners for signatures.
- Potential state/federal changes could potentially require amendments to the MOU.
- Staff requested that the language of this item's recommended action, "Approve the WIOA MOU and authorize the CEOB Chair and President and CEO to sign" be revised to reflect that the board recommends approval to the CEOB Chair to sign rather than authorize.

Rod Blackburn (Kathy Jewett) moved to approve the WIOA One Stop Partner Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), authorize the President & CEO to sign and recommend to the Chief Elected Officials Board (CEOB) Chair to approve and sign. Motion adopted.

6. Community Impact & Program Updates

- Youth Employment Project (YEP)
 - Momentum Job Fair on April 22nd at Century II hosted 972 students.
 - Staff are working to identify lower-cost venue/logistics options for next year.
 - Feedback is being collected from students, employers, and schools to review for possible improvements to next year's format.
 - WA's summer Camp HYPE career sessions are filling quickly.
 - There are increased internship placements this year, including law firm opportunities. Staff continue to work to expand internship placement partnerships
 - Jobs FORE Youth Golf Tournament is scheduled for September 14, 2026 - Planning is underway, including sponsorship updates and pricing adjustments.
- Kaufmann Returning Citizen Consortium (RCC) Planning Grant
 - The project includes a coalition of multiple partners in the Kansas City and Wichita region in a planning grant to design a five-year program to assist justice-involved individuals (JII) gain employment, provide services to address barriers to employment and support pre- and post-release employment outcomes. A decision is expected in June.
 - In partnership with the Wichita Regional Chamber, the WA will host an employer engagement outreach breakfast on May 15th at the Wichita Workforce Center with 40 to 50 potential employer and community partners attending to learn about participating in the program and being part of a workforce reintegration pipeline.
- HVRP (Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program)
 - Three-year, \$1.5M grant program to help veterans who are homeless or at risk for homelessness. Target population includes individuals with high barriers to employment.
 - 16 participants are enrolled; staff are in the early-stages of ramp-up and staff are increasing outreach and referral channels as well as strengthening partnerships with service providers.
 - Monitor progress toward enrollment and placement goals.
- EPA Brownfields Grant
 - \$500K grant supporting training programs for employment in environmental fields.
 - 19 participants enrolled; 28 credentials earned. Potential for participants to progress into advanced training pathways.
 - Staff continue to enroll and train cohorts as well as track employment outcomes as participants complete programs.
- Additional Strategic Initiatives
 - Workforce Pell grant applications underway with community colleges.
 - An employer-focused child care solutions convening is scheduled for May 20th at the library – Michigan Tri-Share model and employer tax credits to be highlighted.
 - Legislative public forum on May 15th; approximately 20 legislators confirmed.
 - AI workshops are being expanded to additional counties.

Report was received and filed.

7. Consent Agenda

Approval of meeting minutes for April 8, 2026, WIOA element contract amendments/extensions, Program Year 2025 budget update, Workforce Center operations and one-stop operator update for March and WA Communications, Corrections/Fair Chance and Registered Apprenticeship program updates were presented to the Committee for review and/or approval.

The one-stop operator contract with Goodwill was adjusted to meet a four-year limit requirement rather than five. The contract will be re-bid earlier than planned when the current term expires.

Michele Gifford (Kathy Jewett) moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Pat Jonas, CPRF abstained from the vote. Motion adopted.

8. Workforce Alliance Updates

- Budget and Funding for Program Year 2026
 - Adult and Youth funding increased; Dislocated Worker funding decreased slightly (no significant layoffs locally, impacting funding formulas).
 - Local allocation amounts pending state processing.
 - A draft budget will be developed for next meeting.
- Work Ready Credential
 - The State of Kansas is discontinuing funding for ACT WorkKeys program on June 30, 2026.
 - Staff are expecting decreased workforce center traffic
 - Alternative assessment tools are available and are being researched.
 - School districts use WorkKeys and independently manage their participation.
 - Staff are communicating program changes to employers and education and community partners.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 PM.

Attendees:

LWDB Executive Committee Members

Rod Blackburn
Cheryl Childers
Michele Gifford
Kathy Jewett
Pat Jonas
Alana McNary, Chair
Tony Naylor

Staff/Guests

Marcy Aycock
Amanda Duncan
Denise Houston
Keith Lawing
Shirley Lindhorst
Mary Mann
Chad Pettera
Janet Sutton
Angela Slattery, One-Stop Operator, Goodwill