

# WORKFORCE CENTERS

of South Central Kansas

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### Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) Youth Employment Committee Meeting Minutes May 17, 2022 – 11:30 AM

#### 1. **Welcome and Introductions**

The LWDB Youth Employment Committee assembled via ZOOM. Co-Chair Amy Williams welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order.

#### 2. **Youth Employment Project (YEP)/Helping Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE) 2022**

The program is going well; however, the level of activity is not as high as initially planned due to lack of resources. There is a need for more partnerships outside of Sedgwick County. Staff have plans to increase resources to build the program in the future. A Manufacturing Interview Day with Spirit, Textron Aviation and Cox Machine was held and went very well. Textron interviewed approximately 340 young adults and accepted around 150, Spirit interviewed 100 and accepted 50 and Cox hired 10. There were fewer attendees than hoped, but the quality of the candidates was very high. Spirit's hiring was a good rebound from last year, not quite back to pre-pandemic levels, but headed in the right direction.

880 students have registered for YEP, which is exceeding the numbers from last year. The WA partners with KWCH to promote a Job of the Day; one week is planned to highlight jobs available for teens. Five Camp HYPE sessions are scheduled, which provides opportunities primarily for 14 to 15-year-old aged participants, which typically have a more difficult time finding summer employment. The five sessions focus on specific employment sectors and include an information technology camp sponsored by FlagshipKS, healthcare camp, Spirit AeroSystems camp, Textron Aviation camp and one camp focused on the trades in partnership with the electrical apprenticeship program, Plumbers and Pipefitters and the Sheetmetal Workers. Flyers are being created to promote the camps and will be sent to Committee members. Staff need the Committee's assistance in promoting the camps. Youth participants will treat the camp as a job opportunity and will be paid upon successful completion. The WA is partnering with Wichita Transit to provide transportation for youth participating in the camps. USD 259 is providing externs to work the camps and outreach assistance to promote the camps to parents and students. Attempts are made to promote a camp to target student career interests. The WA continues to work with other school districts to promote the camps in other communities.

Mim McKenzie provided an update on the YMCA's Job Prep program. 101 students have completed the class; 89 are getting jobs through the YMCA and their partners and other attained employment on their own. The number of participants this year has increased over the last couple of years and is almost back up to pre-pandemic levels.

Sally Stang provided an update on the City of Wichita's Way to Work program. 157 youth have gone through process and are ready to be placed in jobs at the City and in a variety of businesses and organizations throughout the city. The City pays the salary of the participants for the eight-week employment period. It has been a challenge to find places to assign participants; attempts are made to place students in jobs that match their career interests.

*Report was received and filed.*

#### 3. **Work-Based Learning (WBL) Project Update**

All five of the local workforce boards in Kansas have received grant funding over the last couple of years to hire a WBL Intermediary to work with designated schools that have applied to be recognized as a WBL school and expand career awareness. This year, the local areas have received funding from the State of Kansas. Standards and processes for measuring the participation and effectiveness of the program are needed so that data can be reported back to the legislature for continued funding. With this funding, each local area can now hire an additional WBL Intermediary, which increases the opportunity to reach out to more schools that are interested in participating in the program. Staff

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presented a draft of a chart that will be presented to all of the local areas that will capture and track this data and then be reported to the legislature. The data needs to be consistent amongst the local areas and include the many activities and partnerships that business and industry already have with the school districts that may not be captured at present. The WBL program provides an opportunity to grow Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs through this partnership by referring eligible youth. The Committee will continue to be updated at future meetings and members may be asked to speak with legislators in the future to show support and provide examples of the program's effectiveness so that future funding can be received from the State. Suggestions were made for a centralized application process for students and for outreach materials for prospective businesses that includes information from businesses that already participate in WBL programs.

*Report was received and filed.*

**4. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program Performance for Program Year 2021 (PY21)**

An update on performance for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program for Program Year 2021 (PY21) was provided. PY21 ends on June 30, 2022; staff have until August to finalize performance numbers. Local Area IV is exceeding the performance sanction level for all five program measures so far for the year. No corrective action is indicated from the reporting. The State is projected to meet all performance levels for the program year.

*Report was received and filed.*

**5. Consent Agenda**

Minutes from the January 18, 2022 meeting and the Workforce Center Operations/One-Stop Operator report were presented to the Committee for review and/or approval.

*Debbie Kennedy (Sally Stang) moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion was adopted.*

**6. Next Steps**

An update on the Roadtrip Nation – Project Wichita will be provided at the next meeting in July.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM.

**Attendees:**

LWDB Youth Employment Committee Members

Laura Barker, USD 259  
Rod Blackburn, Partners in Education  
Cody Griffin, WSU Tech  
Aletra Chaney-Profit, Butler Community College  
Debbie Kennedy, Wichita Children's Home  
Mim McKenzie, YMCA  
Sally Stang, City of Wichita  
Amy Williams, Spirit AeroSystems

Staff/Guests

Stacy Cotten  
Chelsea Daniel  
Amanda Duncan  
Denise Houston  
Keith Lawing  
Shirley Lindhorst  
Katie Gibson, The Arnold Group  
Jennie Heersche, Cowley College  
Deb Weve, Flint Hills Job Corps