



Workforce Alliance Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2026 – 11:30 AM

The Workforce Alliance (WA) Executive Committee met virtually on June 10, 2026 via Zoom. Keith Lawing facilitated welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order as Board Chair Alana McNary and Vice Chair Scott Stiles were unable to attend the meeting.

1. Wichita Workforce Center Remodel Update

An update was provided on the remodel project of the Wichita Workforce Center.

- Remodel nearing completion All WA staff are now located at Wichita Workforce Center.
- Consensus among Committee members to combine a ribbon cutting with the July 22 WA Board meeting. Community partners, media, and stakeholders will be invited.
- Butler County Workforce Center in El Dorado:
 - Lease terminated as a cost-saving measure.
 - The WA has partnered with the El Dorado Chamber and El Dorado Inc. to provide Workforce center services from space at the Civic Center.

Report was received and filed.

2. Program Year 2025 (PY25) Budget Review & Proposed Program Year 2026 (PY26) Budget Presentation

Staff reviewed the Program Year 2025 budget and presented a proposed budget for Program Year 2026.

- PY25 Overview
 - Overall finances considered stable with expected carryover.
- PY26 Proposed Draft Budget
 - Draft budget presented does not yet reflect PY26 allocations due to delays from the State. The allocation data has now been received and a final revised budget will be prepared for review in August or September.
 - Key funding changes include a slight decrease of approximately \$4,000 to Adult & Dislocated Worker and a \$100,000 decrease in Youth funding.
 - Federal trends show small incremental increases (~1–3% historically).
 - Kansas allocations show Adult increased by 24%, Dislocated Worker decreased by 11–12% and Youth increased by 28%
 - Total projected WA budget will be approximately \$6.8M (lowest in several years).
 - Operational breakdown shows 66% to operations/overhead vs. 34% to direct client services (lower than typical). The reduction is mainly due to expiration of One Workforce grant.
- Discussion
 - Concern about meeting state/federal training expenditure thresholds (40–50%).
 - Need for:
 - Strategic, proactive adjustments.
 - Investment in systems/technology to improve efficiency.
 - Clear narrative showing forward-looking adaptation.
 - Leadership to
 - Develop clearer narrative on strategic shifts within future budgets.
 - Evaluate opportunities for:

- Technology/system investments.
- Process efficiencies to reduce administrative burden.
- Continue planning toward training expenditure requirements.

Rod Blackburn (Tony Naylor) moved to approve the proposed PY26 budget with authorization to make adjustments once final carry over funding is known.

3. **State Proposed Training Expenditure Policy**

The State Workforce Board had a special meeting on June 2 and approved the Kansas Dept. of Commerce's proposed policy. The WA had provided formal comments to the State Board with concerns about the policy and its possible unintended consequences to "One-Stop" operations and support for skills training opportunities. The State Workforce Board adopted the 40% training expenditure policy despite opposition.

- Policy includes phased implementation (not immediate compliance).
- Concerns raised:
 - Policy may reduce operational flexibility.
 - Could hinder ability to form partnerships and expand training access.
 - Perception that state board lacked full understanding of local operations.
- Discussion
 - Importance of employer-led advocacy (more credible than internal lobbying).
 - Need for coordinated outreach campaign by entire board.
 - Board/Committee members expressed willingness to engage employer advocacy channels.
 - The State Workforce Board leadership will be invited to the July 22 board meeting to discuss the policy. Discussion to be framed around employer training needs and practical strategies to increase training participation.
 - Prepare concise talking points for board members and partners.
 - Gather supporting data:
 - Job placements without training.
 - Impact of workforce services beyond training dollars.

4. **Community Impact Project Updates**

- The 2026 Ad Astra Technology Summit organized by Flagship Kansas was held on June 4th and had strong attendance and engagement.
 - The event featured keynote speaker Salim Ismail, who discussed exponential organizational and technology trends and impacts
 - Breakout sessions included topics of workforce, AI, manufacturing, education, registered apprenticeship and startups.
- Youth Employment Project (YEP)
 - Rotary grant (\$7,500) awarded to the WA for youth program.
 - A WA youth program/Youth Employment Project and Helping Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE) report will be emailed to board and stakeholders in the next few days.
- Jobs FORE Youth Golf Tournament
 - Planning underway and sponsorship outreach beginning.
 - Minor fee increases have been implemented.
- Kaufmann Returning Citizen Consortium (RCC) Planning Grant - The WA is part of a coalition that received a planning grant that aims to support pre- and post-release employment outcomes for justice-involved individuals. An implementation request has been submitted and a decision expected soon.
- Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) and EPA Brownfields Grant progressing well with outreach and training enrollments.

Report was received and filed.

5. Consent Agenda

Approval of meeting minutes for May 13, 2026, on-the job training contract for Prime Craftsman, Workforce Center operations and one-stop operator update for April and WA Communications and Registered Apprenticeship program updates were presented to the Committee for review and/or approval.

Kathy Jewett (Luis Rodriguez) moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion adopted.

6. Announcements

- This meeting was Rod Blackburn's final meeting on the Executive Committee. Rod was on the WA for over 25 years; he was recognized for his long-standing service and contributions.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM.

Attendees:

LWDB Executive Committee Members

Rod Blackburn
Cheryl Childers
Michele Gifford
Kathy Jewett
Tony Naylor
Luis Rodriguez

Staff/Guests

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