



Workforce Alliance Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2025 – 11:30 AM

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Workforce Alliance (WA) Executive Committee met on June 11, 2025 at the Wichita Workforce Center, 2021 N. Amidon, #1100 and virtually via Zoom. Board Vice Chair Alana McNary welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order.

2. Program Year 2024 (PY24) Budget Review & Proposed Program Year 2025 (PY25) Budget Presentation

The current PY24 budget as of April was included in the meeting packet for review; the current year ends June 30, 2025. Chad Pettera presented a proposed budget for PY25. The Finance Committee met on June 4, 2025 to review the proposed budget and approved and recommended it for approval to the LWDB and Chief Elected Officials Board (CEOB). Despite a 2% decrease in federal funding for WIOA programs, Kansas is seeing its first increase in several years due to increased funding for the Dislocated Worker (DW) program; while the Youth and Adult program funding decreased. Local Area IV's allocation has increased 7% from \$2.68 million to \$2.87 million. The overall budget is decreasing from \$10 million to \$8.2 million due to the expiration of some grants, particularly the One Workforce grant, which ends in January 2026 and accounts for \$2.9 million of the current budget. Staff are currently working on some grant opportunities to acquire additional funding and they will be added to the budget when confirmed. Carryover dollars are available to use for next year as well. It is not only some grant funding that will end next year, but other program elements as well. Lawing pointed out some examples of revenue funds that may not be available next year. The Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP) is one of the programs slated to not be funded and the Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP), which as an organization has been undergoing a review of programs; local governments have indicated that they want to decrease the amount of funds they pay for their membership. The budget maintains staffing levels despite an 18% cut, with a 60/40 split between overhead/operations and direct services. The State's goal is 35% for this ratio.

Scott Stiles (Cheryl Childers) moved to approve and recommend the proposed PY25 budget to the Chief Elected Officials Board (CEOB), with authorization to make adjustments once final carry over funding is known. Motion adopted.

3. Demand Occupation List for Program Year 2025

An ongoing function of the LWDB is to annually review the list of occupations approved for training. Janet Sutton presented the proposed Demand Occupation List for the 2025 program year. Staff have reviewed labor market information, regional incentives and initiatives. Board, members, staff and employer partners were asked to complete surveys. Results from the survey indicated maintaining the list as is without any additions or changes. There was some survey feedback regarding concern over AI's effects on information technology occupations; staff did research and did not find anything to indicate that at this time. A few suggestions were made to add to the list and included in the packet for Committee members to review. Staff researched those suggestions with labor market information including current job openings to make determinations. Staff recommend keeping the Demand Occupations list as it is. This item was discussed at the Program Operations and Performance Committee on May 1, 2025; a quorum was not present, but members present did not express any concerns.

Tony Naylor (Kathy Jewett) moved to approve the Demand Occupation List for Program Year 2025. Motion adopted.



4. **Executive Order #14278: Preparing Americans for High-Paying Skilled Trade Jobs in the Future**

The White House released an Executive Order in April to prepare Americans for high-paying skilled trade jobs of the future. It directs the Secretaries of Labor, Education, and Commerce to review federal workforce programs. Lawing discussed how overall the content of the order is consistent with how the WA is operated. He emphasized the order's focus on consolidating federal programs, targeting investments to align with the country's industry needs, taking advantage of opportunities to integrate systems and align resources, addressing the need to upskill workers and looking at how artificial intelligence can be used. The order also focuses on expanding registered apprenticeships, which has always been a high priority for the WA. The only concern that staff have is how government can help fund these efforts and provide resources to accomplish them. Staff suggested that a letter from the WA Board chair be sent to the Kansas Congressional Delegation that communicates that the WA board has reviewed the Executive Order and is providing comments on it to make them aware that staff and board are staying informed and ready to react accordingly. Committee members were in agreement with the suggestion.

A letter from the Board Chair will be sent to the Congressional Kansas Delegation regarding the Executive Order.

5. **2026 – 2028 Strategic Planning**

The WA Board will be developing a strategic plan for the organization for 2026 through 2028. Keith Lawing presented a plan for a series of planning sessions that included topics, scheduling and possible speakers. The sessions will cover topics like current labor market needs, community partnerships, policy development, and economic mobility with each session building upon each other. The proposal includes using existing meeting dates where possible and inviting various stakeholders, including employers, community partners, and legislators. If invitees cannot attend, it will be encouraged for them to send a designee from their organization. The first session is proposed for during the August 13th Executive Committee meeting with the last recap session scheduled for during the quarterly board meeting on October 22nd. Panels are being formed for some of the sessions. The Chamber would like to co-host the policy development round table session with elected officials and legislators being invited. The Board discussed inviting legislators broadly, informing them of all sessions but focusing on their attendance at the policy development session. While the sessions will not be recorded, notes will be taken and sent out to all following the sessions.

Cheryl Childers (Michele Gifford) moved to approve the 2026-2028 strategic planning sessions. Motion adopted.

6. **2025 Community Impact Projects**

Amanda Duncan provided updates on community impact projects.

The Youth Employment Project (YEP) Camp HYPE summer internship and career camp programs for youth. The program has expanded to 11 camps over nine weeks, with two new camps added this summer. Staff are actively sharing updates on social media and encourage board members to help amplify these posts. Maria Jose was introduced as the WA's summer intern from the City of Wichita's Way to Work Program. She is working at the Workforce Center and participating in various programs and activities. Tyrone Baker, YMCA reported that their Job Prep program has successfully placed most of the 365 enrolled young people in summer jobs across various industries. Michele Gifford reported on Textron's high school intern program, which has 160 interns on-site for six weeks, 20 hours per week earning \$15.00 an hour; they are sponsoring a YEP career camp the week of July 28. Cheryl Childers described Cox Machine's rotational internship program, allowing students to experience different departments. Dr. Marcy Aycock shared her positive experience visiting Camp HYPE in Wellington, and praised the program's organization and the students' engagement. Youth employment rates are increasing every year and staff are already planning for future opportunities in 2026.



Through the WA's Home Base Wichita (HBW) and One Workforce grant an accelerated six-week aviation mechanic certification for military veterans is being offered. The program has funded the first two cohorts. Staff is seeking long-term funding to continue the program beyond January when the current grant ends. The Wichita Regional Chamber will host a Military Affairs Luncheon on Wed., June 25. The WA is working with the Chamber to further HBW initiatives. Executive Committee members are invited to attend and information will be forwarded to members after the meeting.

A series of Community Impact/Talent Talks in Cowley, Sumner and Butler County have been planned. The purpose of these events is to improve the communication between local employers and the WA and its partners on employment and skills training priorities. The Cowley County event was in April and Sumner County is scheduled for June 17th. Butler County's event involves the WA participating in Kansas Regional Days of Learning scheduled with Butler Community College on June 23rd. More information will be sent to members after the meeting.

The WA is part of a Kaufmann Foundation Returning Citizen Consortium (RCC) planning grant. Staff are working with its workforce board counterpart in Kansas City (Workforce Partnership) to create and present a project plan to the Kauffman Foundation by the end of November. The goal of the plan is to improve support for justice-involved individuals, focusing on pre-release preparation, employer readiness and identifying barriers and challenges to employment such as transportation options and how to overcome them. If the plan is accepted, funds would be provided for implementation.

Report was received and filed.

7. **Consent Agenda**

Approval of meeting minutes for May 14, 2025, Spring 2025 Skills Training Report as well as monthly operations & one-stop operator, registered apprenticeship and communications reports were presented to the Committee for review and/or approval. The WA's One-Stop Operator has created a weekly internal newsletter to increase communication and information between staff regarding services, events and programs. The first issue will be sent to committee members with the meeting summary.

Cheryl Childers (Michele Gifford) moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion adopted.

8. **Announcements**

- The annual Jobs FORE Youth Golf Tournament presented by Gilley's is scheduled for Thursday, September 25th at Hidden Lakes Golf Course. Sponsors and team are needed. Funds raised from the tournament help support the WA's Youth Employment Project (YEP).

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM.

Attendees:

LWDB Executive Committee Members

Cheryl Childers
Michele Gifford
Kathy Jewett
Pat Jonas
Alana McNary, Vice Chair
Scott Stiles
Tony Naylor

Staff/Guests

Marcy Aycock
Amanda Duncan
Denise Houston
Keith Lawing
Shirley Lindhorst
Chad Pettera
Janet Sutton
Tyrone Baker, YMCA
Jennifer Baysinger, Senator Roger Marshall's Office
Maria Jose, City of Wichita Way to Work Intern
Lindsay McWilliams, One-Stop Operator, Goodwill