



**Workforce Alliance Program Operations and Performance (POP) Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 2, 2026**

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Workforce Alliance (WA) Program Operations and Performance (POP) Committee assembled virtually via Zoom. Co-Chair Tony Naylor welcomed committee members and called the meeting to order.

2. Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth Program Performance for Program Year 2025

- Program Year 2025 has ended; performance reporting and final data validation will continue through mid-August.
- Staff are reviewing records, exclusions, and data accuracy to ensure final performance numbers are complete. Preliminary updates already show positive movement in several measures.
 - Adult Program - Adult performance indicators continue to be the most challenging area, employment outcomes, earnings, credential attainment, and measurable skills gains have been impacted by current program realities and participant barriers and updated data corrections have improved credential attainment performance significantly.
 - Dislocated Worker Program - Employment measures remain relatively strong; credential attainment performance is affected by a small participant pool; a few non-completions substantially impact results and Measurable Skills Gain performance is expected to improve through strategic co-enrollment efforts across grants.
 - Youth Program - Indicators remain strong overall, most measures are meeting or exceeding targets and employment in the second quarter after exit is slightly below target but remains competitive compared to state performance.
 - Wagner-Peyser - Performance is below historical norms. Median earnings performance is particularly challenging due to ambitious federal goals and labor market realities.
- Performance Factors Discussion
 - Kansas continues to operate under some of the highest performance expectations nationally.
 - Current participants often have more significant barriers to employment than in prior years. Participants now frequently require more intensive support and often take longer to secure and retain employment.
 - Strong labor market conditions may mean individuals with fewer barriers find employment without workforce system assistance.
- Kansas successfully negotiated reduced performance targets for Program Years 2026 and 2027. Most performance indicators will have lower negotiated goals, providing more realistic benchmarks.
- Staff will continue reviewing and validating performance data through the reporting deadline.
- Co-enrollment strategies are being expanded to improve measurable skills gain outcomes.
- Updated final performance results and finalized PY26–PY27 goals will be presented at a future committee meeting.

Report was received and filed.

3. State of Kansas Training Policy Change - Integrated Service Delivery & Operations Impact

The Kansas Department of Commerce and the KansasWorks State Workforce Board adopted a policy that requires local workforce areas to direct 40% of WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker funds toward training activities. The policy is scheduled to take effect October 1.

- Concerns
 - Policy limits local board flexibility in determining funding priorities.

- Current WA strategy utilizes multiple grant sources to support training while preserving WIOA resources for broader workforce services.
- New requirements may create unintended consequences.
- Increased training expenditure requirements could reduce funding available for career center operations, customer intake and assessment, business services and employer engagement, outreach activities and Workforce Center staffing
- Staff are determining operational and financial impacts and identifying possible strategies.
- A significant portion of the July WA Board meeting on July 22nd will be devoted to examining implementation options.
- Staff and one-stop partners are developing strategies to increase training participation while minimizing service disruptions.
- Board and Committee Members are encouraged to participate in upcoming discussions regarding policy implementation and workforce system impacts.

Report was received and filed.

4. WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth Program Policies: Self-Sufficient Wage Review Update & Follow Up

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

- In May, the committee approved a preliminary 4% increase in the self-sufficient wage standard to \$17.39 per hour.
- Staff were directed to collect additional labor market information before finalizing the adjustment.
 - Staff reviewed wage data for regional demand occupations.
 - Analysis included entry-level wage information from occupational and labor market databases.
 - Findings showed:
 - 18 of 46 demand occupations have starting wages below the proposed self-sufficient wage.
 - Several others are clustered near the proposed threshold.
 - The proposed increase aligns with realistic entry-level wages while remaining achievable for employers.
- Staff proposed formally adopting the 4% increase and implementing the approved wage standard across applicable programs and policies.

Marcus Curran (Justin Albert) moved to formally adopt a 4% increase in the self-sufficient wage. Motion adopted.

5. Workforce Center Operations / One-Stop Operator Report May 2026

- Workforce Center customer traffic declined slightly in May compared to April. Staff noted April activity was unusually high due to youth programming and outreach events. Overall traffic levels remain consistent with recent trends.
- Butler Workforce Center relocation
 - Office is now co-located with the El Dorado Chamber and El Dorado Inc. at the Civic Center.
 - Temporary closures associated with relocation likely contributed to reduced traffic.
 - Staff expect improved visibility and partnership opportunities at the new location and will continue to monitor.
 - Program Enrollment - Growth continues across several job training grants: EPA Brownsville, Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, knectY, (youth with disabilities), Meadowlark, adult and RESEA programs. One Workforce grant has completed participant exits and officially closed.
- Workshops & Assessments - Workshop participation remained generally steady. Workkeys testing concluded in June and will no longer appear in future operations reports.
- One-Stop Operator Activities
 - Workforce 101 (introduction to Workforce Center services) sessions continue monthly.

- Outreach to community partners remains ongoing.
- Goodwill voucher partnership provides clothing support for individuals recently released from incarceration.
- Customer satisfaction remains very strong.
- Workforce Center Renovation - Main construction activities are largely complete and has improved space utilization, customer flow, and security.
 - A remodel Ribbon Cutting ceremony planned for July 22 prior to the WA board meeting in partnership with the Wichita Regional Chamber.

Report was received and filed.

6. Consent Agenda

Meeting minutes from May 7, 2026 were presented for review and approval.

Marcus Curran (Justin Albert) moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion adopted.

7. Announcements

- WA Board is conducting annual committee assignment review and updates. Staff are working with Boeing representatives to strengthen workforce development collaboration. Discussions include re-establishing partnership activities with Spirit AeroSystems.
- Youth Employment Project (YEP)
 - Summer programming continues successfully including Camp HYPEs - Recent and upcoming career exploration camps include skilled trades, public safety, Textron, Boeing, McConnell and healthcare.
 - Youth worksite placements continue across multiple industries.
 - YEP received a \$7,500 Downtown Rotary grant. Additional grant applications are pending.
 - A proposal was submitted to the Patterson Family Foundation to support rural-area youth employment growth.
- YMCA Job Prep Program Update - Youth employment programming remains active. Existing participants remain engaged in summer employment opportunities.
- Jobs FORE Youth Golf Tournament - Planning is underway and sponsorships and player registrations are being sought.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 PM.

Present Committee Members

Tony Naylor, Co-Chair

Robyn Heinz, Co-Chair

Justin Albert

Marcus Curran

Staff/Guests

Denise Houston

Keith Lawing

Shirley Lindhorst

Chad Pettera

Janet Sutton

Angela Slattery, Goodwill