



**Workforce Alliance (WA) Board of Directors Meeting Notes**  
July 24, 2024

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The LWDB assembled in person at the Wichita Workforce Center and via Zoom; Chair Jeff Longwell called the meeting to order and asked for self-introductions. A quorum was not present; no official action was taken. The members present approved recommendation of action items to the WA Board for approval at its meeting on October 23, 2024. The WA has partnered with the City of Wichita Way to Work program to host several interns this summer. Two of the interns, Bri Redic and Cortni Rodgers, were in attendance and introduced.

**2. Public Comment**

No requests for public comment were received.

**3. Board Member Transitions**

Keith Lawing announced that with the new contractual agreement with Goodwill for One-Stop Operator services that Laura Ritterbush has stepped down from her board member position. In a recent union election Cornell Beard with International Machinists Union is no longer president and Judy Whitley is the new president; she will be joining the board soon. Board member Kris Langrehr will be leaving Ascension Via Christi at the end of the month and stepping down from the board and her position will be filled by Bruce Witt at Ascension.

**4. One Stop Operator (OSO) Introduction**

The Workforce Alliance and Goodwill of Kansas entered into a partnership for One-Stop operations and Lindsay McWilliams has been appointed to be One-Stop Operations Manager and was introduced. Laura Ritterbush, Chris Stanyer and Lauren Soliday were present for introductions and brief explanation of the partnership and what plans are for the future along the lines of the Integrated Service Delivery policy and workforce center partners. Engagement with other Goodwills around the nation that provide one-stop operator services is planned. A 30/60/90 day plan is being developed.  
*Report was received and filed.*

**5. Workforce Center Services One Stop Services Integration Policy**

The Local Area IV (LAIV) One Stop Customer Services Integration Policy has been modified and updated. The policy is to assist the workforce system increase program collaboration at the federal, state, and local level to ultimately integrate all available programs and services to job seekers and businesses through American Job Centers. Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) are charged with designating, overseeing, and operating the workforce centers in each local area of the state, including the integration of programs under the "One-Stop" model. LWDBs are tasked with seeking continuous improvement of a demand-driven, skills-based, service plan that includes enhancements to customer flow and service delivery that supports and advances the integration of employment and training services. The WA finalized the partnership agreement for OSO services with Goodwill beginning July 1, 2024, and a part of the transition process was to update the LAIV One Stop Customer Services Integration policy as it is the model that is to be provided to the OSO on how to manage the system. The draft policy was reviewed by the Executive Committee at its May meeting. The draft has been shared with all WA Workforce Center and community partners and posted through all WA social media tools. The WA accepted public comments on the policy from May 9 through June 10; no public comments were received. The Executive Committee approved the policy at its meeting on June 12, 2024 and recommended it to the Workforce Alliance

Board of Directors for adoption. As the plan could not be formally adopted due to lack of quorum, center operations will operate under the draft plan until the October meeting.

*Scott Stiles (Marcus Curran) moved to recommend that the WA board adopt the Local Area IV Workforce Centers One Stop Services Integration Policy at its meeting on October 23, 2024. Motion adopted.*

6. **WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth Program Policies: Self-Sufficient Wage Standard**

WIOA tasks the LWDB with setting an economic self-sufficiency standard for the local area. In LAIV, the self-sufficient wage is reviewed annually and is currently \$15.60 for all programs. According to the MIT Living Wage calculator, the self-sufficient wage in the Wichita Metro Statistical Area for 2024 is \$19.31/hour or \$40,164.80/ year, an increase of \$3.71 per hour. Such a large increase in a single year will affect WA operations and eligibility for WIOA funded training projects. Exceptions are allowed to the self-sufficient wage criteria and staff recommends keeping the exceptions that relate to training as part of a career ladder that results in a self-sufficient wage in six months. The Program Operation and Performance Committee and Executive Committee have reviewed reports and data for this item at their meetings on May 2, 2024 and June 13, 2024 respectively; no action was taken and staff were asked to perform additional research in regard to how proposed changes would impact eligible Occupational Skills training, On-the-Job training, and Incumbent Worker training projects funded by the WA. After discussion at the Executive Committee meeting, staff recommend raising the self-sufficient wage by 3.5%, or 55 cents per hour, to \$16.15 per hour or \$33,592.00 per year. This increase represents the Consumer Price Index increase between March 2023 and March 2024, and would have a limited impact on Demand Occupations and On-the-Job Training and Incumbent Worker wage requirements. This recommendation was emailed to members of both committees on July 11, 2024 for review and comment; no negative feedback was received.

*Kathy Jewett (Scott Stiles) moved to recommend that the WA board approve the 3.5% wage increase bringing the self-sufficient wage to \$16.15/hour or \$33,592.00/year at its meeting on October 23, 2024. Motion adopted.*

7. **Program Year 2024 (PY24) Budget Presentation**

Staff are presenting a proposed budget for Program Year 2024, July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. The Finance Committee reviewed the budget at its meeting on May 28, 2024 and the Executive Committee at its meeting on June 12, 2024 and both recommended approval to the LWDB and the Chief Elected Officials Board (CEOB). Pettera presented the proposed PY24 budget, which includes all current funding streams WIOA (Adult, Dislocated Worker (DW) and Youth programs) and non-WIOA funds. WA received its planning allocation for WIOA programs for the program/fiscal year that starts July 1, 2024. Funding for the WIOA Title I programs at the federal level remains fairly steady with a decrease of approximately .7% mostly due to decrease in funding for the DW program. The State received a decrease of 8% to 9%, which is an ongoing trend. The WA is receiving the largest cut of all the local areas of about \$360,000 a decrease of about 9%. The WA does not rely on WIOA funding alone and a review was provided on other revenue sources that the WA has through grants and other funding sources. There will be carryover dollars of about \$968,000 available and with WIOA funds and other revenue sources approximately \$9.6 million revenue for next year. The PY23 expenditures for the organization are decreasing next year mainly due to a decrease in wages and education and training costs (primarily due to the loss of the Midwest Urban Strategies Dislocated Worker and Pathways Home grants). The budget allocates 62% for operations and overhead and 38% direct client expenses such as work experiences, on-the-job training, incentives, education and training, and supportive services. Supplemental information was provided to the Committee on funding that has been paid to training providers, educational partners, registered apprenticeships, supportive services and employers for training over the years.

*Marcus Curran (John Rolfe) moved to recommend that the WA Board adopt the proposed budget and direct staff to make adjustments to include final carryover at its meeting on October 23, 2024. Motion*

*adopted.*

#### 8. **Community Impact Projects / Strategic Plan Updates**

An update was provided on the Home Base Wichita project, which is performing well and has participated in some strong events. The grant with City of Wichita to fund the program expired June 30. As there were some unspent dollars, staff requested and negotiated an extension, so there is now some ongoing funding. Staff are looking at other funding opportunities including a recently announced Veteran's Administration grant to sustain and expand the program. Tamara Ray, director of the program resigned on June 30<sup>th</sup> at the end of the grant term. Amanda Duncan presented some data on program outcomes and announced some upcoming events. Outreach and promotion of the Skillbridge program promotion to employers are ongoing.

An update was also provided on the Youth Employment Project, which went very well and had some great outcomes. The hope is to have much more employer engagement in the future in order to increase the number of work and type of experience opportunities for young people. Data is still being collected and the final report will be available in October. Work-Based Learning (WBL) programs funded by the state in all local areas in the state to provide for WBL intermediaries to work in the schools on career awareness activities around specific career pathways. The state wants the local areas to focus on paid and unpaid internships and pre or youth apprenticeships.

A Leveraged Funds Task Force was formed to review ways the WA can better leverage grant projects and develop community partnerships to bring on non-WIOA funding. In order to sustain and expand operations to continue to create community impact beyond WIOA, the Task Force identified several funding opportunities and recommended a number of tactics for the WA Board to support the strategic goal of generating revenue that were discussed at the April 24, 2024 meeting. Time was set aside on the agenda to discuss board member engagement as it relates to this strategy. With the lack of quorum this item will be placed on the agenda for a future meeting with better attendance.

#### 9. **Consent Agenda**

Approval of meeting minutes from April 24, 2024, Midwest Urban Strategies (MUS) membership, A-133 audit firm procurement, additions to the Eligible Training Provider List for Butler Community College and Allied Health, Youth Contract Amendment for Allied Health, WA board and committee membership, project reports (Fair Chance, Registered Apprenticeship and Communications), LWDB Executive Committee actions since the last Board of Directors meeting, Program Year 2022 (PY22) Tax Return and A-133 Audit, on-the-job training (OJT) contract for TEC Systems Group and Workforce Alliance Operations / One-Stop Operator Report.

*Scott Stiles (Kathy Jewett) moved to recommend that the action items recommended in the Consent agenda be approved by the WA Board at its meeting on October 23, 2024. Motion adopted.*

#### 10. **Additional Topics/Announcements**

- The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Jobs FORE Youth Golf Tournament is scheduled for Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at Hidden Lakes Golf Course. More sponsors, teams and prize donations are needed.
- The WA partnered with Ascension Via Christi on an application for a grant with the National Fund for Workforce Solutions. The application was successful and an award of \$125,000 around healthcare career pathways will be granted.
- The WA received a \$250,000 Digital Opportunity to Connect Kansans (DOCK) three year grant award from the Office of Broadband to support the WA's ongoing digital literacy and training strategies especially into rural communities and underserved areas.
- The WA is no longer a member of Midwest Urban Strategies (MUS) as of July 1, 2024.
- The WA in partnership Child Start and City of Wichita is hosting an ICT Child Care Entrepreneur Summit scheduled for Sat., 7/27 for 8:30 to 2:15 at the Beggs Ballroom of the Rhatigan Student Center at WSU. Topics will include Family-Friendly Workplaces, State of Kansas Childcare Tax Credits, child care strategies and best practices.

- The annual Workforce Innovation Conference is scheduled for Tues., 10/1 through Wed., 10/2 in Salina. The WA will pay event registration and hotel for board members to attend.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15.

*Present LWDB Members*

- Cheryl Childers via Zoom
- Marcus Curran
- Kathy Jewett
- Pat Jonas via Zoom
- Dr. Kim Krull via Zoom
- Jeff Longwell
- Alana McNary via Zoom
- Alex Munoz via Zoom
- John Rolfe
- Gabe Schlickau via Zoom
- Sally Stang via Zoom
- Scott Stiles

*Guests & Staff*

- Amanda Duncan
- Denise Houston
- Keith Lawing
- Shirley Lindhorst
- George Marko
- Chad Pettera
- Janet Sutton
- Dr. Rachel Bates, Cowley College
- Peter Bodyk, KS Dept. of Children & Families
- Lindsay McWilliams, Goodwill / One-Stop Operator
- Bri Redic, City of Wichita Way to Work Intern
- Cortni Rodgers, City of Wichita Way to Work Intern
- Laura Ritterbush, Goodwill
- Lauren Soliday, Goodwill

*The Workforce Alliance is the Local Workforce Development Board for Local Area IV*