

Workforce Alliance (WA) Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) Meeting Minutes
July 26, 2023

1. Welcome and Introductions

The LWDB assembled in person and via Zoom; Chair Jeff Longwell called the meeting to order and asked for self-introductions.

2. Public Comment

No requests for public comment were received.

3. Changing of the Guard and Workforce Alliance Board Member Updates

The current terms of the Board Chair and Vice Chair ended on June 30th. WA Board members serve for three year terms; terms are staggered so approximately one-third of terms are up for appointment each year. The WA Board chair serves two years, with vice-chair succeeding as chair. Melissa Musgrave has been the WA Board chair since July 1, 2021 and Jeff Longwell was appointed vice chair in April of 2022. The new term for the WA Board Chair and Vice Chair are from July 2023 to the July 2025 meeting. Jeff Longwell is prepared to serve as WA Board Chair. Alana McNary of PEC was asked and has accepted to serve as Vice Chair. Three new members were appointed and introduced (Cheryl Childers, Cox Machine; Eric Hunt, Kansas Department of Children and Families and Kevin Hunt, Spirit AeroSystems). Reappointments include Ebony Clemons-Ajibolade, Everygy; Cornell Beard, International Association of Machinists Lodge 70; Marcus Curran, Sheet Metal Workers Local Union #29; Michele Gifford, Textron Aviation; Dr. Kimberly Krull, Butler Community College; Alex Munoz, Creekstone Farms and Dr. Sheree Utash, WSU Tech. Board members whose terms expired are Bill Cantwell, Spirit AeroSystems; Dan Decker, Kansas Dept. of Children and Families; Laura Hands, Koch and Matt Peterson, Cargill. The Chair will be reviewing committee assignments; board members interested in serving on a committee were asked to contact the Chair or staff.

Rod Blackburn (Robyn Heinz) moved to approve the appointment of Jeff Longwell as Chair of the WA Board, and Alana McNary as Vice Chair of the WA Board for two year terms. Motion adopted.

4. City to City Trip to Colorado Springs

The WA was a sponsor of the annual City to City visit led by the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce. This year the trip was to Colorado Springs, Colorado. Board member Cheryl Childers and staff members Amanda Duncan and Katie Dawes attended and shared some of their experiences from the trip. Vice Chair Alana McNary also attended. Attendees flew on a tanker and on a refueling mission. The trip highlighted connections to the military and Wichita's ties to McConnell. Workforce was a common thread in most every conversation. The WA was the lunch sponsor for the trip and staff shared information on the Youth Employment Project and Home Base Wichita, which provides services for connecting veterans and transitioning military to make their home in Wichita. The Colorado Springs region has a very high population of military and military connected individuals due to their five military bases. Wichita has opportunities to recruit military from there to this area due to the high cost of living in Colorado Springs. There are also opportunities to attract military spouses to the area.

5. Workforce Alliance 2023 - 2025 Strategic Plan

WA Board members, community partners and staff have been in the process of updating the 2023 – 2025 strategic plan since November of last year. A series of five sessions were held to connect Board members to community partners and subject matter experts in discussions focusing on the current strategic goals, youth employment, federal and state policy issues, labor market information and economic forecasting and local boards making community impact beyond Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding. These conversations led to the proposed three primary strategic goals for 2023 through 2025 (Exceed Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Performance Goals in Program and One-

Stop Operations, Leverage Resources and Align Services to Create Community Impact Beyond Annual WIOA Allocations and Support Youth Employment and Career Awareness through Work-Based Learning and Applied Learning Models). The plan will guide operations and projects for WA staff and community partners. Also included in the plan is a list of the organization's core values: collaboration, job quality, access and opportunity, digital literacy, applied learning and employer-led sector strategies with diversity, equity and inclusion as an emphasis. WA staff will keep the Board updated on outcomes and develop key metrics to track progress for reporting.

The WA is working on a few new activities in keeping with elements of the new strategic plan. The WA is assisting Integra Technologies with their submittal for federal CHIPS Act funding. If successful, the WA will be managing a workforce development plan on behalf of Integra. Additionally, the State of Kansas received a grant of over \$6 million for Registered Apprenticeship (RA) expansion strategy; each local area will receive an allocation of those funds. The WA will become an RA intermediary and serve as an administrator. There are upcoming municipal elections for mayor, city council and school board members; after the primary elections, staff intend to invite candidates running in the final elections to visit and tour the workforce center. Board members will be invited to those visits. It was agreed that reaching out to current and potential policymakers was a good idea and there will be no partiality.

Gabe Schlickau (Cheryl Childers) moved to adopt the 2023-2025 Workforce Alliance Strategic Goals as presented. Motion adopted.

6. Workforce Alliance Program Year 2023 (PY23) Budget Presentation

Chad Pettera presented the proposed budget for PY23 for review and approval. The LWDB Finance Committee reviewed the proposed budget at its meeting on May 31st. Funding for WIOA Title I programs at the federal level will have an \$75.4 million increase for PY23 or roughly 1.6%. For Kansas, total WIOA allocations are decreasing by about 8.8%. Local Area IV will see a decrease of about \$284,000. Share of allocations is based on a formula using census data (population underserved individuals, etc.) A list of other planned revenue sources was reviewed. These funds are obtained by staff to augment WIOA funding. These funds are currently around \$6 million, but continue to grow as other funds are brought in and leveraged into operations that assist in supporting WIOA outcomes. The status of the current program budget is good, with 44% of the budget remaining. Funds can be carried over for two years and are needed due to the timing of receiving annual allocations. There is flexibility to move funds between the WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker (DW) programs as needed; due to less demand for DW, some funds are being removed to the Adult program. Changes to this year's budget include adding an Information Technology line item; these expenses are typically in the Supplies or Contracts line, but will now be tracked separately. The budget is increasing from around \$9 million dollars to almost \$10.5 million. Naylor asked how the WA budget is doing in regard to proportion of overhead versus direct client service expenses. Pettera responded that the State goal is 35% and the WA budget exceeds that goal. Blackburn acknowledged staff for increasing non-WIOA funding to its high level and noted it is much higher than many workforce boards.

Tony Naylor (Robyn Heinz) moved to adopt the Program Year 2023 (PY23) budget as presented. Motion adopted.

7. Community Impact Project Updates

Lawing presented slides with updates on some current WA projects that relate to the strategic plan and budget that were adopted (Home Base Wichita, Youth Employment Project, Talent Roadmap Leadership Coalition formed from the Deloitte Future of Work Project, SNAP Education and Training and Roadtrip Nation). The presentation will be sent to all board members after the meeting and posted to the website with other meeting documents.

Home Base Wichita, a program currently funded with American Rescue Plan funds from the City of Wichita assists military-connected individuals with employment opportunities. Staff attend and host events to make these individuals aware of the benefits of living and working in this region. The program also provides on-the-job training funds for eligible individuals. The goal is to achieve 100 placements by the

end of the year and it has been a challenge thus far; outreach is ramping up to increase numbers. There is one year remaining on this program and staff have a goal of placing at least 10 people a month.

Camp HYPE, career camps targeting 14 to 15 year old youth was able to increase the number of participants this year and increased the number of career awareness camps that were offered. Staff are working with Wichita Public Schools to expand the model next year. A full report of outcomes will be presented at next board meeting in October.

Work-Based Learning (WBL) project is in second year of direct funding from the State of Kansas. WA WBL intermediaries work in high schools to connect students to WBL opportunities and the WIOA Youth program. The WA received \$170,000 of this funding. Some outcomes were reviewed and numbers continue to increase and momentum is building. 22,000 youth participated in WBL activities across the state. A major goal is to increase referrals to the WIOA Youth Program.

The Roadtrip Nation (RTN) project includes a Build Your Future website and PBS documentary funded by the WA and other community partners. The two part documentary will begin airing late September. The purpose of the RTN project is to promote career awareness and retain talent in Kansas. The WA is planning a launch party to promote the film and website tools. The associated career awareness tools that are on the RTN website will be promoted to students and teachers.

The WA has entered into an agreement Department of Children and Families (DCF) to be an intermediary in an initial operational model for SNAP (AKA food stamps) Education & Training (E&T) project. The goal is to use non-federal funding for allowable SNAP E&T services and supports, which are then eligible for a 50 percent reimbursement through the State's SNAP E&T program. The WA and DCF are receiving assistance and support from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on administration and operations and are working with community partners to evolve to an Intermediary 50/50 model after October 1, 2023.

As discussed at the last Executive Committee meeting, Brookings is launching a Growth Intermediary Practitioner Network. It is an 18-month collaborative learning network that seeks to inform and learn from the work of Growth Intermediaries in eight regions. The Chamber has taken the lead on the application and it has been submitted. If accepted, Brookings would provide funding, support, technical assistance and tools to assist in developing strategies on how resources can be better utilized to actively engage the community to improve wages, employment participation and diversity in the region. Committee members will be notified if the application is successful.

Report was received and filed.

8. **Consent Agenda**

Approval of the minutes from the January 25, 2023 meeting, WA Operations/One-Stop Operator report, project updates for Fair Chance, Registered Apprenticeship and Communications, Demand Occupations List for PY23, Career Pathways for 2nd Quarter 2023, addition to On-the-Job Training Eligible Training Provider List for Ember Audio Visual, WIOA Youth contracts for Heartland Welding and Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation (CPRF), and an update on the 2023 Jobs FORE Youth Golf Tournament were provided to board members for review and or approval. Staff presented WIOA youth service contracts for Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation (CPRF) and Heartland Welding Academy for review and approval. CPRF provides occupational skills training for WIOA youth and costs for those trainings are increasing July 1, 2023. Heartland provides two welding training options for eligible WIOA Youth; the contract has an annual extension available and prices have increased.

Rod Blackburn (Tony Naylor) moved to approve the recommendations as presented in the consent agenda. Pat Jonas, CPRF, abstained from the vote. Motion adopted.

9. **Additional Topics/Announcements**

The 2023 Jobs FORE Youth Golf Tournament is scheduled for Thursday, September 21st at Hidden Lakes Golf Course. Sponsorship/Team Registration information was provided and board members were encouraged to sponsor or participate in the event.

10. Meeting was adjourned at 11:33.

Present LWDB Members

- Cornell Beard via Zoom
- Rod Blackburn
- Cheryl Childers
- John Clark via Zoom
- Marcus Curran
- Robyn Heinz
- Eric Hunt
- Pat Jonas
- Russell Kennedy
- Dr. Kim Krull via Zoom
- Jeff Longwell
- Melissa Musgrave
- Tony Naylor
- Erica Ramos
- Laura Ritterbush
- John Rolfe
- Gabe Schlickau
- Dr. Sheree Utash via Zoom

Guests & Staff

- Katie Dawes via Zoom
- Amanda Duncan
- Keith Lawing
- Shirley Lindhorst
- Mary Mann
- George Marko
- Chad Pettera
- Jennifer Baysinger, Senator Roger Marshall's Office
- Commissioner Jim Howell, Sedgwick County (CEOB) via Zoom
- Commissioner Greg Thompson, City of Winfield (CEOB)