



Workforce Alliance Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2026 – 11:30 AM

The Workforce Alliance (WA) Executive Committee met virtually on July 8, 2026 via Zoom. Board Chair Alana McNary welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order.

1. Wichita Workforce Center Remodel Update

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

- Interior construction is substantially complete with a few remaining project items.
- Moving the remaining items out of Garvey storage will be completed by the end of the month.
- Most staff have transitioned into their new office locations.
- Chad Pettera, Matt Roberts, and Dan Walker were recognized for their significant efforts coordinating the move and facility transition.
- WA will host a ribbon-cutting event in partnership with the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce.
 - Chamber representatives will assist with event promotion and community outreach.
 - Tours will be offered to community attendees and guests.
 - The renovated facility will showcase expanded classroom space, reconfigured office layouts, security enhancements, technology upgrades and improved customer access features.
 - Media representatives will be invited and a press release will be distributed prior to the event.
 - Board members were encouraged to attend and help promote the event through professional and social media networks.
- Workforce Center services in Butler County are now being provided from the El Dorado Chamber offices at the Civic Center. Staff intend to expand visibility, collaboration, and service delivery opportunities through this new partnership.

Report was received and filed.

2. Youth Employment Project (YEP) and Jobs FORE Youth Golf Tournament

An update was provided on YEP activities and progress on the annual golf tournament.

- Camp HYPE (Helping Youth Prepare for Employment)
 - Students participate in workplace tours and career exploration experiences.
 - Additional camps scheduled this summer include a Technology / Finance Camp, Boeing Camp, Textron Camp and McConnell Air Force Base Camp.
 - WA staff have intentionally increased partnerships that support foster youth participation.
- A grant application was submitted to support rural Camp HYPE expansion within smaller Kansas counties. An additional grant proposal is being developed to support YEP programming.
- Tyrone Baker, YMCA (HYPE Partner) provided an update on the JobPrep program.
 - Program is experiencing stronger employment outcomes than the previous year with currently 214 youth enrolled and all expected to obtain employment (120 participants placed into employer-secured positions and remaining participants independently securing employment).
 - Dedicated funding has been secured to support employment opportunities for foster care youth.
 - Key barriers identified include transportation, employment documentation requirements and coordination with foster families.
 - Opportunity exists to support approximately 20 additional foster youth with employment placements.

- WA and YMCA staff will meet to coordinate planning to develop strategies to increase foster youth employment participation.
- Textron Aviation has 166 interns this summer with more than 40 interns interviewed for full-time manufacturing positions. Additional opportunities are being developed for students returning to school as seniors.
- Cox Machine has nine interns are currently participating (eight high school interns and one college intern). Interns will complete final presentations to company leadership summarizing projects and providing feedback on their experiences.
- Jobs FORE Youth Golf Tournament, September 14th at Willowbend – Event funds support YEP.
 - Sponsorship progress includes Meritrust Credit Union commitment as Presenting Sponsor and Envision commitment as Registration Sponsor.
 - Sponsorships and team registration opportunities remain.
 - Outreach efforts continue with employers and workforce partners throughout the region; committee members were encouraged to participate and promote within their networks.

Report was received and filed.

3. **State Training Expenditure Policy**

The State Workforce Board and the Kansas Department of Commerce approved a policy that mandates 40% of WIOA funding be spent on training. There is concern about the policy and its possible unintended consequences to “One-Stop” operations and support for skills training opportunities. Leadership expressed continued concerns regarding the new state policy requiring greater training expenditures.

- Primary concerns include implementation timelines, funding flexibility and potential impacts on workforce center operations and staffing.
- Staff support increased training opportunities but question whether expenditure mandates are the most effective approach.
- This issue is on the agenda for the WA board meeting on July 22nd and State Workforce Board members have received invitations to attend. Discussion will include perspectives from employers, board members and community partners on workforce training priorities, skills development needs, apprenticeships, partnerships with education providers and workforce system alignment.
- Opportunities for expanded youth apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship pathways also need to be discussed.

Report was received and filed.

4. **Community Impact Project Updates**

- 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.
 - The coalition did not receive funding for full implementation of its proposed project; however, a capacity-building award was received to support continued coalition development and implementation planning.
 - Coalition partners will pursue multiple funding opportunities to advance project goals.
 - Focus areas moving forward include pre-release workforce readiness, employment preparation, trauma services, post-release workforce supports to address barriers and systems coordination across participating organizations.
- Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Program (HVRP)
 - Referrals and enrollment remain below desired levels. Staff are implementing revised outreach materials and messaging as well as increasing referral partnerships.
 - Several participants entered training programs and obtained employment.

- Outreach strategies are being revised to better reach eligible veterans to includes those considered at-risk (facing housing instability) rather than currently unhoused.
- EPA Brownfields Grant
 - New participants continue entering training programs toward environmental related career fields. Program completion and employment outcomes remain on target.
 - Several individuals obtained employment at wages exceeding program goals.
 - Staff are increasing marketing of environmental career pathways and strengthening employer partnerships supporting environmental occupations.
- Child Care Employer Convening
 - The WA has been working with Child Start on a series of convenings focused on child care - The next convening is scheduled for August 28th at the WSU Metroplex.
 - The convenings have included discussion on child care affordability, employer-supported child care models, state and federal tax incentives and Tri-Share child care strategies and workforce participation impacts.
 - The goal of the upcoming convening is to gather employer feedback, develop consensus around potential policy recommendations and identify priorities for future legislative discussions.
- Level Up Kansas Partnership
 - A new Executive Director, State Representative Blake Carpenter, has been appointed.
 - WA staff have met with him to discuss future collaboration opportunities, improve communication, share workforce messaging and increase visibility for Workforce Alliance services. The partnership between the WA and LevelUp is being updated.

Report was received and filed.

5. **Consent Agenda**

Approval of meeting minutes for June 10, 2026, on-the job training contract for Yingling Aviation, Workforce Center operations and one-stop operator update for May were presented to the Committee for review and/or approval.

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

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 PM.

Attendees:

LWDB Executive Committee Members

Cheryl Childers
Michele Gifford
Alana McNary, Chair
Tony Naylor
Luis Rodriguez

Staff/Guests

Amanda Duncan
Denise Houston
Keith Lawing
Shirley Lindhorst
Mary Mann
Chad Pettera
Tyrone Baker, YMCA