



Workforce Alliance Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2025 – 11:30 AM

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Workforce Alliance (WA) Executive Committee met on July 9, 2025 at the Wichita Workforce Center, 2021 N. Amidon, #1100 and virtually via Zoom. Board Vice Chair Alana McNary welcomed attendees, asked for self-introductions and called the meeting to order. New Board member Dr. Tamara Daniel, the new president of Butler Community College was introduced to Committee members.

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

The Chief Elected Official Board approved new members and reappointments to the WA Board at its meeting on June 26. The current terms of the Board Chair and Vice Chair ended June 30, 2025, new Board members were appointed and several reappointed. New members are Dr. Tamara Daniel, Butler Community College, Marilou Mewborn, Ascension Via Christi, Jill Keuhny, KanOkla, Dr. Michelle Schoon, Cowley College, Justin Rochelle, Plumbers & Pipefitters and Chip Schellhorn, CMJ Manufacturing. Members departing the board are Dr. Rachel Bates, Rod Blackburn, John Clark, Kevin Hunt, Jeff Longwell, Dr. Jacqueline Vietti and Bruce Witt. Jeff Longwell and Rod Blackburn were acknowledged for their long-time service to the Board and will be recognized at the meeting later this month. Blackburn will be asked to remain on the Executive Committee for another year. As Longwell's term as board Chair has ended Vice Chair Alana McNary is in succession to replace him and Scott Stiles nominated to be the Vice Chair.

Tony Naylor (Kathy Jewett) moved to appoint Alana McNary as Chair of the WA Board, and Scott Stiles as Vice Chair of the WA Board. Motion adopted.

3. 2026 – 2028 Strategic Planning Sessions

The WA Board will be developing a strategic plan for the organization for 2026 through 2028. An outline and session schedule with key topics and possible speakers were reviewed and discussed. Five sessions will be scheduled between August 13th and October 22nd. The first session will address current labor market needs and trends featuring input from employers from key employment sectors. Notes will be taken looking for consistent themes and patterns from discussions and feedback and comments will be solicited. Subsequent sessions will cover workforce development initiatives, economic mobility strategies, and policy-focused discussions with local elected officials in partnership with the Chamber. The final session will consolidate findings and take place during the October 22 full board meeting. Invitations will be sent soon to board members, community partners, elected officials and employers. Committee members were asked to provide suggestions and comments.

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

4. Level Up Kansas Partnership (LUK)

Staff provided an update on the pilot collaboration agreement the WA and LUK. John Rolfe, President of the Wichita Regional Chamber and Kaylie Bergkamp-Lagasse, LevelUp Kansas were present to participate in the discussion. The partnership has been a success with LUK customers that cannot be assisted by the Kansas Promise Scholarship being referred to the WA and assisted with services and programs that can meet their skills training and job opportunity needs. The goal is for the partnership to be expanded to the other local workforce board areas of the state. Denise Houston shared that Level Up has seen significant activity in referrals, with numbers increasing each month, and highlighted several success stories of customers accessing various services and finding employment. The group agreed to



continue moving forward with the pilot project, with plans to provide more detailed information to Level Up about customer engagement and outcomes. The partnership provides a "no wrong door" approach to helping adults access education and employment resources. In addition to referrals to the WA, Bergkamp-Lagasse reported that LUK navigators have had 453 community and technical college direct handoffs since December and 19 adult education referrals since January and also work to refer customers to other organizations that can assist them with barriers to training and employment.

Report was received and filed.

5. 2025 Community Impact Projects

Amanda Duncan shared updates on several grants and programs.

- Youth Employment Project (YEP) - Camp HYPE's career sessions are being held this summer and have been well-attended. A technology camp is being held this week followed by public safety, financial services, trade skills, Textron and McConnell camps.
- Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) - The WA has received \$500,000 from the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) to help veterans who are homeless or those at risk of homelessness find meaningful employment. Implementation plans are being made and it is hoped services can begin soon. The grant documents have not yet been released; staff are hopeful implementation can begin in late summer or early fall. This grant funding was not included in the recently approved WA budget for Program Year 2025.
- EPA Brownfields Grant – Staff are waiting final directions from US DOL for this two-year, \$500,000 grant to provide training for environmental cleanup occupations that was awarded last November. A work plan has been submitted to the DOGE review board of the new federal administration.
- One Workforce Grant – This grant will end in January 2026 and staff continue to utilize the education and training funds to assist customers connect to better employment opportunities. Among other training, it is funding an accelerated six-week aviation mechanic certification for military veterans. Staff are seeking long-term funding to continue the program when the grant ends.
- Home Base Wichita - Staff are working with the Chamber's Military Affairs committee to leverage HBW services and activities into the work of that group. State funding to continue and expand the program may be possible. There is data to show a return on investment in such programs as the individuals that remain in the area generate tax revenue and create economic impact. Staff hope to present some strategies and recommendations for sustainability by the end of the year.
- Community Talent Talks - The purpose of these events is to improve the communication between local employers and the WA and community partners on employment and skills training priorities. Events were held in Cowley and Sumner and another event is being planned for Butler County. The events have had strong attendance and positive outcomes, including follow-up meetings and increased stakeholder engagement.
- Kauffman Returning Citizen Consortium (RCC) Planning Grant - The WA is 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 plan is to improve support for justice-involved individuals, focusing on pre-release preparation and employment readiness. efforts to connect employers with incarcerated individuals to improve employment opportunities post-release, and address gaps and barriers to providing such support. If the plan is accepted, funds would be provided for implementation.

Report was received and filed.



6. Consent Agenda

Approval of meeting minutes for June 11, 2025, Program Year 2024 budget update, operations & one-stop operator report, on-the-job training contracts for Airxcel and Design One, communications, corrections/fair chance and registered apprenticeship reports were presented to the Committee for review and/or approval.

Lindsay McWilliams reported that American Indian Council will pause operations and furlough staff on July 18 and Job Corp operations are scheduled to pause on September 30. Workforce 101 sessions are being held to educate community partners on WA services. Traffic to the center was light at the beginning of the year but has increased and staff are monitoring.

In the Corrections/Fair Chance report, Duncan highlighted the achievement of a 100% employment rate for clients for the last quarter,

Committee members were reminded to share WA social media content on their personal accounts to increase visibility.

Tony Naylor (Cheryl Childers) moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion adopted.

7. Announcements

- The 13th annual Workforce Alliance Jobs FORE Youth Golf Tournament presented by Gilley's is scheduled for September 25th at Hidden Lakes Golf Course. Funds raised from the tournament help support the WA Youth Employment Project (YEP). Committee members were asked to spread the word as more sponsors and teams are needed.
- Wagner-Peyser programs are undergoing a USDOL comment period.
- There are ongoing federal policy and job training issues and concerns. Staff will continue messaging Congressional delegation about the impacts and outcomes of workforce programs.
- The Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP) was paused and then temporarily restarted. Next year's federal budget proposal does not fund the program and other funding may need to be secured to continue the providing services.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM.

Attendees:

LWDB Executive Committee Members

Cheryl Childers
Michele Gifford via Zoom
Kathy Jewett
Jeff Longwell
Alana McNary, Chair
Tony Naylor

Staff/Guests

Marcy Aycock
Amanda Duncan
Denise Houston
Keith Lawing
Shirley Lindhorst
Mary Mann Via Zoom
Chad Pettera
Kaylie Bergkamp-Lagasse, LevelUp Kansas
Dr. Tamara Daniel, Butler Community College
Erica Ramos, Kansas Dept. of Commerce
John Rolfe, Wichita Chamber of Commerce
Lindsay McWilliams, One-Stop Operator, Goodwill