



**Workforce Alliance  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

August 14, 2024 – 11:30 AM

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Workforce Alliance (WA) Executive Committee met on August 14, 2024 virtually via Zoom. Chair Jeff Longwell welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order.

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

The Program Operation and Performance (POP) and Executive committees reviewed reports and data for this item at their meetings on May 2, 2024 and June 12, 2024 respectively; no action was taken. There was a concern that increasing the wage to the MIT Living Wage would be too large of an increase and affect the number of people that would be eligible to receive training funds. Staff did some research on the impact of a 3.5% increase, the Consumer Price Index increase between March 2023 and March 2024 and provided that information via email on July 11<sup>th</sup> that included a recommendation to raise the current self-sufficient wage from \$15.60 an hour by 3.5%, or 55 cents per hour, to \$16.15 per hour or \$33,592.00 per year and asked for review and comment prior to the July 24<sup>th</sup> board meeting. This increase would have a limited impact on Demand Occupations and On-the-Job Training and Incumbent Worker wage requirements. Staff can still approve exceptions if certain criteria are met. This item was on the agenda for approval at the July 24<sup>th</sup> board meeting; a quorum was not present and the members present approved a recommendation for approval at a future meeting.

*Tony Naylor (Rod Blackburn) moved to approve the 3.5% wage increase bringing the self-sufficient wage to \$16.15/hour or \$33,592.00/year. Motion adopted.*

**3. Workforce Alliance Project Updates**

Keith Lawing provided updates on several projects that address strategic initiatives:

- The WA received a one year no cost extension for the \$9.9 million One Workforce grant. Approximately \$3 million dollars remains and will be carried over into next year. The grant provides training funds to individuals interested in employment and credentials in specific sectors and outcomes have been very good. Staff and the grant leadership advisory group are developing a sustainability plan to provide this training assistance once the grant ends.
- The WA is pursuing some grant opportunities -
  - The \$500,000 EPA Brownfields grant would provide job training funds for employment opportunities for work related to building site cleanup and environmental remediation. Entry level jobs with good wages, and could be a great employment strategy for justice involved population.
  - A Veteran's Administration grant would provide funds to help support the work of the WA's Home Base Wichita program. Matching funds are a requirement of the grant and staff are working with the county to secure assistance.
- Staff are working to restructure the WA's partnership with Cowley College to improve outcomes. Elected officials and employers in the region have been contacted to be more engaged in a collaborative strategy.
- A Talent Talk event was held on July 25<sup>th</sup> in Butler County in partnership with Butler Community College to engage more employers and develop career pathways in key industries and a focused employment strategy.



- The WA co-sponsored a recent ICT Child Care Summit with Child Start. The summit addressed child care issues that affect labor force participation. Lawing was part of a delegation that recently visited Oklahoma City to see what the state is doing successfully in this area in regard to child care needs.
- The Chamber's DC Fly-In to Washington DC begins on September 8th. Vice Chair Alana McNary will be attending. The fly-in provides an opportunity to connect with the Kansas congressional delegation and discuss the impact of federal employment and skills training policies in South Central Kansas.
- Keith Lawing attended a visit by the new CEO of Boeing hosted by Senator Moran on August 12<sup>th</sup> at NCAT. The more Boeing learns about what community partners are doing around advancing aviation and career pathways the better relationship there will be when the sale of Spirit to Boeing is complete.
- Stacia Kaylor, K-12 coordinator at Textron Aviation replacing Phet Namphengsone as a member of the WA's Youth Employment Committee.
- The Youth Employment Project (YEP) activities over the summer went very well. A YEP planning session is planned for September to discuss activities for 2025. Community partners will be invited. The focus of the session will be on ways to increase the number of work experience opportunities for young people.
- The Leverage Funds Strategy Task Force update, which included a discussion around board member engagement, that was scheduled for the July 24<sup>th</sup> board meeting was postponed due to a lack of quorum and will be added to the agenda for the October board meeting.
- An Open House is tentatively scheduled for October 29th to celebrate the Wichita Workforce Center's 10th anniversary at its current location and to introduce Goodwill as the new One-Stop Operator.
- The annual Workforce Innovation Conference is scheduled for October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Salina. The WA will pay event registration and hotel for board members to attend.  
*Report was received and filed.*

#### 4. Consent Agenda

Approval of meeting minutes from June 12, 2024, A-133 audit firm procurement with Wipfli, youth program contract amendment for Allied Health, additions to the Eligible Training Provider List for Butler Community College and Allied Health and on-the-job Training (OJT) contracts for TEC Systems Group and USIC, LLC. were presented to the Committee for review and approval. Most of these items were presented to the Board for approval at their meeting on July 24, 2024. Lacking a quorum, the members that were present voted to recommend approval of the items to the Board at the next meeting. As the Executive Committee is empowered to act on behalf of the full board, members were asked to take action on these items. These items will be added to the agenda for adoption by the full board at their meeting on October 24, 2024.

*Tony Naylor (Michele Gifford) moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion adopted.*

#### 5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 AM.

#### Attendees:

##### LWDB Executive Committee Members

Rod Blackburn  
Michele Gifford  
Pat Jonas  
Jeff Longwell

##### Staff/Guests

Marcy Aycock  
Amanda Duncan  
Denise Houston  
Keith Lawing



Alana McNary  
Tony Naylor

Shirley Lindhorst  
Mary Mann  
Chad Pettera  
Janet Sutton  
Amy Williams, former Executive Committee  
Member