



**Workforce Alliance (WA) Youth Employment Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2025 – 11:30 AM**

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Workforce Alliance Youth Employment Committee assembled via ZOOM. Chair Rod Blackburn called the meeting to order and self-introductions were given. New committee members Lori Leutner, Associate Dean for Online High School and Community Learning, replacing Aletra Chaney-Profit with Butler Community College and Brittnei Mayagoitia, Workforce Development Manager replacing Allan Thomas with Ascension Via Christi were introduced as new committee members.

2. Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program and Work-Based Learning

KC Schumacher provided an update on the WIOA youth program. The primary goal of the program for the upcoming months is to launch targeted community outreach efforts to high schools, beginning with the Apply Kansas event in September. Staff successfully onboarded five new work experience sites: The Urban League, Prost Restaurant, Cintas, LegacyWorks/Coffeeworks and another Goodwill Retail Store. These new sites will ensure participants continue to have access to meaningful and varied on-the-job experiences. An update on the program's impact was reported with 454 services to 96 participants in program year 2024, including 28 in occupational skills training, 48 receiving supportive services, and 71 in work experience opportunities. There have been increases in guidance and counseling activity and a slight increase in adult mentoring and alternative secondary school services.

Denise Houston presented an update on WIOA Youth performance for Program Year 2024; the program year officially ended on June 30, 2025 and the official end to the reporting period occurs in mid-September as additional, data is still being collected and entered. All goals are being met or exceeded for employment and measurable skills gain; however, the sanction level for median earnings and credential attainment is not being met. For credential attainment, staff are reviewing and ensuring that all data has been entered correctly and this may improve the results for this measure. Median earnings are not expected to improve. For this year, U.S. DOL significantly increased the goal for this measure and it is very difficult to obtain given the participant population, for which staff and the State did express concern. Performance metrics show challenges with median earnings (\$4,500 target).

Keith Lawing provided an update on current work-based learning (WBL) data across the State. While the federally funded WIOA Youth is limited to serving out-of-school youth, WBL is state funded and provides the ability for staff to work with students in schools. Totals for each local area for the program year were presented and the data includes schools served, businesses participating, school districts and schools served as well as internships provided, work experiences and referrals to the WIOA Youth program, highlighting their presence in 28 school districts and 138 schools with 106 businesses participating. The WBL program refers participants to the WIOA Youth Program when appropriate. Staff are seeing a varied level of interest in the types of careers students are interested in outside of the four main sectors workforce development programs are more focused on. The State is continuing to fund WBL activities.

Reports were received and filed.

3. 2024 Youth Employment Project (YEP) Planning

Amanda Duncan reviewed current numbers for YEP; additional data is still being collected and entered. Final YEP numbers and finalizing plans for next year including goals and key dates will be discussed at the Committee's next meeting in October. The report includes new measures for Internships Paid and Unpaid and Businesses Providing Internships. YEP program numbers are slightly down in total students served over last year but up in workshop participants and badges earned. Event



numbers and employer numbers were down from last year due to the cancellation of one of the largest events due to weather; however, job fair attendance increased. Chelsea Daniel reported on Camp HYPE, which ran 11 camps over the summer which was an increase over last year. An average of 15-16 students attended each camp, with healthcare being the highest attended. Two success stories from Camp HYPE were shared including positive feedback from a student and a parent about the program's impact on career awareness and personal development. Staff will be reaching out to Helping Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE) partners at the City of Wichita and Greater Wichita YMCA to collect final numbers from Job Prep and Way to Work programs respectively to include in reporting. Stacia Kaylor reported on Textron's high school internship program. They had about 160 interns this summer and hired many of them directly, doubling their numbers from last year. Lawing emphasized the importance of employer engagement for providing internships, noting that companies of all sizes can participate, and staff plan to continue to work with city partners to expand these opportunities.

Report was received and filed.

4. **Regional Youth Job Fair**

Laura Barker, USD 259, announced that the region-wide job fair discussed at the last meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2026 at Century II. The event will involve employers from various districts and is designed to provide career awareness and exploration for sophomores and job and internship opportunities for seniors. Planning has just begun and there are plans to form subcommittees for operations, logistics, school coordination, employer recruitment, and public relations/marketing to begin organizing the event. By having one large fair, employers can narrow down the number of hiring events they must attend each year. WA Youth program staff will be involved in the planning and the event will provide an opportunity to promote youth programs, activities and opportunities at the WA and other organizations. A Save the Date will go out soon and some promotional materials will be created and shared to market the event.

Report was received and filed.

5. **Consent Agenda**

Approval of the minutes from the April 15, 2025 meeting and Program Year 2025 Youth Program budget update were presented to the Committee for review and/or approval. It was noted that the date of the minutes on the agenda to be approved was incorrect and should read April 15, 2025 and not October 21, 2025; the correct minutes were included in the meeting packet.

Alana McNary (Cody Griffin) moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion was adopted.

6. **Partner Updates**

- The WA and the Wichita Children's Home (WCH) have met to discuss a partnership to provide foster care youth with opportunities. Debbie Kennedy, WCH discussed her vision for hiring a workforce coach at the Children's Home to help foster youth and trafficking survivors achieve economic empowerment. Many of these young people do not know how to access available resources, including state-funded college tuition for those who were in foster care at age 16. Outcomes are poor for foster care youth and WA staff will work with WCH on the possible development of such a program to help foster care youth access educational resources and career opportunities.
- Cody Griffin, WSU Tech, discussed their expansion of career and technical education programs in Crawford County, adding construction, heavy equipment operator, HVAC, masonry, aerospace, welding, and auto classes.

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.



Attendees:

LWDB Youth Employment Committee Members

Laura Barker, Wichita Public Schools
Rod Blackburn, Partners in Education, Chair
Jakobe Davidson, Spirit AeroSystems
Cody Griffin, WSU Tech
Stacia Kaylor, Textron Aviation
Lori Leutner, Butler Community College
Debbie Kennedy, Wichita Children's Home
Brittini Mayagoitia, Ascension Via Christi
Alana McNary, Professional Engineering
Consultants

Staff/Guests

Stephanie Anderson
Chelsea Daniel
Amanda Duncan
Denise Houston
Keith Lawing
Shirley Lindhorst
KC Schumacher
Emily Rugg, Textron Aviation