



Workforce Alliance Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2026 – 11:30 AM

The Workforce Alliance (WA) Executive Committee met at the Wichita Workforce Center, 2021 N. Amidon and virtually via Zoom on August 12, 2026. Board Chair Alana McNary welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order.

1. Multi-Agency Work Group to Improve Access to Skills Training

An update was provided on the WA Board request for the creation of multi-agency work group to develop recommendations for improving coordination among workforce, education, and financial aid programs and increasing access to skills training opportunities across Kansas.

- Feedback from Commerce leadership suggest the issue may be more appropriately addressed at the local level rather than through state involvement.
- Concern was expressed that limiting conversations to individual local areas would create duplication for state agencies and reduce statewide coordination.
- A recommendation was presented to move forward with the original vision by:
 - Inviting the other two Kansas workforce boards to participate as equal partners.
 - Creating a collaborative planning process among all three workforce boards.
 - Including state agencies, education providers, workforce system partners, and State Workforce Board members who wish to participate.
- The ultimate goal is to improve access to skills training programs and workforce development opportunities beyond traditional funding streams.
 - A report or blueprint could be developed by late fall that would define effective workforce system practices, identify opportunities for improvement and serve as a resource for incoming state leadership and legislators.

Discussion:

- Concerns were raised about potential future state workforce restructuring, including the possibility of moving to a single statewide workforce delivery model.
- Need to proactively shape the future workforce system rather than react to future policy changes.
- Several partners and stakeholders have already expressed interest in participating, including representatives from DCF, adult education, and other workforce-related organizations.
- Staff to contact the other two Kansas workforce boards and invite them to participate in the collaborative planning process.
- WA staff to extend invitations to State Workforce Board members, DCF representatives, KBOR representatives, adult education providers and additional workforce partners interested in participating.
- Planning group to work toward producing a workforce system report/blueprint by October-December.
- Members agreed the potential benefits outweigh the concerns, particularly if more individuals can access training and employment opportunities.
- Workforce needs in healthcare, manufacturing, and other high-demand sectors were highlighted as drivers for the initiative.
- The Committee discussed strategies to interact and increase awareness with local, state and federal policy makers on employment and skills education programming and WA outcomes and community impact. Strategies will continue to be researched and discussed.

2. **Workforce Alliance Committee Assignments / Revenue Generation**

- WA Committees and their memberships were reviewed to formalize committee assignments and evaluate areas where additional participation is needed.
 - Executive Committee membership size and representation.
 - Program Operations & Performance (POP) Committee needs additional members to serve; some candidates need to be identified.
- Chair Alana McNary appointed Toni Porter, Jobs for America's Graduates - Kansas (JAG-K), to the WA Youth Employment Committee.
- Future Fundraising and Revenue Generation Strategies Discussion
 - A potential partnership with Gilley's was discussed at the last Revenue Generation Task Force Committee meeting as an opportunity for future fundraising events and community engagement. Gilley's had previously supported workforce efforts, including serving as a title sponsor for last year's golf tournament.
 - Committee members generally supported exploring the opportunity further.
 - Gilley's leadership will be contacted to discuss possible fundraising and partnership opportunities.
 - Revenue Generation Task Force to evaluate event-based fundraising concepts and bring recommendations to a future meeting. The next Revenue Generation Task Force meeting will be scheduled soon.

3. **Community Impact Project Updates**

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

- Camp HYPE (Helping Youth Prepare for Employment)
 - Students participated in workplace tours and career exploration experiences.
 - Additional camps scheduled this summer included 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.
- Jobs FORE Youth Golf Tournament, September 14th at Willowbend – Event funds support YEP.
 - Sponsorship progress includes Meritrust Credit Union the Presenting Sponsor and Envision the 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.
- Kaufmann Returning Citizen Consortium (RCC) Planning Grant - The coalition received a capacity-building award to support continued development and implementation strategies. Coalition partners will pursue multiple funding opportunities to advance project goals.
- Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP)
 - 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.
- Child Care Employer Convening
 - The WA has been working with Child Start on a series of convenings focused on 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.

Report was received and filed.

4. **Consent Agenda**

Approval of meeting minutes for July 8, 2026, Workforce Center operations / one-stop operator update for June and WA program reports for Fair Chance, Registered Apprenticeship and Communications were presented to the Committee for review and/or approval.

Kathy Jewett (Tony Naylor) moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion adopted.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 PM.

Attendees:

LWDB Executive Committee Members

Cheryl Childers via Zoom
Michele Gifford via Zoom
Kathy Jewett
Pat Jonas
Alana McNary, Chair
Alex Munoz via Zoom
Tony Naylor
Luis Rodriguez via Zoom
Chip Schellhorn via Zoom

Staff/Guests

Marcy Aycock
Amanda Duncan
Denise Houston
Keith Lawing
Shirley Lindhorst
Chad Pettera
Erica Ramos. Kansas Dept. of Commerce