

# WORKFORCE CENTERS

of South Central Kansas

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### Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) Meeting Minutes January 23, 2019

#### 1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Gabe Schlickau welcomed Board members, asked for self-introductions and the meeting was called to order. A quorum was not present at this meeting. All actions approved at this meeting were approved by the LWDB Executive Committee at its meeting on February 13.

#### 2. **Public Comment**

No new public comment requests were received.

#### 3. **Technology Employer Panel**

Dave Cunningham, Flint Hills Group; Luis Rodriguez, keycentrix and Amanda Duncan, Workforce Alliance (WA) participated on a panel to discuss the newly formed Technology Council in the region and to discuss current employment needs in the tech industry. There are over 100 technology companies in the Wichita area and most offer positions that earn high salaries. The WA has worked with 45 tech companies and posted over 180 jobs, which some of those positions not requiring a four year degree. The WA has also been a partner of the Blueprint for Regional Economic Growth (BREG) strategy; one of the industry sectors is Data and Information Technology and a career pathway has been created for this sector. The new Tech Council will be branded as FlagshipKS.Tech, and will be hosting a special briefing that will create awareness about the council and IT industries within the community. The goal is to cultivate and retain talent as well as to recruit talent from outside the region as well as to determine what skills are required by companies and then create and provide the education to achieve those skills. Membership will be open to companies that rely on technology and are seeking skilled workers. The Tech Council wants to partner with companies in the region to create an ecosystem that can grow business and develop tech talent.

#### 4. **Registered Apprenticeship Policy**

Staff is requesting a policy modification concerning Registered Apprenticeship (RA) that was previously embedded in the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Training Policy. Currently, there is an increased strategic focus on RA and with additional funding streams outside of WIOA specifically for RA available staff feels that it should have specific policy language. These changes will assist in expanding RA opportunities by providing for incentives and program flexibility to apprenticeship sponsors (employers). The policy was presented to and approved by the Program Operations and Performance (POP) Committee.

*Kathy Jewett (Robyn Heinz) moved to approve the Registered Apprenticeship policy modification as presented. Tony Naylor, Wichita Electrical Training Center abstained from the vote. Motion adopted.*

#### 5. **Mock Interview and Resume Review Proposal (Practice Makes Progress Project)**

The job seeker traffic at the Wichita Workforce Center has been steady the past few months, despite the low unemployment rate as many already employed job seekers are seeking better opportunities. Services that have been in greater demand are resume reviews and mock interviews. However, due to staffing levels and the multiple projects being operated from the Workforce Centers, job seekers can experience significant wait times to receive these services. Staff are proposing a pilot project to bring in volunteer subject matter experts on a pre-scheduled basis to assist customers with resume reviews and conduct mock interviews. This would entail having 8-12 volunteers a month at the Workforce Center assisting with resume review (one on one assistance), resume review workshop, mock interview session and workshop assistant. Staff will coordinate the signing up of volunteers, schedule workshops or appointments, provide orientations of the Center and overviews of materials and processes for the volunteers. The goals of the program are to enhance customer service, decrease wait

times, utilize the talents of Board members/community partners/employers, engage Board members, provide employers with a better understanding of job seeker needs and labor market status, allow for Workforce Center staff to directly engage with community human resource experts and raise awareness among employers and area businesses about Workforce Center services. Board members are encouraged to provide feedback and suggestions in order to assist in the design and implementation of this project. Detailed information will be emailed to all Board members explaining the program and providing details regarding how to participate.

*Jennifer Hughes (Robyn Heinz) moved to approve the mock interview and resume review volunteer program proposal as presented. Motion Adopted.*

**6. Youth Employment Project (YEP) Update**

There are a number of enhancements to be rolled out in 2019 to expand the impact of YEP including a new “brand” name (Help Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE)) and logo, formal establishment of a “Youth Employment Network”, creation of youth ambassador positions to assist with outreach and awareness to young adults, and a pilot project for 14-15 year olds who are typically unable to obtain employment due to child labor laws. Each of the core partners, WA, City of Wichita and the YMCA will maintain the identity of their current programs (Youth Employment Project, Way to Work and Job Prep) but will be part of a coordinated network of youth employment programs under HYPE. Mayor Jeff Longwell will present these enhancements at the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce Chairman’s lunch on February 20. The Workforce Alliance Jobs FORE Youth golf tournament presented by Meritrust Credit Union is scheduled for April 25th at Hidden Lakes Golf Course. Proceeds will be used to support YEP/HYPE. Board members will continue to receive updated data on YEP and are encouraged to participate through sponsorships and/or registering a team.

**7. Governor’s Education Council Report**

The annual report of former Governor Jeff Colyer’s Education Council was distributed for review. New Governor Laura Kelly has will have an Education Council. Keith Lawing served on Governor Colyer’s council and will serve on Governor Kelly’s.

**8. Project Wichita Update**

Evan Rosell with the Greater Wichita Partnership provided an update on Project Wichita, a community engagement process to identify what the regional community wants for the future and the steps necessary to achieve those goals by producing a ten year action plan. Through 14,000 survey respondents and 249 focus groups an action plan was developed that focuses on five areas: Talent, Lifelong Learning, Strong Communities, Economic Prosperity and Quality of Place. The final report can viewed online at <https://www.projectwichita.org/share>. It was noted that workforce development is very much related to all aspects of the plan. The WA will be asked to accept a key role in accomplishing the goals of the project.

**9. Consent Agenda and Committee Reports**

October 17, 2018 meeting minutes, budget report, Request for Proposals (RFPs) update, Workforce Alliance cafeteria plan document update, LWDB committee reports, Workforce Center operations report and Performance Reports were distributed to the Committee for review. It was noted that that the LWDB Program Operations and Performance (POP) Committee review the monthly performance reports throughout the year.

*Jennifer Hughes (Dr. Sherry Utash) moved to approve the recommendations as presented in the consent agenda. Motion Adopted.*

**10. Additional Topics/Community Updates**

- A. The National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) has selected Wichita as the site of their July board meeting. More information will be shared as it becomes available.
- B. The annual Statewide Job Fair will be held on Thursday, March 7th from 2:00 to 6:00 PM at the Wichita Workforce Center (25 employers) and the El Dorado Train Depot (15 employers).
- C. The annual Construction Careers Job Fair is scheduled for February 23rd at the Wichita Workforce Center, 2021 N. Amidon, Suite 1100 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM.

**11. Adjourn (11:30)**

*Present LWDB Members*

Jennifer Anderson  
Ebony Clemons-Ajibolade  
Todd Conklin  
Robyn Heinz  
Jennifer Hughes  
Kathy Jewett  
Dr. Kimberly Krull  
Tony Naylor  
Gary Plummer  
Erica Ramos  
Gabe Schlickau  
Suzanne Scott  
Dr. Sherry Utash  
Amy Williams, LWDB Community Impact Committee  
John Weber

*Guests & Staff*

Marla Canfield  
Tisha Cannizzo  
Dave Cunningham  
Sarah DeLuna  
Amanda Duncan  
Wendy Inzunza  
Keith Lawing  
Shirley Lindhorst  
George Marko  
Chad Pettera  
Georgia Redd  
Jamey Regier  
Luis Rodriguez  
Evan Rosell