

Disability Services Committee

Southeast Arkansas Workforce Development Board  
Disabilities Committee  
April 20, 2016

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
  
- II. Roll Call
  
- III. Approval of Agenda
  
- IV. Approval of Minutes  
    Disability Committee Meeting January 20, 2016
  
- V. Other Business  
    Discussion of Local Plan Instructions
  
- VI. Adjournment

Southeast Arkansas Workforce Development Board  
Services to Persons with Disabilities Committee Minutes  
January 20, 2016

Disabilities Committee Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Sterling Hughes called the meeting to order. Ms. Angela Thayer, SEAWDB Staff, conducted a roll call of the members present, a quorum was present. Those in attendance are on the attached sheet.

Ms. Sharon Morgan made a motion to approve the January 20, 2016 agenda. Ms. Audrey Veasey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mayor Vernon Dollar made a motion to approve the November 18, 2016 Disabilities Committee minutes. Ms. Morgan seconded the motion. Motion passed. Mr. Hughes and Ms. Morgan both mentioned that in the November 18<sup>th</sup> minutes there were a few corrections that needed to be made. Where the minutes stated “Arkansas Certified Training Institute” they should have read “Arkansas Career Training Institute”, and “Employment Training Provider” should be changed to “Employment Training Coordinator”.

Ms. Morgan brought to the attention of the committee that since our last meeting in November, Arkansas, Louisiana & Mississippi have been selected to work with the pilot program, “Ticket to Work”. They are in the progress of training and the program will work with the disabled. This program enables clients to work and not lose their disability social security. The program is not mandatory and will allow Experience Works to work with the clients a lot longer than usual, as the program progresses it will go nation-wide.

Mayor Dollar was asked questions concerning the VWAP (Veterans Worldwide Assistance) Program, Inc., a program which he is trying to further establish. He stated that Vets with PTSD need guidance to find other programs to assist them. VWAP has a place established in Rison where Veterans can come to relax, sleep, eat, and talk. It is a place that is conducive to their comfort and where they can share their problems. VWAP’s physical address is, 1300 Mt. Elba East, and their mailing address is P.O. Box 153, Rison, AR. The organization is a 501(C) 3 charity, and a middle man that takes vets and helps them find agencies to assist them. VWAP encourages patience and is in need of funding. Their website is VWAPinc.com. Their sister organization in England is called Forward Assist. There are two Generals involved in the program; one of them is General McClellan. Mr. Hughes explained that his agency has issues where people feel that agencies are closing the doors on them and they become angry. The agency is trying to help, but the client won’t let them. There are things that need to be done and the agency can only do so much. Ms. Morgan stated that they can guide them in the direction they need to go but they have to help themselves, there is only so much we, as an agency, can do. Mr. Hughes stated that they should not be considered the primary financial source, that rehab was the last source for financial assistance. The clients need to get more involved and show an interest. The agencies help the best they can but there are perimeters that have to be followed. Mayor Dollar explained that for the Veterans to take part in their program, they have to work. He stated that at some point the Veterans will also come and complain that they haven’t been treated right. He stated that he explains that the Veteran has the problem, and that they can’t help them solve their problems unless they are willing to help themselves. A lot of times they just need someone to listen; this can go for anyone including those with a disability.

Ms. Veasey questioned where they could find jobs available in our area. Mr. Hughes suggested Wanda Thomas with the Chamber of Commerce at 534-2404.

Ms. Veasey made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Hughes adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Southeast Arkansas Workforce Development Board  
 Disability Services  
 January 20, 2016

Name	Agency	E-Mail Address
Sharon Morgan	Experiences Works	Sharon_Morgan@experiencesworks.org
Stacie Midwell	Midgreens	Staciemidwell@yahoo.com
Vernon Dyer	VedAP, Inc	judgyer12003@yahoo.com
Audrey Vasey	DSB	audrey.vasey@DHS.ArkanSassg
Sterling Hughes	ARS	Sterling.Hughes@arkansas.gov

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## Focus on Disability Employment

About 350 employers, service providers, people with disabilities and family members gathered near Boston on Oct. 30 to discuss strategies for increasing the employment of Massachusetts residents with disabilities. The event, held to mark National Disability Employment Awareness Month, was organized by Work Without Limits, a network of employers and others committed to positioning Massachusetts as the first state where the employment rate of people with disabilities equals that of the general population. "Like you, we believe the road to change is to focus on the positive, to emphasize what all people — including people with disabilities — can do," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy Kathy Martinez. The event also marked the end of NDEAM, which is observed every October. "Although NDEAM is technically over, I encourage employers and employees across the country to continue to work towards more inclusive workplaces every month, and every day of the year," said Martinez.



## FEATURED RESOURCES

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ODEP manages a number of efforts designed to advance disability employment. These include the award winning Campaign for Disability Employment, the one-stop resource portal Disability.gov, and the Workforce Recruitment Program, which connects employers with highly motivated college students and recent graduates with disabilities.



Disability★gov



## TRENDING TOPICS

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- Employment First
- Advisory Committee on Increasing Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities
- Federal Contractor Requirements
- Employers
- Federal Employment
- Accessible Technology
- Accommodations
- Youth in Transition
- Publications for Order

# United States Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy

## Disability Employment Policy Resources by Topic

Choose Topic

Select

## Campaign for Disability Employment (CDE)

**At work, it's what people CAN do that matters.** That's the simple message behind the Campaign for Disability Employment (CDE), an ODEP-funded outreach effort to promote the hiring, retention and advancement of people with disabilities.

The CDE is a collaborative of several leading disability and business organizations convened by ODEP to work together to address disability employment. The outcome of this collaboration is a national outreach initiative titled "[What can YOU do?](#)" Framed around messages

developed collectively by the CDE's [founding members](#), this initiative challenges common misconceptions about disability employment and encourages employers and others to recognize the value and talent that people with disabilities add to America's workplaces and economy.

Key parts of the [What can YOU do?](#) initiative are the recently released "Who I Am" and the award-winning "Because" and "I Can" public service announcements (PSAs). Each highlights what people with disabilities CAN do when given the opportunity. Featuring real people with disabilities, the PSAs seek to change myths and misperceptions about career prospects for people with disabilities. The CDE has developed outreach materials to complement the PSAs, including posters, and discussion guides created for workplace, youth, and other audiences. Spanish-language versions of selected materials are also available.

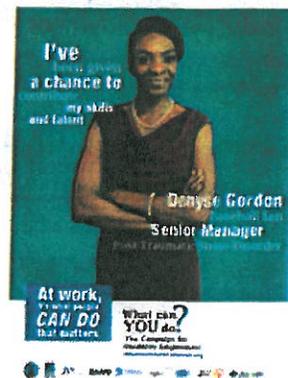


## "Who I Am" — Now airing on more than 460 TV stations and cable outlets nationwide

The "Who I Am" PSA debuted at the White House in October 2014 and is now airing on television stations and cable outlets nationwide and has already been aired more than 46,000 times. It is available to the public on an accessible DVD that features a "talking menu" and in multiple formats on the web.

"Who I Am" features nine real people with disabilities. Rather than be defined by disability, these individuals are the sum of their many life roles — which includes working in jobs they love. The message of "Who I Am" is to remind us to see one another for who we are and what we can contribute.

- [View the "Who I Am" PSA](#)
- [Visit the "Who I Am" Toolkit page to meet the cast and for information on how to order posters and a DVD containing accessible versions of the PSA along with a discussion guide, available in both English and Spanish](#)



- [Welcome \(/\)](#)
- [About VWAP, Inc. \(/about-vwap-...\)](#)
- [Women Wounded Warriors \(/women-...\)](#)
- [Forward Assist \(/forward-assist.html\)](#)
- [Photos \(/photos.html\)](#)
- [Contact \(/contact.html\)](#)
- [Donate \(/donate.html\)](#)

Welcome to our site! We are constantly adding new pages, photo and information, so drop by daily to catch up on the latest from our three organizations.

Veterans Worldwide Assistance Program, Inc.  
*"backing me is our purpose, meeting that is our goal"*



Non-profit charity corporation to assist Veterans Worldwide!

VWAP, INC.

## VWAP, INC.

Non-profit designed exclusively to help combat veterans.

[Learn More \(/about-vwap-inc.html\)](#)

FORWARD ASSIST  
FORCES VETERAN CITIZEN



## Forward Assist - UK

Non-profit organization in England designed exclusively to help combat veterans. Sister organization to VWAP, INC.

[Learn More \(/about-vwap-inc.html\)](#)



## WWWhe

Organization operates under VWAP, INC. as a non-profit wing designed specifically for the Women Wounded Warriors around the world

[Learn More \(/women-wounded-warriors.html\)](#)

# VETERANS WORLDWIDE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

[More info](#)

[Go back](#)

[donate now](#)

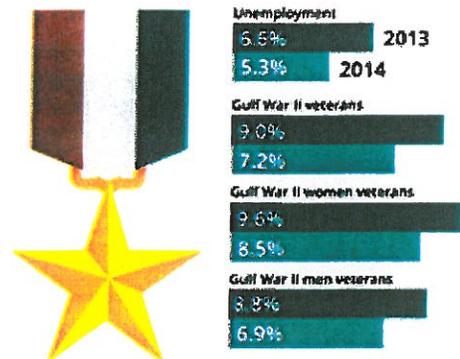
# VETERANS WORLDWIDE

## National News

### Unemployment for Veterans Declines in 2014

The unemployment rate for Gulf War II-era veterans declined 1.2 percentage points to 7.2 percent in 2014, the Bureau of Labor Statistics' annual report on the employment situation for veterans in the United States says. Data collected as part of the monthly Current Population Survey is the source for the 2014 annual averages presented in the release.

Other notable statistics included the unemployment rate for male veterans, which fell to 5.2 percent, as well as the overall unemployment rate for veterans, which dropped from the previous year to 5.3 percent. "Even as we celebrate the good news in this report, we will continue to deploy this system with every ounce of urgency to make sure all veterans have the opportunity to secure a job that helps them support their families," said Secretary Perez.



## It Happened on the Hill

### Working Hard for Those Who Served

Highlighting the department's ongoing efforts to serve the nation's veterans, Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Veterans' Employment and Training Service Terry Gerton testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity on June 2. Gerton told the committee the department provided services to more than 1.1 million veterans at American Job Centers in 2013, and approximately one-quarter of these veterans received intensive assistance to deal with service-connected disabilities and long-term unemployment. She also discussed the performance of the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program. Gerton said the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act would improve veteran employment services. "The department is the federal government's leader on training and employment services," said Gerton. "It has the expertise and a nationwide network to best provide skills, training and employment opportunities for anyone who needs them, including veterans."

# United States Department of Labor

## Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez

### Employment Resources for Veterans with Disabilities: A Recap of the July #VetsJobsChat

On July 10, 2013, acting Labor Secretary Seth Harris and a number of veterans service organizations hosted a Twitter chat on employment services and programs for veterans with disabilities. Here are some highlights:

**U.S. Department of Labor (@USDOL):** Welcome to the #VetsJobsChat with @USDOL @ActingSecHarris and veterans service organizations! Ask questions and follow along using the #VetsJobsChat hashtag.

**Seth D. Harris (@ActingSecHarris):** Thanks for joining @USDOL's #VetsJobsChat & thanks to all our VSO partners and other participants. Remember to use #VetsJobsChat hashtag.

**Seth D. Harris (@ActingSecHarris):** Latest data from June show veterans unemployment rate at 6.3, post-9/11 vets at 7.2. Down from 7.4, 9.5 respectively last year.

**Seth D. Harris (@ActingSecHarris):** All veterans deserve a fair shot at good #MiddleClass #jobs, including veterans with disabilities.

**U.S. Department of Labor (@USDOL):** @Sharp\_Decisions' George Thomas via email: Any initiatives planned 2 introduce service providers & veteran-friendly firms?

**Seth D. Harris (@ActingSecHarris):** George Thomas (emailed his question): This chat is a platform to do that. Share info about your programs using #VetsJobsChat.

**ECH Corp (@ECHCorp):** Looking to hire veterans and SDVs for estimating team in Oklahoma jobs@[echcorp.us.com](http://echcorp.us.com).

**Seth D. Harris (@ActingSecHarris):** @ECHCorp Thanks for participating, John! Oklahoma veterans: ECH Corp is hiring. Contact them directly.

**Jesus A. Arrieta (@Jesus\_A\_Arrieta):** Can veterans service organizations refer a veteran directly to Disabled Veterans Outreach Programs?

**Seth D. Harris (@ActingSecHarris):** @jesus\_arrieta Yes veterans service organizations can direct you to Disabled Veterans Outreach Programs in the American Jobs Centers. Also, our Disabled Veterans Outreach Program locator: <http://dvoplverlocator.nvti.ucdenver.edu/>

**Navy Wounded Warrior Safe Harbor @navysafeharbor:** Navy Wounded Warrior Safe Harbor connects wounded warriors and caregivers to education and career help.  
<http://safeharbor.navylive.dodlive.mil/transition/employment>

**Backpack Prospector (@MinPinBreed):** When does the Labor Department come in with their part of Vocational Retraining Assistance Program? Grad in May and things are completely silent even after emails.

**Seth D. Harris (@ActingSecHarris):** @MinPinBreed Contact the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program in your local American Job Center for Vocational Retraining Assistance Program help.  
<http://www.dvoplverlocator.nvti.ucdenver.edu>

**Backpack Prospector (@MinPinBreed):** Mr. Harris. Thank you for your time and a new lead for me to contact about my VRAP concerns.

**Nicholas Giraldo (@NicholasGiraldo):** @careersultan any good resources for vets wanting to use social media in the job search?

**Seth D. Harris (@ActingSecHarris):** @NicholasGiraldo Check out [facebook.com/socialjobs](https://www.facebook.com/socialjobs). Partners sharing great resources there.

**George Thomas (@SDIGeorge):** @ActingSecHarris the link locates "other veterans' service professionals" only. Where does Veterans Affairs assist with introductions to private sector?

**Seth D. Harris (@ActingSecHarris):** @SDIGeorge Labor Department's Local Veterans Employment Representatives can make the intros you want. Find them at <http://dvoplverlocator.nvti.ucdenver.edu>.

**Veterans Benefits (@VAVetBenefits):** @sdigeorge VA works with private sec employers through our Office of Econ Opportunity. More info here: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/VOW/foremployers.htm>

**U.S. Chamber of Commerce Hiring Our Heroes (@HireOurHeroe):** Employers interested in hiring #vets should check out #HiringOurHeroes Employer Roadmap:  
<https://www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes/employer-roadmap>

**AD Entrepreneur (@ADEntrepreneur1):** @ActingSecHarris Sir, this forum is to discuss Federal employment for vets; however, a government job is not the only answer.

**Seth D. Harris (@ActingSecHarris):** @ADEntrepreneur1 We want all kinds of jobs - private and public sector - for veterans. Questions about all kinds are welcome.

**Easter Seals HQ (@Easter\_Seals):** Are you, or do you know a homeless Veteran who needs a job? We don't give up! Contact @Easter\_Seals.

**Vet Staffing Network (@VSNUSA):** Can veterans get priority service for WIA grants for skills retraining and how can we expedite?

**Seth D. Harris (@ActingSecHarris):** @VSNUSA Yes, veterans receive priority of service in all DOL American Job Center programs. Go to <http://jobcenter.usa.gov>.

**AW Washington (@AWWashington):** @PVA1946 We can help you connect to employers in Washington DC. Call us at 202-466-5627.

**Jesus A. Arrieta (@Jesus\_A\_Arrieta):** Is there an initiative to heavy publicize the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program / Local Veterans Employment Representatives as a means to re-employ disabled veterans?

**Nicholas Giraldo (@NicholasGiraldo):** @MilitaryOfficer do you offer classes/workshops on how to use Linked In or resource guides?

**Military Officers Association of American (@MilitaryOfficer):** @NicholasGiraldo MOAA does not offer classes for using Linked In but can discuss using Linked In. Send e-mail to [msc@moaa.org](mailto:msc@moaa.org).

**Seth D. Harris (@ActingSecHarris):** @Jesus\_A\_Arrieta You're watching a part of our DVOP/LVER publicity efforts right now. Help us spread the word!

**Social Security Administration's Choose Work program (@chooseworkSSA):** Military service members can receive expedited processing of disability claims from @SocialSecurity.

**Veterans Benefits (@VAVetBenefits):** @nicholasgiraldo Yes. It provides counseling, guidance and labor market info. The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program does as well:

<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre>.

**Seth D. Harris (@ActingSecHarris):** Learn how to recruit/hire/retain veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or Traumatic Brain Injuries at [Americas Heroes At Work](#).

**America Works Illinois (@AmericaWorksIL):** We are proud to be the only third-year Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program [grantee] in Chicago renewed by the Labor Department. Call us at 312-726-5627.

**U.S. Army Warrior Transition Command (@armyWTC):** @armyWTC supports wounded, ill or injured Soldiers and Veterans in recovery and transition. Follow us <https://www.facebook.com>.

**Easter Seals HQ (@Easter\_Seals):** Thanks to everyone who joined the #VetsJobsChat ... great discussion! We're always available to answer your questions, so tweet at us anytime.

**Seth D. Harris (@ActingSecHarris):** Thanks to all veterans, service organizations, employers and government agencies who joined the #VetsJobsChat! Share resources. Keep the conversation going!

Youth Services Committee

## AGENDA

Southeast Arkansas Workforce Board

Youth Services Committee

April 20, 2016

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Previous Minutes
4. Youth Services Report
  - A. LaTina Myers
  - B. H. Curtis
5. One Stop Report
  - A. Eddie Thomas
6. Other Business
7. Adjourn

Southeast Arkansas Workforce Board

Youth Services Minutes

January 20, 2016

Youth Services Chairperson, Lillie Edwards, called the meeting to order.

Staff person, Gracie Johnson, called the roll, it was noted that the committee did not have a quorum.

Chairperson, Lillie Edwards, noted that the previous minutes from November 18, 2015, could not be approved at this time.

Ms. Edwards, called on Youth Advocate, La Tina Myers for her report on youth activities. LaTina Myers, stated that, she was working with a total of fifty youth, which includes referrals from the Juvenile Detention center and out of school youth. Ms. Myers, also stated, that she is expecting more referrals from Judge Brown.

The committee moved to the next item on the agenda, which was Youth Advocate, Henryetter Curtis. Ms. Curtis stated, that she has a total of thirty youth at this time, which includes four out of school youth.

Eddie Thomas, Area Director of the local WIOA Program, reported that, there is a total of ninety three youth participants enrolled in the ten county area and that over half of that number are scheduled to graduate in May of this year, and after that, most of participants left will be out of school youth, which is the focus of the program. Mr. Thomas, also reported that the workforce centers has forty one participants in training at this time and about eighty percent of those are expected to complete training and to attain a credential by the end of the program year.

The committee, discussed ideas of getting more out of school youth.

There being no other business, Mary Warfield, made a motion to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Sharon Burns. The meeting was adjourned.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Dare \_\_\_\_\_

Southeast Arkansas Workforce Board

Youth Services Committee

Minutes

November 18, 2015

Youth Council Chairperson, Ms. Lillie Edwards, called the meeting to order.

Gracie Johnson, of SEAEDD staff, called the roll and it was noted that a quorum was present, including a proxy from member Linda Kittler. Those in attendance are on an attached sheet.

Ms. Edwards, asked for a report on youth activities and recruitment. LaTina Myers, the Youth Advocate, reported that she had received twenty one referrals from the Juvenile Court System. Ms. Myers, stated that of those referrals, two had presented all of the required documents and are enrolled, some of the others are still pending. Ms. Myers, also stated that she is to meet with the local juvenile judge on Thursday, November 19, 2015 to report on the progress of the referrals.

Ms. Henryetter Curtis, Youth Advocate, stated that two out – of - school youths in Ashley County had been enrolled at this time. Both Youth Advocates, stated that they have contacts with Adult Education and the local schools to get the names of students that are no longer attending school.

Mr. Jerry Newton, Superintendent of Poyen Schools, voiced concern that he has in school youth that could benefit from the program, but since the requirement for out -of - school youth is so vital, he is concerned that his in- school youth will be lost or not served. Mr. Newton was assured by the Chairperson, Ms. Edwards, that as soon as the numbers for out -of -school youth are improved, that his in school youth will again be served.

Mr. Charlie Clark, ADWS Board Chairman, who attended the meeting as a guest, praised the work that the Youth Services Committee is doing and encouraged the committee to continue to discuss and share ideas on working with youth. Mr. Clark reminded the committee that these are the hard – to –serve group that needs help the most.

There being no further business, Ms. Sharon Burns, made the motion to adjourn, motion was seconded by Ms. Mary Warfield. The meeting was adjourned.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

# Policy Memorandum

To: Local Workforce Center Staff

From: David Dempsey, Deputy Director

Date: April 8, 2016

Subject: **WIOA “Youth Requiring Additional Assistance Barrier” Policy**

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**Purpose:** To establish and notify Local Workforce Development Boards, Workforce Area Administration & staff, and WIOA partners of the local requirements pertaining to the use of the Youth Who Requires Additional Assistance Barrier.

**Background:** Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) law and regulations, local workforce areas are to develop and define a Youth policy for “An Individual who Requires Additional Assistance to Complete an Educational Program or to Secure and Hold Employment.” This policy should be developed at the local level and is required to be included in the local plan. Said policy is also known as the “Sixth Barrier Policy” used to enroll youth who may not have other barriers included in WIOA eligibility. Along with the development of this policy, local areas are required to include acceptable eligibility documentation and criteria to be used by one-stop center staff in determining eligibility for youth clients.

**Policy:** The Workforce Development Board of Southeast Arkansas defines the sixth criterion/barrier of youth eligibility as- “An Individual Who Requires Additional Assistance to Complete an Educational Program or to Secure and Hold Employment.” Eligible youth must meet the following criteria:

1. **Be within the appropriate ages of 14-21 for In School, or 14 - 24 for Out of School, at the time of enrollment**
2. **Be a low-income individual**
3. **Doesn't meet any of the WIOA eligibility criteria for ISY & OSY:**

Deficient in basic literacy skills	School Dropout
Homeless, a runaway or foster child	Pregnant or Parenting
An offender	An Individual with a disability
Fall into OSY school attendance or diploma recipient criteria	

But has one or more of the following characteristics:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Acceptable Documentation</b>
Have no work history or *poor work history <i>(*haven't held a consecutive job for more than a 12 month period)</i>	One-Stop Registration Form
Youth Living in a High Poverty Area	Proof of residence & printout of state TEGl which declares the following counties "high poverty areas in SE AR: Bradley, Chicot, Desha One-Stop Registration Form
Individual in foster care, previously in foster care, or aging out of foster care	Foster Care Documents One-Stop Registration Form
Dependent of a Migrant Farmworker	Letter from employer or state/partner agency verficiaton One-stop Registration
Receives or is eligible to receive Free or Reduced Priced Lunch	Documentation from Local School District
Youth who has low employability and work readiness skills.	Employability & Work Maturity Assessment administered by local one-stop staff. <i>*Low scores will be declared by scores of 69% or lower on any section of the assessment or the overall assessment score.</i>
Has Limited English Proficiency	One-stop Registration
Substance Abuse Problems	Documenation from a treatment facility, school official, court official, social service agency; signed by applicant
Child of Incarcerated parent(s) or legal guardian	Documentation from corrections facility, parole or police office, court system, or inmate database that matches information on birth certificate.

**Actions Required:** Policy distributed to one-stop center staff

**Reference(s):** Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Public Law 113-128

**Signatures:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Southeast Arkansas Workforce Development Board Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Southeast Arkansas Economic Development District, Deputy Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Effective Date/Date Approved by Board:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Issued Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Inquiries:** Please email all questions to [dempsey@cablelynx.com](mailto:dempsey@cablelynx.com).

Planning Committee

**DRAFT**

(Plan as Written using the Original as a Model)

## **I. SUMMARY**

The Southeast Arkansas Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Area Strategic Five-Year Plan for WIOA Title I Activities was developed in the absence of any planning guidance from the Arkansas Workforce Development Board in February, 2015. The local plan has also been designed in the absence of a Strategic Plan from the State of Arkansas.

The Southeast Arkansas Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Area has developed a workforce innovation and opportunity plan for youth and adult activities designed to ensure that a comprehensive array of services and community resources will be made available to all eligible youth and adults. These services will be provided within a planned, statewide workforce innovation and opportunity system and will be designed to lead to academic and employment success.

With the dedication and guidance of the Chief Elected Officials of the Southeast Arkansas Area, this will be an efficient and productive process. The One-Stop System, like under the Workforce Investment Act, continues to be the cornerstone of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. There are two comprehensive One Stop Centers located in Pine Bluff, and Dumas. These offices are co-located with DWS. There are three additional satellite One Stop Centers throughout the district. They are located in Crossett, Lake Village, Monticello, and Stuttgart. The centers in Crossett and Lake Village are located in their own space, but have space available for visiting partner agencies. The center in Monticello is co-located with DWS. Additionally, the Dumas One Stop Center is located in the Dumas Technology and Education Center (DTEC) with DWS and provides clients with access to a wide array of additional services and classes that are offered in the area. The Stuttgart office is located in the Grand Prairie Job Center. Core and Intensive services will be provided by the staff of the One-Stop Operator to ensure consistent and quality delivery of service.

Over the next five years, the State of Arkansas and the local workforce areas working together will develop a system of integrated services, unencumbered by territorial disputes and turf battles. A system that is responsive to the needs of the unemployed and underemployed, as well as meeting the ever changing needs of employers in the communities in which they service, will be established.

The State of Arkansas has established a common intake and tracking system that will continue to be utilized. This system has streamlined services to youth, adults, and dislocated workers alike. This system has ensured coordination among all service providers, has opened the channels of communication between various organizations and entities, and has eliminated the duplication of services.

The vision for Southeast Arkansas is to continue providing a comprehensive year-round system of services to youth by connecting a broad variety of programs to help them achieve academic and employment success. The recent creation of Youth Advocates has been heralded as a best practice for connecting academics and workplace learning through a series of year-round services. Youth Advocates are assigned a geographic area in which they service both in-school and out-of-school youth, which ensures the youth receive the appropriate mix of services based on their need-assessments, interests, and past achievements.

## **II. LOCAL PLAN**

### **Vision and Goals**

The vision of the Southeast Arkansas Workforce Development Board (SEAWDB) is to create a globally recognized workforce in Southeast Arkansas—educated, trained, skilled—with the character and work ethic needed to excel in a rapidly changing economy. The mission of the SEAWDB is to establish a unified, flexible, accountable workforce training system implemented through the collaboration of business, industry, labor, and citizens. This system will continue to be characterized by an accessible and responsive One-Stop System. The system will offer employers a resource for workers in existing and emerging occupations and empower Arkansans in Southeast Arkansas to receive employment service as well as job-specific training.

In an effort to achieve its vision and mission, the SEAWDB must overcome obstacles which could prevent the area from realizing the vision. The challenges that the Southeast Arkansas area continues to face are high illiteracy rates, high welfare dependency rates, high numbers of high school dropouts, above average teen pregnancy rates, a lack of public transportation, and drug usage as a result of ever growing illegal drug traffic. Because Southeast Arkansas is predominantly rural, public transportation is virtually non-existent.

In addition to the general challenges the SEAWDB faces, the One-Stop system faces challenges related to meeting the needs of employers and the job-seeking public. These challenges include efforts to link existing programs and systems, public awareness of the availability of services, enhancement of corrective action of programs which are often seen as less than user-friendly, and the continued growth of the system that will continue to meet the needs and deliver the services required to the area.

With future guidance and direction from the Arkansas Workforce Development Board, and with guidance and direction from the SEAWDB, Arkansas' workforce innovation and opportunity system will help to achieve the goals of the state and local area's education, economic, and welfare delivery systems by coordinating efforts among agencies. This cooperation will continue to ensure that the programs and services offered continue to become more efficient and accessible.