

# AGENDA

**January 19, 2016**

## ARKANSAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD TANF OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

10:00 A.M.

Call to Order.....Thomas Anderson, Committee Chair

Chairman's Comments.....Thomas Anderson, Committee Chair

### **ACTION Item 1**

Minutes of the October 13, 2015 Committee Meeting

TANF Drug Screening Policy

TANF Information for WIOA Combined State Plan

TANF Program and Performance Update

Announcements

Adjournment

### **NEXT MEETING DATES**

<del>March 8, 2016</del>	<del>10:00 a.m.</del>	<del>Committees</del>	<del>Little Rock (Cancelled)</del>
	<del>1:00 p.m.</del>	<del>Full Board Meeting</del>	<del>Little Rock</del>
April 12, 2016	10:00 a.m.	Committees	Little Rock
	1:00 p.m.	Full Board Meeting	Little Rock
July 12, 2016	10:00 a.m.	Committees	Little Rock
	1:00 p.m.	Full Board Meeting	Little Rock
October 11, 2016	10:00 a.m.	Committees	Little Rock
	1:00 p.m.	Full Board Meeting	Little Rock

Crowne Plaza Hotel  
201 S. Shackleford Road  
Little Rock, Arkansas



**For Consideration of the  
Arkansas Workforce Development Board  
TANF Oversight Committee**

**January 19, 2016**

**AGENDA ITEM 1 – ACTION:** Minutes of the October 13, 2015 Committee Meeting

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the TANF Oversight Committee approve the minutes of the October 13, 2015 committee meeting.

**INFORMATION/RATIONALE:** Minutes of the meeting are attached.

UNOFFICIAL

**MINUTES**

**ARKANSAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Oversight Committee  
October 13, 2015**

The Arkansas Workforce Development Board (AWDB) TANF Oversight Committee meeting was held on October 13, 2015, beginning at 10:00 a.m., at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 11301 Financial Centre Parkway, in Little Rock, Arkansas. Chairman Randy Hopper presided with the following members present: Mr. Tom Anderson, Mr. Lindsay Brown, Judge Brandon Ellison, Mr. Johnny Key, Mr. Jerry Riley, and Mr. Robert Thorne. Mr. Daryl Bassett and Ms. Delia Anderson, Director of the Division of County Operations for the Department of Human Services, were unable to attend.

Chairman's Comments: Chair Hopper recognized a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. He welcomed the board members and expressed appreciation for their dedication in their service on the TANF Oversight Committee.

Agenda Item 1 – Minutes of the September 24, 2015, Committee Meeting: Chair Hopper proceeded to Agenda Item 1, asking if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, **a motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Judge Brandon Ellison, seconded by Thomas Anderson, and the motion carried unanimously.**

Four Components of the TANF Program: Next, Chair Hopper asked Mr. Phil Harris, ADWS – Assistant Director for TANF Programs, to provide details concerning the four components of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program. Mr. Harris began by giving a brief overview of the history of the TANF program in Arkansas and provided details concerning the program elements, stating that the core program in TANF is the Transitional Employment Assistance (TEA) Program. Mr. Harris reported that TANF Programs must meet one of four purposes: it must assure children can be cared for in their homes or homes of relatives; it must end dependence of parents on government benefits by promoting work and marriage; it must reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies; or it must encourage the formation of two-parent families.

Mr. Harris provided a handout to the board which detailed the supportive services offered through the TEA program, the participant's eligibility requirements, the work participation activities requirements, and the duration of services. (The TEA brochure is included in the official copy of the board agenda packet). He stated that child care and transportation are the two primary supportive services needed by our participants in Arkansas.

Upon closing a client's TEA case, the applicant may be eligible for Arkansas Work Pays, the second element of the TANF program, which is a post-employment program designed to

provide assistance with job retention, educational expenses, transportation; child care; and the Individual Development Account (IDA) which is a savings program as detailed in the TANF Fact Sheet handout.

Mr. Harris discussed the third element of TANF, the Career Pathways Initiative (CPI), which provides a post-secondary education program for TANF in Arkansas by offering training at all two-year colleges and technical institutions in the state. He stated that Apprenticeship is offered through our partnership with the two-year colleges and through Career Education funded through the TANF block grant. Mr. Harris detailed the eligibility components of CPI and stated that the goal of CPI is to improve career and college readiness, leading to certification or a degree. As of April of 2015, the CPI has had about 30,000 enrollments, awarding over 14,000 employability certificates, 5,000 technical certificates, 6,000 associate degrees, 5,000 certificates of proficiency and 600 GEDs.

The final TANF component, Community Investment Initiative (CII), focuses on community and faith-based organizations that can offer supportive services to parents, children, and youth in their communities as detailed in the TANF Fact Sheet. Due to funding shortages, the CII program has been temporarily suspended.

In conclusion, Mr. Harris provided further elaboration on the Individual Development Assistance (IDA) program, which offers participants a \$3 match from the federal government for every \$1 the client saves toward asset building with a requirement to participate in financial literacy training. Mr. Harris offered to answer any questions the committee may have. The committee discussed and shared questions concerning IDA participation requirements; regions or counties served; performance measures; the success rate of the program; and availability of funding. Mr. Harris further explained that state performance measures are based on the percentage of job placements, employment retention rates, and initial hourly wages of participants. The Department of Workforce Services has the authority, as granted by the Legislature, to adjust program funding based on availability of resources. Mr. Harris stated that all counties in Arkansas are served and our partnership with the Department of Human Services (DHS) is critical, as DHS determines program eligibility and ADWS provides program administration. ADWS is moving toward WIOA common performance measures. Consideration is given toward improving the case management system by engaging and encouraging our clients to see the available opportunities. In response to questions, Mr. Harris indicated that TEA cash assistance is provided for a maximum of 24 months followed by an additional 24 months in the Work Pays program.

Chair Hopper asked for any additional questions or comments. A question concerning client disqualification was deferred for Mr. Taylor's presentation.

Eligibility Requirements for Transitional Employment Assistance (TEA) and Work Pays: Chair Hopper asked Mr. Derwin Taylor, ADWS – TANF Program Operations Manager, to provide information on eligibility requirements for TEA and Work Pays.

Mr. Taylor called attention to the Initial Eligibility handout provided to each committee member and answered that disqualification occurs when a client does not meet the citizenship requirement or when the client is convicted of drug use. Mr. Taylor stated that eligibility is determined by the Department of Human Services and case management by the Department of Workforce Services. He highlighted four components Diversion Assistance; Introduction to the TEA program; Personal Responsibility Agreement (PRA); and PUP-389 Supportive Services overview. Details are outlined in the handout provided to each committee member. Discussions followed and Mr. Taylor provided additional specifics concerning diversion assistance, child support payments, and emergency assistance as noted in the handout.

Chair Hopper then asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Taylor for his presentation.

TANF State Plan Requirements: Chair Hopper asked Mr. Elroy Willoughby, ADWS – TANF Division Chief, to provide information on TANF State Plan Requirements.

Mr. Willoughby stated that the Federal Health and Human Services makes the TANF block grant available to the states with the requirement that they have a TANF State Plan in place. He then called attention to the TANF State Plan Requirements handout provided to each committee member. He reviewed the specific requirements in Section 402 of the Social Security Act as outlined in the handout (included with the official copy of the board agenda packet). Mr. Willoughby also reviewed additional components of the state plan; recent changes requiring state plan revisions; Arkansas Legislative passage of the Act 1205 of 2015 (Drug Screening and Drug Testing Act); and the impact of WIOA on TANF. He reported that TANF is now a mandatory partner, which means that states no longer have the option of including the TANF program service population in the workforce system. Arkansas must determine whether to submit a unified state plan, which includes only the core programs, or submit a combined plan, which includes the TANF program. The combined plan requires reporting to both the Department of Labor and Health and Human Services. Mr. Willoughby also stated that WIOA legislation requires that states meet the needs of special populations, including TANF adults, single parents, pregnant parents, the homeless, and other special populations.

Following questions and discussion concerning Mr. Willoughby's presentation, Chair Hopper expressed appreciation to Mr. Willoughby for providing further clarification.

Announcements: Chair Hopper stated that the next meeting of the full board will be at 1:00 p.m. today. The next meeting of the TANF Oversight Committee will be at 10:00 a.m. on January 12, 2016, in Little Rock at a location to be provided by staff at a future date.

Chair Hopper read the TANF Committee's report to be submitted to the full Arkansas Workforce Development Board (attached to minutes). **A motion to accept the report was made by Mr. Robert Thorne, seconded by Mr. Robert Anderson, and carried unanimously.**

**Adjourn:** Chair Hopper adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m., on a **motion made by Mr. Lindsay Brown, seconded by Mr. Thomas Anderson, and carried unanimously.**

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Randy Hopper, Committee Chair

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Daryl Bassett, Director  
Department of Workforce Services

*Minutes recorded by Darlister Mitchell  
Department of Workforce Services Staff*