

AGENDA

JULY 12, 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 April 12, 2016 Committee Meeting

Act 1205 of 2015 Updates

Report on TANF Program Enrollment Strategies

TEA and Work Pays Performance Report

EBT Restrictions Law and Waiver

Committee Action Plan

Announcements

Adjournment

NEXT MEETING DATES

October 11, 2016	10:00 a.m.	Committees	Little Rock
	1:00 p.m.	Full Board Meeting	Little Rock
January 10, 2017	10:00 a.m.	Committees	Little Rock
	1:00 p.m.	Full Board Meeting	Little Rock
April 11, 2017	10:00 a.m.	Committees	Little Rock
	1:00 p.m.	Full Board Meeting	Little Rock

Embassy Suites Hotel
11301 Financial Centre Parkway
Little Rock, Arkansas



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

July 12, 2016

AGENDA ITEM 1 – ACTION: Minutes of the April 12, 2016 Committee Meeting

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the TANF Oversight Committee approve the minutes of the April 12, 2016 committee meeting.

INFORMATION/RATIONALE: Minutes of the meeting are attached.

UNOFFICIAL

MINUTES

ARKANSAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Oversight Committee
April 12, 2016

A meeting of the Arkansas Workforce Development Board (AWDB) TANF Oversight Committee was held on April 12, 2016, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 11301 Financial Centre Parkway, in Little Rock, Arkansas. Chairman Thomas Anderson presided with the following members present: Mr. Lindsay Brown, Judge Brandon Ellison, Mr. Johnny Key, Mr. Robert Thorne and Ms. Mary Franklin, Interim Director of the Division of County Operations for the Department of Human Services. Mr. Daryl Bassett was unable to attend.

Chairman's Comments: Recognizing the presence of a quorum, Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He stated that Mr. Phil Harris, ADWS Assistant Director of TANF Programs, will provide information to the committee regarding Act 1205 of 2015, which was requested at the January 19, 2016 meeting. Chair Anderson called attention to two handouts 1) an example of the survey questions and 2) a report from Washington, DC concerning drug testing.

Agenda Item 1 – Minutes of the January 19, 2016 Committee Meeting: Chair Anderson proceeded to Agenda Item 1, asking if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. The minutes were approved on a **motion by Judge Brandon Ellison, seconded by Mr. Johnny Key and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Anderson asked Mr. Phil Harris to provide updates on Act 1205 of 2015. Mr. Harris proceeded to provide a follow-up to the committee's request by presenting the CLASP Drug Testing and Public Assistance, February, 2016 handout that is the most recent and comprehensive document available. He reported that fifteen states have implemented suspicion based legislation on drug screening and testing for TANF participants and applicants. Mr. Harris commended the Department of Human Services for their collaboration with ADWS in determining eligibility for TANF participants. He reported that a total of 459 applications have been processed since beginning the screening process on April 1, 2016. He stated that more information will be provided to the committee as these individuals are tracked through the system. Mr. Harris asked for any questions, hearing none he moved on to the next topic.

Mr. Harris stated that the screening process begins with an application for services through the Department of Human Services and completion of the TANF Drug Assessment Tool, developed by ADWS, that is attached to the application. He indicated that Arkansas legislation mandates drug testing based on reasonable suspicion rather than mandatory testing which has led to litigation in other states such as Florida and Michigan. Discussion ensued concerning the assessment tools considered by ADWS (SASSI and DAST-10). Because of the cost associated

with using the SASSI or DAST-10 tools, ADWS chose to develop its own screening tool by using subsets from other states. The drug screening is handled by DHS and the testing is outsourced to A-Test Consultants, Incorporated in North Little Rock, AR.

Alcoholism and mental health issues were not addressed in the law but are considered once the applicant is enrolled in the program. The reduction in the estimated cost of the program from \$1.4 million to an estimated cost of just over \$100,000 was discussed. The cost reduction was attributed to the fact that eligibility remained with DHS, a self-developed screening tool was used, and IT costs were reduced by using the existing system.

It was reported that there were approximately 25,000 applicants in 2015. The Transitional Employment Assistance (TEA) cash approval percentage was about 30%. Federal regulations do not allow for TANF to pay for medical services such as substance abuse treatment. However, Medicaid will pay for substance abuse treatment for participants that are Medicaid eligible.

Next, Mr. Harris provided a brief overview of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) formerly the Food Stamp Program. He stated that Arkansas SNAP is one of ten programs in the nation chosen to participate in a Center of Excellence with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. Ms. Mary Franklin and Mr. Harris presented further details concerning the current employment and training program, and the work training options available for participants who wish to improve their job skills.

Announcements: Chair Anderson stated that the next meetings of the TANF Oversight Committee will be at 10:00 a.m., on July 12, 2016 and October 11, 2016, with the Full Board meeting at 1:00 p.m. in Little Rock at a location to be determined by staff. The Full Board meeting is scheduled at 1:00 p.m., today.

Adjourn: Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m., on a motion made by Judge Brandon Ellison, seconded by Lindsay Brown, and carried unanimously.

Thomas Anderson, Committee Chair

Arnell Willis, Director Workforce Investment
Department of Workforce Services

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