



Career Pathways Initiative

The Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative (CPI), a TANF funded program, was borne out of the need for an education and training system that addresses the state's economic challenges. Through CPI, the state has sought to coordinate its publicly funded post-secondary education system with social service, workforce and economic development programs to produce a better-trained workforce and promote economic growth. "Career pathways" is the term for a series of connected education and training programs and support services that enable individuals to secure employment within a specific industry or occupational sector and to advance over time to successively higher levels of education and employment in that sector.

Dr. Karon Rosa, Program Director
Arkansas Department of Higher Education

SNAP Employment & Training Program

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides food assistance to eligible households to cover a portion of a household's food budget. The SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) facet of the program was established to assist able-bodied SNAP recipients in obtaining employment. From its conception, the purpose of the E&T Program has been to help SNAP households gain skills training, work, or experience that will increase self-sufficiency. While some SNAP recipients need assistance with job search training and basic skills, other recipients benefit from vocational training that enhances their ability to obtain regular employment.

Larry Crutchfield, Assistant Director
Arkansas Department of Human Services

9:35 a.m.

WIOA Performance Accountability

The U.S. Departments of Labor and Education have collaboratively issued Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act provisions related to performance accountability. This presentation will provide information regarding performance accountability under WIOA to include the core performance standards, timelines for reporting data, and how federal agencies are proposing that States measure effectiveness in serving employers.

Elroy Willoughby, Area Operations Chief
Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

10:30 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m.

Serving Arkansas's Youth under WIOA

WIOA outlines a broader youth vision that supports an integrated service delivery system and provides a framework through which states and local areas can leverage other federal, state, local, and philanthropic resources to support in-school youth, out-of-school youth, and disabled youth. This presentation will provide an overview of the changes made to our WIOA funded youth programs under Titles I (WIOA Youth Program) and IV (Vocational Rehabilitation) as well as provide information regarding services available through Adult Education, and the Arkansas Youth Challenge Program that assists out-of-school youth and high school dropouts to get their life back on track. Time will be allotted at the end of the presentations for open table discussions to brainstorm how these changes in legislation and resources available can be connected to better serve our youth population.

Janie Wheeler, Workforce Administrator
Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District

Amy Jones, District Manager
Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

Maryanne Caldwell, Transition Coordinator
Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

Christy Lamas, Field Services Administrator
Department of Human Services – Division of Services for the Blind

Alice Scroggins, Director
North Arkansas College Adult Education

Michael O'Leary, Deputy Director
Arkansas Youth Challenge

11:55 a.m.

Closing Remarks and Adjourn



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WIOA Partners' Meeting

September 29-30, 2016

Embassy Suites Hotel
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AGENDA

Thursday, September 29, 2016

8:30 a.m. Welcome

8:35 a.m. Community Support and Partnerships

The infancy of successful programs, social movements, and partnerships begins with a shared vision that over time has the potential to breed greatness within the confines of a community. For many, what begins as challenging the process is turned into a vision that develops into a greater idea, fueled by those who are encouraged to take ownership in the cause. During this multi-media presentation, common approaches will be discussed regarding how to better educate others on the significance of your program. Keeping the community excited, involved, and supportive will all take center stage.

Paul Vitale, Professional Speaker and Author
Vital Communications, Inc.

10:00 a.m. Status Update on Implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act in Arkansas

Cindy Varner, Assistant Director
Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

Dr. Trena Miles, Deputy Director
Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE)

Jonathan Bibb, ACTI Director
ACE Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

Christy Lamas, Field Services Administrator
Department of Human Services – Division of Services for the Blind

10:45 a.m. Report of Local Efforts to Implement WIOA

WIOA identifies local workforce development boards to be the convener of partners and stakeholders at the local level for strategic planning and implementation activities. Hear a report from each of the ten local workforce development board directors regarding local efforts to convene partners, develop the local workforce development plan, and implement WIOA.

Central - Devin Howland, WIOA Administrative Director
Central Arkansas Planning & Development District

Northwest - Janie Wheeler, Workforce Administrator
Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District

City of Little Rock - W.J. Monagle, Executive Director
Little Rock Workforce Development Board

Southeast - David Dempsey, Deputy Director
Southeast Arkansas Economic Development District

Eastern - Dave Brady, Executive Director
Workforce Development Board of Eastern Arkansas

Southwest - Gina Frederick, WIOA Coordinator
Western Arkansas Planning & Development District

North Central - Lynn Haas, WIOA Administrative Dir.
White River Planning & Development District

West Central - Alan Nolan, Director
Russellville Adult Education

Northeast - James Morgan, Program Manager
Employment & Training Services, Inc.

Western - Tracy Chapple, WIOA Administrator
Western Arkansas Planning & Development District

12:00 p.m. Lunch

12:45 p.m.

Local Transition Team Breakouts

Time is available for attendees to break out into local workforce development area transition teams to discuss WIOA implementation issues specific to each area. Local workforce development board directors will facilitate this meeting.

2:30 p.m.

WIOA Regulations

The final WIOA regulations were officially released through the Federal Register on August 19, 2016. The WIOA regulations include five components including a joint rule from the Departments of Labor and Education, a Department of Labor only rule for implementation of Titles I and III, and three Department of Education only rules relating to Adult Education and Literacy, Vocational Rehabilitation, and miscellaneous program changes. A full copy of the regulations will be distributed to all attendees for this session.

Cindy Varner, Assistant Director
Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

Bridget Criner, Associate Director - Adult Education
Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE)

Carl Daugherty, Chief of Field Services
ACE Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

Christy Lamas, Field Services Administrator
Department of Human Services – Division of Services for the Blind

4:25 p.m.

Closing Remarks and Adjourn

AGENDA

Friday, September 30, 2016

8:30 a.m.

Welcome

8:35 a.m.

Learn More About Your Partners

The WIOA state workforce development plan includes 11 partner programs. At previous WIOA partner meetings, we have learned about the four core programs, the veterans programs, and the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers program. This meeting will focus on learning more about partner programs that assist low-income families in Arkansas – the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment & Training program.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program is a time-limited assistance program designed to help needy families with children become more responsible for their own support and less dependent on public assistance. In addition to monthly cash assistance, employment-related services are provided to parents, including job-readiness activities, transportation assistance, child care assistance, and other supportive services so that parents can engage in work or education/training activities that lead to employment.

Franklin Holbrook, Division Chief
TANF Program – Arkansas Department of Workforce Services