

MINUTES
ARKANSAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
February 21, 2023

The Arkansas Workforce Development Board convened the Full Board meeting on February 21, 2023, beginning at 10:11 a.m. The meeting was conducted in-person at Goodwill Industries. Chairman Tom Anderson presided with the following members voicing their presence: Mr. Joseph Baxter, Mr. Len Blaylock, Eddie Thomas proxy for Dr. Charisse Childers, Shana Chaplin, Mr. Miles Crawford, Mr. William French, Mr. Randy Henderson, Ms. Rebecca Ives, Ms. Candice Lawrence, Mr. Brian Marsh, Dr. Trenia Miles, Ms. Rachel Mize, Mr. Gan Nunnally, Clint O'Neal, Mr. Kelley Sharp, Megan Lamb proxy for Cassandra Williams-Stokes, and Mr. Robert Thorne.

Governor Sanders, Ms. Karen Breashears, Judge Brandon Ellison, Mr. Randy Finegan, Ms. Abby Houseworth, Mr. Charles Johnson, Ms. Holley Little, Dr. Maria Markham, Dr. Julie Roberson, Ms. Latanyua Robinson, and Mayor James Sanders were unable to attend.

Chairman's Opening Comments: Chairman Anderson moved to the first agenda item.

Agenda Item 1 – ACTION – Full Board Minute Approval: Chairman Anderson asked if there were any additional corrections or revisions to the February 21, 2023, Full Board meeting minutes.

Chairman Anderson opened the floor for questions.

Hearing none, a motion to accept the February 21, 2023, Full Board meeting minutes with no corrections or revisions was made by Mr. Kelley Sharp, followed by a second motion by Mr. Robert Thorne. The motion carried unanimously with none opposed.

Agenda Item 2 – ACTION – Executive Committee Minute Approval: Chairman Anderson asked if there were any additional corrections or revisions to the January 31, 2023, Full Board meeting minutes.

Chairman Anderson stated that the previously scheduled Board meeting on January 31st had to be cancelled due to inclement weather; however, a virtual Executive Committee was scheduled instead since some policies needed reviewed and approved.

Chairman Anderson opened the floor for questions.

Hearing none, a motion to accept the January 31, 2023, Executive Committee meeting minutes with no corrections or revisions was made by Ms. Rebecca Ives, followed by a second motion by Mr. Miles Crawford. The motion carried unanimously with none opposed.

Report of the Chairperson: Chairman Anderson congratulated new Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders and mentioned that two of her initiatives are workforce and education. Chairman Anderson also welcomed new Secretary of Commerce Hugh McDonald, who replaced Mike Preston.

Next, Chairman Anderson encouraged the members to regain that synergy it had before meeting started going to Zoom. He mentioned the difficulty of engagement with zoom and hopes the Board will get back to being productive. He encouraged members to ask questions and encouraged them to have an elevator pitch about WIOA.

Report of Director: Board Director Chad Brown informed the Board that Director Childers is running late due to DWS bills being presented in Committee.

Report of Board Director: Chairman Anderson recognized Board Director, Chad Brown, to address the Full Board. First, Director Brown informed the Board of the US Department of labor coming to Arkansas to monitor the Board in May of 2023. Director Brown explained that audit findings will flow up to the Governor's Office which gives everyone involved a poor reflection. Director Brown advised members of the Board that DOL can interview any member on the Board regarding the role on the Board. He mentioned that following the Board meeting will be an orientation that will address their roles and responsibilities.

Second, Director Brown informed the Board that Committees should be reporting updates at each Board Meeting according to the by-laws.

Lastly, Director Brown gave an update on the Board's website and many of the changes that have been made. Rachel Mize asked if there was a template that could be used to make sure we are keeping up with committee requirements. Director Brown stated that he has never seen a template but will be more than happy to look into the idea.

Report of Staff: Chairman Anderson recognized Board staff, Mr. Eddie Thomas, to address the Full Board. Mr. Thomas informed the Board of four priorities that Employment Services is concentrating on for Arkansas.

- 1) Outreach and enrollment for PY22
- 2) Performance
- 3) Service delivery
- 4) Funds utilization

AD Thomas also gave an overview of the Reimagine Grant and ACT Work-ready communities update to the members.

Miles Crawford asked about recapturing funding and what the Board can do to help. AD Thomas provided ideas that can be done to help. Mr. Crawford asked what the main reason for recapture. AD Thoams stated it is awareness of the programs. Rachel Mize what specific area had the recapture issues. AD Thomas mentioned that adult and youth are typically the area where the state has the most trouble.

Dr. Trenia Miles asked for an update on the number of certifications and credentials that have been earned by Arkansans within the reimagine grant. AD Thomas stated that a report was submitted to the state's project officer. He mentioned that University of Arkansas Global Campus met their outcome., and that Shorter College is below their outcome goals. Rachel Mize asked if this was the same grant that was discussed in the last meeting. AD Thomas said it was the same grant.

Miles Crawford asked how long we have had these funds associated with the Reimagine grant because there seems to be many opportunities on the table with the amount of funds that have yet to be spent. AD Thomas provided the details to Mr. Crawford's questions.

Brian Marsh asked about the timeline on notifying potential candidates on the services provided through this grant. AD Thomas stated that both campuses have done an excellent job of marketing

through radio and tv ads to get the word out across the state. Dr. Miles explained the challenges with this population and their potential literacy skills coupled with technology. Mr. Crawford asked if Dr. Miles could expound on her point about digital literacy. Dr. Miles went into further detail and explained the challenges of those that live in rural communities and how broadband will help which can be used to provide technology training. Ms. Rebecca Ives asked if we can use these funds in with school systems to prepare for the shortage of workers that is coming in the future. AD Thomas explained stated that Reimagine would not be appropriate for that need; however, he explained that WIOA would be a better fit. Rachel Mize agreed with AD Thomas and provided more information on those in-youth school youth. Dr. Miles stated that the Department of Education would be the best resource for the questions from Ms. Ives.

Mr. Randy Henderson also asked about K-12 in relation to the new Arkansas LEARNS legislation and working together to accomplish a unified approach. Ms. Candice Lawrence stated that Congresswoman Fox is looking for input through the Arkansas State Chamber to rewrite WIOA and make it more efficient. She stated that AD Thoams and Director Brown have met with the State Chamber to start that discussion. Len Blaylock asked if there was a way, before the next board meeting, to provide the performance numbers of the Reimagine grant.

Chairman Anderson mentioned the Be Pro Be Proud initiative that goes to state high schools and introduce them to various trades.

Agenda Item 3 – ACTION – Expense Reimbursements:

Chairman Anderson recognized Deputy Director Courtney Traylor to discuss expense reimbursements. Director Brown interrupted and gave the floor to Mr. Brian Marsh and thanked him for the use of the Goodwill facility for the meeting. Mr. Marsh provided a brief overview of the amenities.

Director Brown, instead of Ms. Traylor, provided the Board an explanation of expense reimbursements.

Chairman Anderson opened the floor for questions.

Hearing none, a motion to approve this agenda item was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, followed by a second motion by Ms. Candice Lawrence. The motion carried unanimously with none opposed.

Agenda Item 4 – Action – Board Member Stipends

Chairman Anderson recognized Director Brown to provide an explanation of stipend payments.

Chairman Anderson opened the floor for questions.

Hearing none, a motion to approve this agenda item was made by Mr. Miles Crawford, followed by a second motion by Mr. Robert Thorne. The motion carried unanimously with none opposed.

Agenda Item 5 – Informational – AWDB Committee Update:

Chairman Anderson recognized Director Brown for an update on Committee assignments.

Chairman Anderson opened the floor for questions.

Agenda Item 6 – Informational – Labor Market Information:

Chairman Anderson recognized Ms. Susan Price to present on the current state of labor market statistics and how they are calculated in Arkansas. Ms. Price presented in place of Ms. Cara Benton. Ms. Price

concluded her presentation and opened the floor for questions. Members asked questions with answers provided by staff.

Agenda Item 7 – Informational – ADWS WIOA PY-22 High Concentration of Youth (HCY)

Allocation Issuance of Eligible Youth:

Chairman Anderson recognized Ad Thomas to present this agenda item. AD Thoams turned the floor over to Shalon Bogard and Doss Burgess to present this item. At the conclusion of the presentation, Dr. Miles and Ad Thomas provided more explanation around out-of-school youth and the difficulties in locating them.

Agenda Item 8 – Informational – WIOA Partner Updates

All core partners under WIOA presented updates that included performance numbers, participant numbers and various updates to the Board specifically tied to their programs. Adult Education provided a success video as part of their update.

Dr. Childers arrived and Chairman Anderson asked that she provide a report from her perspective on the workforce in Arkansas based on updates provided by the core partners.

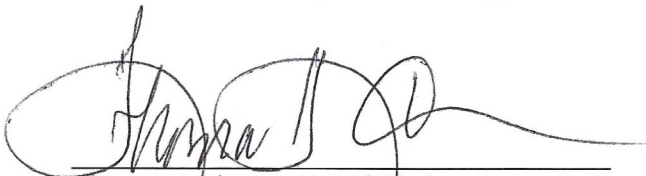
Agenda Item 9 – Informational – Goodwill Industries of Arkansas

Chairman Anderson recognized Mr. Brian Marsh. Mr. Marsh turned the presentation over to his staff who discussed all the programs and services provided by Goodwill Industries of Arkansas. Mr. Marsh closed and gave overall numbers of Goodwill locations and their services across the state.

Public Speaking Opportunity: Chairman opened the floor for public comment, but there were none. AD Thomas recognized the Local Area's that attended the meeting.

Announcements: Chairman stated the next Board meeting has not been scheduled; however, once more details will be provided closer to the next meeting.

Adjourn: As presented, Chairman Anderson adjourned the AWDB Full Board meeting on a motion made by Mr. Kelley Sharp, followed by Mr. Brian Marsh making the second motion. The motion carried unanimously with none opposed.



Thomas Anderson, Board Chairman
Arkansas Workforce Development Board



Chad Brown, Director Workforce Development
Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

*Minutes recorded by Chad Brown
Arkansas Division of Workforce Services Staff*