

MINUTES
ARKANSAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
February 28, 2024

The Arkansas Workforce Development Board convened on March 19, 2024, beginning at 10:03 a.m. The meeting was conducted virtually. Chairman Tom Anderson presided with the following members voicing their presence: Mr. Mike Rogers, a proxy for Governor Sarah Sanders, Mr. Thomas Anderson, Commissioner Joseph Baxter, Mr. Len Blaylock, Ms. Karen Breashears, Dr. Charisse Childers, Mr. Miles Crawford, Judge Brandon Ellison, Mr. William French, Mr. Randy Henderson, Ms. Abby Houseworth, Ms. Rebecca Ives, Ms. Candice Lawrence, Mr. Brian Marsh, Dr. Trenia Miles, Mr. Justin Major, a proxy for Clint O'Neal, Mr. George Nunnally, Mr. Robert Thorne, Ms. Latanyua Robinson, Ms. Tina Moore, a proxy for Dr. Ken Warden, and Dr. Cassondra Williams-Stokes.

Mr. Charles Johnson, Ms. Holley Little, and Mr. Kelley Sharp were unable to attend.

A quorum was established.

Chairman's Opening Comments: Chairman Anderson welcomed the board.

Agenda Item 1-ACTION-Full Board Meeting Approval: Chairman Anderson asked if any revisions/corrections needed to be made to the January 16, 2024, minutes.

Hearing none, a motion was made by Ms. Karen Breashears to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Robert Thorne. The motion carried unanimously with none opposed.

Agenda Item 2-ACTION-WIOA Combined State Plan:

Chairman Anderson stated that at the last meeting, the first draft of the State Plan was approved by the board. The next step was to allow a thirty-day public comment period, which ended on February 25, 2024. Chairman Anderson yielded the floor to Dr. Charisse Childers and staff to share updates concerning the public comment period. Dr. Childers stated that public comments were received throughout the full duration of the period including an extensive comment submitted on 2-25-24. Dr. Childers stated that staff members are working on addressing the comments received and incorporating them into the plan. She concluded by stating that the goal would be to submit the WIOA Combined State Plan into the online portal as soon as March 1, 2024, and no later than March 4, 2024.

Deputy Eddie Thomas reviewed all public comments with the board and answered questions from the board on the comments received.

Chairman Anderson entertained a motion to approve the PY 24-27 WIOA Combined State Plan, contingent upon all revisions being made.

A motion was made by Karen Breashears and seconded by Ms. Becky Ives. The motion carried unanimously with none opposed.

Board Open Discussion: Chairman Anderson opened the floor to discuss items that might be of interest to the board. Ms. Becky Ives talked about a possible collaboration with Excel by Eight. Ms. Candice Lawrence shared more about the organization and also recommended that Alison Williams, former Chief

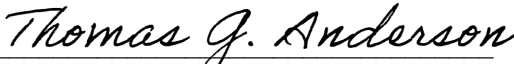
of Staff for Governor Hutchinson, and current Coalitions Director for the organization, as a potential board member.

Chairman Anderson shared his experience attending the 2024 National Governor's Association Winter Workforce Institute in Washington, D.C. with Deputy Thomas. Chairman Anderson also stated that a special board meeting will need to be held before the next regular board meeting in May of 2024. He provided proposed dates for the special board meeting.

Public Opportunity to Address the Board: None

Announcements: None

Adjournment: Chairman Anderson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Brian Marsh and seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion carried unanimously with none opposed. The meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.


Thomas Anderson Board Chairman
Arkansas Workforce Development Board

Charisse Childers, Director
Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

*Minutes recorded by Victoria Hall
Arkansas Division of Workforce Services Staff*