

MINUTES
Executive Committee of the
ARKANSAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
March 11, 2022

The Executive Committee of the Arkansas Workforce Development Board convened its meeting through electronic means on March 11, 2022, beginning at 10:01 a.m. The meeting was conducted via the Zoom platform and a teleconference line for non-committee members and the public. Chair Tom Anderson presided with the following members voicing their presence: Mr. Tom Anderson, Ms. Karen Breashears, Judge Brandon Ellison, Ms. Abby Houseworth, Ms. Julie Roberson, and Mr. Robert Thorne.

Executive Committee members Mr. Scott Bull and Mr. Jeff Griffin were unable to attend.

Chairman's Opening Comments: Chair Tom Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., after staff conducted a roll call to determine a quorum.

Agenda Item 1 – ACTION – WIOA PY2020 – 2023 State Plan Modification Approval: Chair Tom Anderson introduced agenda item one by sharing that States are required to update their WIOA State Plans every two years. He explained that the WIOA Core and Non-Core Partners had been diligently working on this plan modification. While the entire plan is included in the meeting agenda packet, he asked Mr. Elroy Willoughby to provide a synopsis of the major changes to this plan.

Mr. Elroy Willoughby began by displaying a chart from the U.S. Department of Labor's WIOA State Plan Portal that shows all the sections of the plan that had been revised or modified from the original submission in calendar year 2020.

Mr. Willoughby proceeded to share the Major Points of Emphasis for the updated plan. He specifically spoke on those workforce system changes resulting from the COVID pandemic. He added that the federal government requested increased emphasis upon populations with barriers to employment, business engagement, improved coordination among programs, and the workforce system evaluation. Mr. Willoughby pointed out that this revised State Plan included updated economic data, the newly created Statewide Community Resource portal, the Salesforce implementation, the Arkansas Division of Higher Education's *Align Arkansas 2026* report, new economic development initiatives related to workforce development, and the Governor's *Ready for Life* initiative.

Chair Tom Anderson asked a couple of questions. He requested that Mr. Willoughby share his presentation with the Executive Committee members. Chair Anderson also requested that Mr. Willoughby would share a link to the entire State Plan on the ADWS website with the entire Board Membership after the meeting.

Ms. Karen Breashears asked a question regarding the Local Workforce Area Profiles. Mr. Willoughby promised to send the link to the members.

Chair Anderson asked the members if there were any additional questions.

Hearing none, a motion to accept the WIOA PY2020 – 2023 State Plan Modification, as presented, was made by Mr. Robert Thorne, followed by a second motion by Judge Brandon Ellison. The motion carried unanimously with none opposed.

The following votes were recorded and voiced by Board Members on a roll vote to Approve, Disapprove, or Abstain for no vote: Mr. Tom Anderson – Approve, Ms. Karen Breashears – Approve, Mr. Scott Bull – Absent, Judge Brandon Ellison – Approve, Mr. Jeff Griffin – Absent, Ms. Abby Houseworth – Approve, Dr. Julie Roberson – Approve, and Mr. Robert Thorne – Approve.

Public Speaking Opportunity: Chair Anderson asked members of the public attending the meeting through electronic means the opportunity to speak before the Committee. There were no public comments.

Adjourn: As presented, Chair Anderson adjourned the Executive Committee at 10:35 a.m., on a motion made by Judge Brandon Ellison, followed by Mr. Robert Thorne making the second motion. The motion carried unanimously with none opposed.

The following votes were recorded and voiced by Committee Members on a roll vote to Approve, Disapprove, or Abstain for no vote: Mr. Tom Anderson – Aye, Ms. Karen Breashears – Aye, Mr. Scott Bull – Absent, Judge Brandon Ellison – Aye, Mr. Jeff Griffin – Absent, Ms. Abby Houseworth – Aye, Dr. Julie Roberson – Aye, and Mr. Robert Thorne – Aye.



Thomas Anderson, Board Chairman
Arkansas Workforce Development Board



Chad Brown, Director Workforce Development
Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

*Minutes recorded by Elroy Willoughby
Arkansas Division of Workforce Services Staff*