



**INNOVATE**

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**September 25, 2019**

**9:00 a.m.**

Little Rock Workforce Center  
5401 South University  
Little Rock, Arkansas

# Arkansas Workforce Development Board

## TANF Oversight Committee



# AGENDA

September 25, 2019

## ARKANSAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD TANF OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

9:00 am

Call to Order..... George Nunnally, Committee Chair

Chairman's Comments..... George Nunnally, Committee Chair

### Agenda Item 1: ACTION

Minutes of the April 9, 2019, Committee Meeting..... George Nunnally, Committee Chair

Minutes of the June 18, 2019, Committee Meeting

### Agenda Item 2: INFORMATIONAL

Report on TANF Program Activities..... Phil Harris  
Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

Announcements

Adjournment

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

September 25, 2019

**AGENDA ITEM 1 – ACTION:** Minutes of the April 9, 2019 & June 18, 2019 TANF Oversight Committee Meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the TANF Oversight Committee approve the minutes of the April 9, 2019 & June 18, 2019 meetings.

**INFORMATION/RATIONALE:** Minutes of the meetings are attached.

**UNOFFICIAL**  
**MINUTES**  
**ARKANSAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
**Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Oversight Committee**  
**April 9, 2019**

A teleconference meeting of the Arkansas Workforce Development Board (AWDB) TANF Oversight Committee was conducted on April 9, 2019 and accommodations were set up for an in-person attendance at the Little Rock Workforce Center, 5401 South University Avenue in Little Rock, Arkansas. Chair George Nunnally presided with the following members confirming attendance through roll call: Mr. Thomas Anderson, Judge Brandon Ellison, Mr. Johnny Key by proxy Adrienne Williams and Mr. Robert Thorne.

Mr. Lindsay Brown and Ms. Mary Franklin were unable to attend.

Chairperson Comments: Recognizing the presence of a quorum, Chair Nunnally called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Agenda Item 1 – ACTION - Minutes of the January 10, 2019 Committee Meeting: Chair Nunnally proceeded to Agenda Item 1, asking if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes.

**Hearing none, a motion to approve the January 10, 2019 minutes, were approved on a motion by Mr. Robert Thorne, seconded by Judge Brandon Ellison, each board member voiced their individual vote in favor, and carried unanimously with no revisions.**

Report on TANF Program Activities: Chair Nunnally recognized Mr. Phil Harris to provide an update on TANF Program Activities starting with the federal updates before proceeding with the state updates. The TANF Reauthorization is still pending with no updates. The HR430 TANF Extension of 2019 has been extended through appropriations, through June 30, 2019. This extends the block grant to states and related assistance grants, to territories, including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Mr. Harris provided committee members an update regarding state legislation on HB1664. It has been filed to establish the Life Choice Lifeline Program that will be operated by the Department of Health to encourage healthy childbirth or promote family formation and aid successful parenting. This week, this bill has passed in the House and Senate Public, Health, Welfare and Labor. This bill can affect TANF in the future in terms of TANF Funding and TANF Participation.

Eligibility Policy – Mr. Harris informed committee members the Income Eligibility Policy is on hold until the current legislation is finished. TANF is working with the Department of Human Services to address the issue of income eligibility standard for the TEA Program. This Policy has not been reviewed, since 1996. TANF is looking to revise this to the prevailing minimum wage for the State of Arkansas.

Mr. Harris recognized Mr. Derwin Taylor to provide an update regarding TEA Enrollments. Taylor shared with the committee that TEA enrollments have declined. Through strategic meeting discussions, participants go to DHS and apply, for some reason these potential clients never came to the Department of Workforce Services or they would get lost in the shuffle. A Pilot program is being piloted in two counties: Ashley and Pulaski County. With the Pulaski County pilot program initiated, TANF staff will be housed at DHS Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week. Mr. Taylor provided the process being used to capture individuals who may be able to utilize the TEA program. For instance in Pulaski County, when DHS has applications coming on those set days, TANF will schedule staff to visit with those individuals. TANF staff will provide additional information regarding TEA such as Requirements, Education, additional documents required, including an overview of the TEA program. In the month of March 2019, the Southwest DHS Office, in Pulaski County received 48 TEA applications. Of those applications received, 32 applicants were denied, 11 pending, and 5 approved. [Note: One of the successful opportunities for this pilot was TANF outreach information was provided to more individuals to be engaged. Mr. Taylor responded that TANF had an income limit when Mr. Thorne inquired to the number of denied applications. Mr. Taylor noted the 11 applications pending are either did not provide the proper documentation or they missed their interview, and those that were denied were based on the resource income that they already have.]

ARWINS Update - Mr. Harris thanked Mr. Taylor before providing an update on ARWINS to committee members. With the New IT Element within ARWINS, TEA will soft launch the new software component and extend to the Restore Hope Initiative (RHI). RHI will be able to login and key in information and be able to determine if potential clients are eligibility.

Arkansas Works Update - Mr. Harris informed members TANF involvements engage with referrals from DHS to work with clients for job placements and referrals to work activities. TANF forwarded 90,000 outreach emails through the IT system since the beginning of the Arkansas Works Program began. Reminder emails totaling 950 have been sent out to Arkansas Works recipients to call DHS to report on their work activities or claim an exemption. Currently, an additional email is being drafted to encourage responses in regards to reporting requests.

Career Pathways Initiative Update – This is a TANF Funded initiative for post-secondary education and training program at the two-year colleges. Number of Enrollments are 4,152 for the Calendar year 2018; 1,175 Employability Certificates were issued; 556 Technical Certificates were issued; 538 Associates Degrees were issued to CPI students; 625 Certificates of Proficiency were issued; 15 GEDs and a category of other certificates issued were 378. This is a total attainment for 2018 was 3,287. Accumulated data from 2005, when the CPI Program began there have been 46,423 attainments issued.

Success Stories Update – On December 13, 2018, UA – Cossatot hosted a Phlebotomy pinning ceremony, 4 of our CPI students received their certificate of completion. 3 of the 4 students have found employment.

Announcements: Chair Nunnally, thanked Mr. Harris and Mr. Taylor before updating committee members of his correspondence with Mr. Joe Wallace in Springdale. Mr. Wallace implemented the

school Innovation at Springdale High School and had been hired by the Homeless Council to their Workforce Development in Northwest Arkansas. Mr. Wallace is available to come to speak at one of the meetings.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m. by Chair George Nunnally, upon a **motion by Judge Brandon Ellison, seconded by Mr. Robert Thorne, with none opposed.**

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George Nunnally, Committee Chair

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Arnell Willis, Director Workforce Investment  
Department of Workforce Services

Minutes by Devona Caples  
Department of Workforce Services

**UNOFFICIAL**  
**MINUTES**  
**ARKANSAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
**Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Oversight Committee**  
**June 18, 2019**

A teleconference meeting of the Arkansas Workforce Development Board (AWDB) TANF Oversight Committee was conducted on June 18, 2019, and accommodations were set up for an in-person attendance at the Little Rock Workforce Center, 5401 South University Avenue in Little Rock, Arkansas. Acting Chair Judge Brandon Ellison presided with the following members confirming attendance through roll call: Mr. Lindsay Brown, Mr. Johnny Key by proxy Erin Franks and Mr. Robert Thorne.

Mr. Thomas Anderson, Mr. Daryl Bassett, and Ms. Mary Franklin were unable to attend.

Recognizing a quorum had not been met, Acting Chair Judge Ellison called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Chairperson Comments: Acting Chair Judge Ellison informed the committee that Chair Mr. George Nunnally was unable to attend the meeting and requested that he conduct the meeting in his absence. Acting Chair Judge Ellison reminded members to identify themselves by stating their names when making a comment, making a motion, or providing a second to a motion after roll call due to the meeting being a teleconference.

Agenda Item 1 – ACTION - Minutes of the April 9, 2019, Committee Meeting: Acting Chair Judge Ellison proceeded to Agenda Item 1, asking if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes.

Hearing no comments and recognizing there was not a quorum, Acting Chair Judge Ellison asked members present to cast their vote. **A motion by Mr. Robert Thorne to approve the April 9, 2019, minutes was seconded by Mr. Lindsay Brown. Each board member voiced their individual vote in favor with no revisions.**

Report on TANF Program Activities: Acting Chair Judge Ellison recognized Mr. Phil Harris to provide an update on TANF Program Activities starting with the federal updates before proceeding with the state updates. The TANF Block grant expires June 30, 2019. The HR430 TANF Extension of 2019 passed on June 3, 2019, and will expire September 2019 without any reforms to any of the programs. In order to avoid a gap in funding, it will have to pass the Senate by June 30, 2019. Additionally, Mr. Harris stated TANF has some funding to sustain the program for a period in the event of a gap in the federal distribution.

Mr. Harris informed the committee TANF is on track to meet the federal Work Participation Rates for FFY 2018. The Met-Participation Rate allows the program to operate without penalties.

Harris shared the following three (3) programs currently funded by TANF with the committee: Jobs for Arkansas Graduates (JAG); Our House, Inc.; and the Arkansas Better Dads Fatherhood Initiative.

Jobs for Arkansas Graduates (JAG):

The JAG program provides support to at-risk youth to encourage them to achieve high school graduation. Along with academic support, JAG also provides work-based learning experiences that will lead them to further education and training and rewarding careers. Arkansas's JAG program is the state affiliate of the national organization Jobs for America's Graduates. The Arkansas JAG program has established itself as one of the leading programs in the national JAG network. Arkansas currently has 113 JAG programs serving 2,546 youth. As of May 15<sup>th</sup>, Arkansas has 127 programs with 1,307 out of 2,846 students that are economically disadvantaged as defined by public assistance. The program has a 94% graduation rate.

Our House, Inc.:

Our House, Inc.'s mission is to empower homeless and near-homeless families and individuals to succeed in the workforce, in school and in life through hard work, wise decision-making and active participation in the community. The TANF "Pipeline to Employment" Initiative is to create a pipeline that connects central Arkansas employers with TEA clients and low-income other workers looking to escape poverty through employment. Under this project, Our House's Career Center works closely with clients to prepare them for success in the workforce, while a newly hired Employer Engagement Manager will build an "Employer Alliance" and liaise with employers to determine their employment needs, place employees, and conduct follow up to promote retention. During the funding cycle, Our House placed 82 clients with the alliance employers exceeding the annual goal of 75. They also placed 202 clients in full time jobs with local employers.

Arkansas Better Dad Fatherhood Initiative:

Mr. Harris stated this statewide effort is to encourage the formation and maintenance of two parent families. The mission of Arkansas Better Dads is to help men around the state be better dads. A program of First Assembly of God, North Little Rock, AR, Arkansas Better Dads partners with faith-based and community organizations to intentionally provide dads with both information and experiences to help them become better dads. Together with these partners, they collaborate to achieve the goal of serving fathers across the state. The approach is comprehensive and works to serve fathers who are in difficult situations as well as raise public awareness of the critical role father's play. First Assembly of God North Little Rock has demonstrated experience in training men and implementation of statewide programs in multiple counties.

Harris shared on June 28, 2019, the initiative plans to host the first Governor's Fatherhood Summit at Embassy Suites in Little Rock. It is a free event, with a fatherhood rally in the evening, and the fathers will be able to bring their kids to spend time with them and allow participation many different activities.

**Announcements:** Acting Chair Judge Ellison thanked Mr. Harris and asked the committee members for any other business. Hearing none, he informed the members information about the next TANF



committee meeting will be sent out to members at a later date. The Full Board meeting will be held on July 16, 2019, at Embassy Suites in Little Rock at 10:00 a.m.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m. by Acting Chair Judge Ellison, upon **a motion by Mr. Lindsay Brown, seconded by Mr. Robert Thorne, with none opposed.**

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George Nunnally, Committee Chair

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Arnell Willis, Director Workforce Investment  
Department of Workforce Services

Minutes by Rebecca Edwards  
Department of Workforce Services