



INNOVATE

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

June 18, 2019

9:00 a.m.

Little Rock Workforce Center
5401 South University
Little Rock, Arkansas

Arkansas Workforce Development Board

TANF Oversight Committee



AGENDA

June 18, 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

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**

June 18, 2019

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

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the TANF Oversight Committee approve the minutes of the April 9, 2019 meeting.

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.

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

Chairperson Comments: Chair George Nunnally reminded members to identify themselves by stating their name 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 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. The bill has passed in the House and Senate Public, Health, Welfare and Labor and can affect 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. 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.**

George Nunnally, Committee Chair

Arnell Willis, Director Workforce Investment
Department of Workforce Services

Minutes by Devona Caples
Department of Workforce Services