

North Central Arkansas Workforce Development Board

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 23, 2025 (originally scheduled for June 18, 2025)

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location: Zoom (virtual meeting)

Members Present:

Mr. Gayle Cooper, Mr. Garry Lawrence, Mrs. Stacy Gunderman, Ms. Trish Miller, Ms. Amie McBride, Ms. Jada Washington, Ms. Gina Wells, Ms. Amber Neal, Mrs. Jennifer Pike, Mr. Wiley Osborn

Members Absent:

Mr. Michael Arnold, Mr. Chad Vincent, Mrs. Christel Taylor, Mrs. Janet Hearyman, Mrs. LaBecca Turner

Guests:

Mr. Thomas Pittman, Mr. Hal Vandiver, Dr. Becky Warren

Call to Order

Chairman Gayle Cooper called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the March 12, 2025 meeting were presented for review.

Motion: Mrs. Stacy Gunderman

Second: Ms. Amie McBride

Outcome: Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report

Mr. Calvin Wright and Mr. Chase Shonk presented the financial report. The WIOA Spending Progress Report through May 31, 2025 was reviewed, including:

- Administrative and program expenditures for Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs.
- Comparison of Program Year 2024 and projected Program Year 2025 funding.

- Updates on supportive services expenditures, tuition spending by institution, and work experience participants per program.

Motion: Mr. Garry Lawrence

Second: Ms. Trish Miller

Outcome: Motion carried unanimously.

One-Stop Operator Update

Mrs. Jamie Hill provided an update on One-Stop operations. She reviewed recent activity reports, including:

- Walk-in traffic and partner services at the Searcy office (February–April 2025).
 - Outreach and employer engagement efforts.
 - Job fairs and high school career events held across the region.
 - Referrals, placements, and employer outreach activity.
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Partner Program Updates

Representatives from the following partner programs provided updates:

- **Adult Education-** Ms. Trish Miller
 - **Arkansas Workforce Connections-** Mrs. Jennifer Pike
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WIOA Title I-B Program Update

Mrs. Bree DeShazo presented the WIOA Title I-B update, highlighting:

- Current participant counts by program.
 - Training expenditures by institution.
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Monitoring Contract

Ms. Elizabeth Smith presented the monitoring contract proposal from Strumpf and Hightower for Program Year 2024 (July 2024 – June 2025). The proposal included:

- Timeline for monitoring activities (document request, site visits, draft/final report schedule).

- Budget of \$16,500, with a \$100/hour rate.
- Payment schedule tied to project milestones.

Motion: Ms. Trish Miller

Second: Ms. Stacy Gunderman

Outcome: Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

Mrs. Stacy Gunderman presented the One-Stop Operator Request for Proposals (RFP). The Board discussed the review process and procedures for approving the selected entity. Mr. Garry Lawrence recused himself from the vote, as he serves on the WRPDD Board of Directors and WRPDD was the sole proposer. Mrs. Gunderman stated that the process was competitive and that a few entities asked for the RFP packet but only WRPDD submitted a response, due to this, the committee asked the Board to approve WRPDD as the One-Stop Operator for North Central.

Motion: Ms. Trish Miller

Second: Ms. Amie McBride

Outcome: Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25.

Motion: Mr. Garry Lawrence

Second: Mrs. Stacy Gunderman

Outcome: Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman: Gayle Cooper

Date: 6/23/2025