

North Central Workforce Development Board Meeting
March 16, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.
Italian Grill Restaurant
Minutes

Members Present:

Steve Hall, Ben Baxter, Kimberly Clayborn, Tim London, Steve Roofener, Pamela Williams, Garry Lawrence, Nancy Whitmire, Randy Ratliff, Keith McHan, Paul Lee, Keith Slaten, Kendrick Ketchum, Shayne Gaither, Darline Tucker, Gayle Cooper, Darrell Moore, Micah Woods, Zach Branscum, Regina Burkett, Alvin Hearyman and Pat Dunegan

Members Represented by Proxy:

Angela Ryland

Others Present:

Arnold Harris, Coordinator with Career and Technical Education (CTE) Council, Kay Price, Local Manager, DWS, Jackie Donaldson, Local Manager, DWS, Judy Duncan, AOC, DWS, Martha Taussig, Adult Ed Director, ASUN, Gayla Feist, Adult Ed Director, Clinton Public Schools, Connie Jackson and Ronda Ivy, Vanessa Rodriguez, Greg Miller, Lynn Poff, Angela Goodwin, Lynn Haas, and Van Thomas, WRPDD Staff

A meeting of the North Central Arkansas Workforce Development Board was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Randy Ratliff on March 16, 2016. Chairman Ratliff called for approval of the minutes of the previous meeting which had been distributed earlier by mail. On a motion by Alvin Hearyman and second by Garry Lawrence, the minutes of the meeting were approved unanimously.

Nancy Whitmire, board member and Adult Ed Director at UACCB, presented information about the employer survey the board had agreed at its December meeting to develop to determine the training needs of employers in the ten-county area. She distributed a list of the largest employers by county from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission and a copy of the eight question survey. The survey goals were to identify soft skills, training programs, types of credentials required/recognized and specific training needs a business expected to have in 12-18 months.

After discussion, it was decided that Lynn Haas and her office will contact each employer to get the name and email address of the HR director or owner and to give them advance notice. UACCB will develop the survey online through Survey Monkey, and WRPDD will send it out in May. Zach Branscum moved to approve the employer survey as presented. Seconded by Ben Baxter, the motion carried.

Ms. Haas told the board that application has been made for another National Emergency Grant (NEG) in the amount of \$527,000 for Independence, Izard, Stone, White and Woodruff Counties. Plans are to place 27 temporary workers with the counties and cities to assist with clean-up efforts. Another NEG grant in the amount of \$188,299 covering Izard and Independence Counties is currently in progress. Ten individuals have been placed to work on this grant.

Ms. Haas distributed a handout on the Program Year 2015 funding allocations from the DOL. She stated that formula funds including Adult, Youth and Dislocated Worker are allocated each year and cover a two-year period. The Youth funds generally come in May and Adult and DLW in July and October. The

funds for 2015 were not received until December for this past year. Allocation amounts were \$658,438 for Youth, \$701,823 for DLW and \$642,397 for Adult.

A program report was presented by Connie Jackson who distributed folders with a list of the various services offered through WIOA and the eligibility requirements. She informed the board that under WIOA at least 75% of the youth funds must be spent on out-of-school youth (OSY) and the rest on in-school youth (ISY). Currently there are 35 ISY enrolled and working on work experience at the schools they are attending. There are 25 OSY youth enrolled who are in Adult Education working toward their GED and preparing for college enrollment, earning a Career Readiness Certificate and/or basic computer training. Efforts are being made to recruit more OSY. Approximately 100 adult and dislocated workers are enrolled in training programs through WIOA services. She added that when school costs are met through other grants, WIOA assists with supportive services in the form of housing, child care and/or transportation.

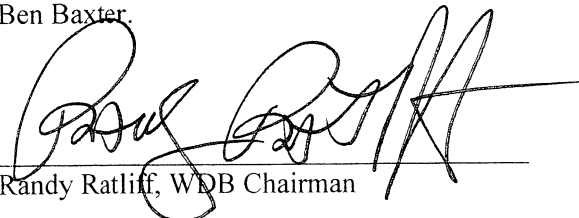
Ms. Haas stated that the WIOA Act requires each state to submit a combined plan to DOL. The purpose of the plan is to align several workforce development programs operated by multiple agencies within the state. The state has completed their plan which covers the period 7/1/16 – 6/30/20 and is available for view online. She told that all local workforce development areas are also required to submit their own regional plans to the state that will include similar objectives and goals set forth in the state plan. A local strategic vision and goals must be developed plus local economic, workforce and workforce development activities analysis must be completed. The plan was originally due in June but DOL has not provided guidance in developing the plan so that deadline has been extended to December. Input from the board on the development of the plan will be sought.

Ms. Haas told the board that one of the key elements in the WIOA Act is to develop sector strategies. Some of those strategies include using funds for proven work-based methods that support sector partnerships such as Individual Training Accounts, OJT and Registered Apprenticeship jobs, conducting meetings with partners including employers to engage in strategic planning and determining goals and how the workforce system should function, determining targeted industry sectors in our region and using current data to base decisions on. Plans are to implement these strategies in our region as well as get input from the board on other methods.

She added that we are one of the partners in the Arkansas Sector Partnership (ASP) grant with ASUB at Searcy, UACCB and ASU-Newport. It provides employer-driven workforce training in high growth industry sectors of Advanced Manufacturing, Health Care, Information Technology and skilled construction trades. The grant serves dislocated workers and long-term unemployed individuals. Our role is to determine if an individual is eligible to receive the training.

In other business, Chairman Ratliff reminded everyone about the upcoming board training April 27th in Little Rock. Kimberly Clayborn invited everyone to attend and/or participate in the Community Connection Event in Batesville sponsored by Arkansas Rehabilitation Services.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned on a motion by Alvin Hearyman and second by Ben Baxter.


Randy Ratliff, WDB Chairman