

**North Central Arkansas  
Workforce Development Board  
June 14, 2023  
Minutes**

The North Central Arkansas Workforce Development Board convened at White River Planning and Development District on June 14, 2023 beginning at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was conducted in person, with a zoom option, and there was a quorum. Chairman Gayle Cooper presided with the following members present:

Gayle Cooper	Dr. Zach Harber
Garry Lawrence	Michael Arnold
Marcus Orf	Dr. John Kelly
Stacy Gunderman	Raye Ann Hager
Stacey Gunderman	Amber Neal
Jill Dockins	Cecilia Brunson
Raye Ann Hager	
Pat Dunegan (Via Zoom)	

Others Present:

Staff included: Janet Smith, Bree DeShazo, Tamika Speed, Byron Southerland, Taylor Smith, Ronda Ivy, Lynn Poff, and Elizabeth Smith. Guests included: Tom Pittman (ADWS), Chad Brown (ADWS), Eddie Thomas (ADWS), Judy Fulbright (ADWS), Charles Walker (ASUN), Brian Shonk (UACCB), Zach Perrine (UACCB), Holly Smith (UACCB), Elizabeth Smith (UACCB), Matt Cleveland (ASYR), Cheryl English, Stephen Partridge (DSB), Todd Hunter (AEDC), Amie McBride (UniFirst).

Members not present:

Karen Coltharp	Chad Vincent
Shayne Gaither	Renee' Martin
Alvin Hearyman	Wiley Osborn
Laura McGuire	Brittany Baker
PaTricia Cargill-Zelasko	Jamie Rayford
Gina Wells	

Since there was a quorum, Chairman Cooper asked the Board for approval of the previous minutes from March of 2023. Chairman Cooper asked if there were any discussion that needed to take place before the voting and there was none.

1<sup>st</sup> Mr. Dr. John Kelly 2<sup>nd</sup> Michael Arnold All members voted yes for approval of the minutes.

Chairman Cooper then called upon the guest speakers Mr. Todd Hunter and Mr. Marcus Orf. Mr. Hunter explained the Future Fit program and how it is geared towards the manufacturing industry. Mr. Orf described how Ozarka College had implemented the Future Fit program in a different way than most by creating a course that can now be counted towards as a credit. The Future Fit class at Ozarka is giving basic manufacturing training as well as skilled trades' math, and writing skills.

Chairman Cooper then called on Mr. Byron Southerland to present the financial report. Mr. Southerland explained that North Central had spent all funds for that program year, thus, not having to return any. Mr. Southerland showed specific charts that detailed where the money was being spent and showed what areas were spending the most, which was work experience. Mr. Cooper asked the Board to approve the budget.

1<sup>st</sup> Mrs. Stacy Gunderman 2<sup>nd</sup> Dr. Zach Harber All members votes yes for approval of the policy.

Chairman Cooper then called upon Ms. Cheryl English. Ms. English was a former North Central WIOA participant and spoke about her experience. She stated that through WIOA she was able to get her GED and her Associates at the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville. Ms. English stated that she received supportive services that enabled her to graduate.

Chairman Cooper then asked Mrs. Taylor Smith to give a One-Stop update. Mrs. Smith started her presentation with sharing that ADWS made the decision to close certain Workforce Centers, one of those being in the North Central area. Mrs. Smith spoke about the closing of the Batesville Workforce Center and how that might impact the people of North Central. After discussion from the Board about the closing of the center, Mrs. Smith presented the foot traffic numbers of both the Batesville and Searcy Comprehensive Centers. Mrs. Smith also detailed upcoming job fairs and events that she, as the North Central Business Services leader, would be participating in.

Chairman Cooper called upon Ms. Elizabeth Smith to discuss changes to the One-Stop Contract and certain program policies. Ms. Smith stated that the One-Stop Contract needed an extension for one year and was asking the Board to approve a budget change from \$45,000 to \$55,000. Mrs. Stacy Gunderman pointed out a mistake in the contract. A date was wrong and needed to be changed from 2023 to 2024. Chairman Cooper asked for approval of the One-Stop Contract Modification with the stipulation that the date be changed.

1<sup>st</sup> Mrs. Amber Neal 2<sup>nd</sup> Dr. Zach Harber All members voted yes for approval of the contract.

Chairman Cooper then asked for discussion on the Bylaws policy that was previously sent to the Board with one minor change. Since there was none Chairman Cooper asked for a motion to be made.

1<sup>st</sup> Dr. John Kelly 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs. Stacy Gunderman All members voted yes for approval of the policy.

The next policy was the Priority of Service-Adults. Chairman Cooper asked if everyone had the opportunity to look through the policy as it was distributed previously. No discussion took place.

1<sup>st</sup> Mrs. Amber Neal 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Garry Lawrence All members voted yes for approval of the policy.

Next was the On the Job Training Policy. It was stated by Ms. Elizabeth Smith that a few changes were made to further align with the State policy. Chairman Cooper asked for discussion of this policy and since there was none, he then asked for a motion.

1<sup>st</sup> Dr. John Kelly 2<sup>nd</sup> Dr. Zach Harber All members voted yes for approval of the policy.

The next policy discussed was the Incumbent Worker policy. Ms. Elizabeth Smith explained that a few minor changes were implemented to align with the State policy. Chairman Cooper asked for discussion of this policy and since there was none, he then asked for a motion.

1<sup>st</sup> Dr. Zach Harber 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs. Stacy Gunderman All members voted yes for approval of the policy.

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1<sup>st</sup> Dr. Zach Harber 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs. Stacy Gunderman All members voted yes for approval of the policy.

The Supportive Services for Adults policy was explained by Ms. Elizabeth Smith. This policy was updated to reflect changes that ADWS requested. Chairman Cooper asked for discussion of this policy and since there was none, he then asked for a motion.

1<sup>st</sup> Mr. Garry Lawrence 2<sup>nd</sup> Dr. Zach Harber All members voted yes for approval of the policy

Lastly, was the Youth Supportive Services policy. This policy was updated to reflect changes that ADWS requested. Chairman Cooper asked for discussion of this policy and since there was none, he then asked for a motion.

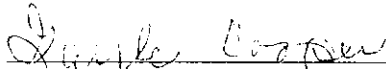
1<sup>st</sup> Dr. Zach Harber 2<sup>nd</sup> Stacey Gunderman All members voted yes for approval of the policy

Next, Chairman Cooper called on Mrs. Bree DeShazo to provide a WIOA review and an ETPL update. Mrs. DeShazo stated that North Central currently has 189 participants which 27 of them were on Work Experience and 2 were in On the Job Training, the rest being in Occupational Skills Training. Mrs. DeShazo then presented the ETPL to the Board. Chairman Cooper asked for discussion before approval of the ETPL.

1<sup>st</sup> Mrs. Amber Neal 2<sup>nd</sup> Dr. Zach Harber All members voted yes for approval of the ETPL.

Having no further business Chairman Cooper asked for a motion to adjourn.

1<sup>st</sup> Mrs. Stacy Gunderman 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Garry Lawrence All members were in favor of adjournment.

  
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Gayle Cooper – Board Chair

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