

**North Central Arkansas
Workforce Development Board
June 15, 2022
Minutes**

The North Central Arkansas Workforce Development Board convened at White River Planning and Development District on June 15, 2022 beginning at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was conducted in person, with a phone option, and there was a quorum. The Board meeting took place after the committee meetings which were held at 10:30 a.m. Board Chair Gayle Cooper presided with the following members present:

Shayne Gaither	Zach Harber
Robin Hunt	Garry Lawrence
Marcus Orf	Gina Wells
PaTricia Cargill-Zelasko	Karen Coltharp
Stacy Gunderman	Raye Ann Hager
Renee' Martin	Wiley Osborn
Jamie Rayford	Becky Warren

No one attended by phone.

Others Present:

Staff includes; Byron Southerland, Janet Smith, Taylor Smith, Wendy Howard, Tamika Speed, Jessica Henry and Elizabeth Smith. Guests include; Chad Brown (Executive Director of the Arkansas Workforce Board and our guest speaker), Dr. Brian Shonk (Chancellor, University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville), Emily Neely (UACCB Adult Education instructor), Judy Fulbright (TANF for ADWS), Matthew Cleveland (Chief Development Officer for the Arkansas Sherrif's Youth Ranch), Davis Threlkeld (Senator Cotton's Representative), and Maddison Mashburn (WIOA Participant and a guest speaker).

Since there was a quorum, Chairman Cooper asked the Board for approval of the previous minutes including those that were not voted on at the March meeting due to no quorum. Chairman Cooper asked if there were any discussion that needed to take place before the voting and there was none. 1st Mrs. Becky Warren 2nd Mr. Garry Lawrence All members voted yes for approval of the minutes.

Chairman Cooper then called on Ms. Elizabeth Smith to introduce the first guest speaker. Ms. Elizabeth introduced Mr. Chad Brown who is the Executive Director of the Arkansas Workforce Board. Mr. Brown spoke about the unemployment rate and how in Arkansas there are 44% of citizens who are not in the workforce. Mrs. Jamie Rayford asked Mr. Brown if the State Workforce Board had any conversations about how to stabilize the workforce in Arkansas. Mr. Brown stated that they have had conversations about this topic and believes the answer lies within the many resources that are available including WIOA. Mrs. Stacy Gunderman asked Mr. Brown how we could better get the word out about these programs. Mr. Chad Brown talked about marketing and the media resources we could use, however, without a marketing budget this proves difficult for the local areas.

Chairman Cooper called upon Mr. Byron Southerland to present the financial report. Mr. Southerland presented to the board how North Central is set to expend all funds by the end of June 2022. Mr. Southerland asked if there were any questions about the spreadsheet he produced to the

Board and having no questions, Chairman Cooper asked for approval of the financial report. 1st Mr. Marcus Orf 2nd Mrs. Becky Warren All members voted yes to the approval of the financial report.

Chairman Cooper called upon Mrs. Madison Mashburn to speak. Mrs. Mashburn is a former WIOA participant who just graduated with her Cosmetology degree. Mrs. Mashburn thanked the Board and the local WIOA staff for all the help that was received. She specifically thanked her Career Specialist, Mrs. Tamika Speed, for "going above and beyond" to ensure she completed. Mrs. Mashburn stated that she did not know WIOA was in existence until a friend told her about the program. She stated that she was a struggling single mother at the time and that without WIOA's help she would not have her degree.

Following the agenda, Chairman Cooper called on Mrs. Taylor Smith to give a One-Stop update. Mrs. Taylor provided the Board with monthly activity reports of the three centers in the North Central area.

After Mrs. Taylor Smith spoke, and there were no questions posed, then Chairman Cooper called upon Mrs. Jessica Henry to give a TANF update. Mrs. Henry spoke about the various businesses she has visited in order to get the word out about the new TANF program that White River has adopted. Mrs. Jessica stated that she has very few participants currently so outreach is her main priority. Mrs. Becky Warren raised a question on whether or not an individual could be enrolled in two TANF programs if they were offering different services. She was answered with yes they could.

Mrs. Bree DeShazo, Records Manager, was on the agenda to present a program update to the Board. Mrs. DeShazo was not able to attend the meeting so Chairman Cooper called on Ms. Elizabeth Smith to present this information. Ms. Elizabeth presented to the Board North Central's participant count, as well as the Adult Barrier counts.

Chairman Cooper then asked Ms. Elizabeth to present the next item on the agenda which were policy updates. She presented the Board with the current by-laws and discussed how another local area reached out to Ms. Elizabeth letting her know that the area was being written up in their monitoring report for not having a section about the stakeholders in their by-laws. Ms. Smith stated that in order to get ahead of the issue for our area that section had now been added. Chairman Cooper asked if there were any questions or concerns and there were none.

1st Becky Warren 2nd Dr. Zach Harber All members voted yes for the approval of the by-laws.

Ms. Elizabeth then presented the new update to the Supportive Services Policy for Adults and Dislocated Workers. She stated that the local area would like to add paying 25% of a participants court fines, not to exceed \$500.00. Ms. Elizabeth stated that we had a potential participant who needed work experience but could not get back and forth to work because the Judge had her license. The participant owed fines and the Judge, who is familiar with the WIOA program, stated that if we could pay a small portion of the participants fines then he would allow her to have the licenses back to get to work. Mrs. Becky Warren stated that her husband is a police officer and that people not having their licenses is a big problem in our area. Having no further discussion Chairman Cooper asked for approval.

1st Becky Warren 2nd Dr. Zach Harber All members voted yes for the approval of the policy.

Chairman Cooper asked if there were any further business that needed to be conducted and Ms. Elizabeth Smith stated that she would like the Committee Chairs to give an update on what took place prior to the full Board meeting. Mrs. Becky Warren, who filled in for Mrs. Jamie Rayford who left prior to this discussion, stated that the Youth Committee primarily discussed the difference between in school youth and out of school youth. Chair Robin Hunt, stated that the Disability

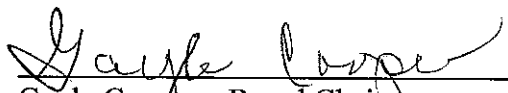
Committee discussed possible barriers to employment for individuals with disabilities. Chair Raye Hager, One-Stop Committee, said that her Committee talked about a referral system. Dr. Harber asked if the One-Stop Manager could have access to the online applications and was answered with yes. Minutes of these committees are kept separately.

Following the discussion about the committees Ms. Elizabeth Smith asked for the full Board to vote on the approval of the new committee members that were previously discussed through email. Elizabeth E. Smith and Matthew Cleveland were voted to be on the Youth Committee. Taylor Smith and Judy Fulbright was voted to be on the One-Stop Committee. Dr. Dametrice FranSha' and Kim Childress were voted to be on the Disability Committee.

1st Dr. Zach Harber 2nd Becky Warren

All members voted yes for the approval of the new committee members.

Having no further business to discuss, Board Chair Gayle Cooper adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.


Gayle Cooper – Board Chair 12/14/2022
North Central Arkansas Workforce Development Board