

North Central Workforce Development Board Meeting
December 9, 2015 – 10:00 a.m.
Italian Grill Restaurant
Minutes

Members Present:

Zach Branscum, Steve Hall, Regina Burkett, Gayle Cooper, Randy Ratliff, Garry Lawrence, Darrell Moore, Pam Williams, Angela Ryland, Steve Roofener, Paul Lee, Nancy Whitmire, Micah Woods, Keith Slaten, Ben Baxter, Kimberly Clayborn, Kendrick Ketchum

Members Represented by Proxy:

Alvin Hearyman, Shayne Gaither, Pat Dunegan

Others Present:

Arnold Harris and Mary Roberts, Coordinators with Career and Technical Education (CTE) Councils, Kay Price, Local Manager, DWS, Lisa Earls, AR Rehabilitation, Charlie Clark, Chairman, AR Workforce Development Board and 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 December 9, 2015. Chairman Ratliff called for approval of the minutes of the previous meeting which had been distributed earlier by mail. On a motion by Angela Ryland and second by Regina Burkett, the minutes of the meeting were approved unanimously.

Charlie Clark, Chairman of the Arkansas Workforce Development Board, discussed the Arkansas vision for the workforce development delivery system and how to prepare for the future. Some of the main goals include improving communication, strategic planning, and teaching the boards and employers that the workforce centers are training facilities, not just a place to apply for unemployment. A copy of the Vision for the Arkansas Workforce Development System was distributed to the board.

Nancy Whitmire talked about developing a survey to send to employers to determine their training needs. The survey would be sent out under the board's name, and the results shared with higher education and others. She will bring the draft survey to the board at the March meeting for their review and approval. Keith Slaten moved to approve the development of the survey to distribute to employers. Seconded by Ben Baxter, the motion carried unanimously.

Van Thomas, WRPDD Executive Director, reviewed the WIOA monitoring report of NADC and transfer of the program to WRPDD. Prior to the meeting, each board member received a copy of the 2014 monitoring report from the Department of Workforce Services' visit May 13-18, 2015 and WRPDD's response.

Lynn Haas, WIOA Administrative Director, informed the board that the Department of Labor (DOL) plans to offer training for all workforce board members throughout the state. It is anticipated that the training will be conducted between mid-January and mid-February at one central location.

Chairman Ratliff stated that the committee assignments have been made according to member's preference from the first meeting in September. A list of the various committees and members was mailed out in the board's packet.

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Guest speaker Arnold Harris, CTE Coordinator with the North Central Arkansas Education Cooperative, discussed the activities of the Career and Technical Education Councils. He talked about the challenges of employers as well as those in the field of education face. He stated that one of the main challenges that education faces today is safety of the students. Mr. Harris added that soft skills was the number one priority employers needed in their workers. They felt they could teach the technical part of the job if the employee possessed the soft skills needed.

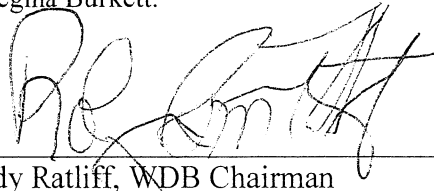
The board members who represent businesses agreed that workers need to possess soft skills, have basic math skills, accept responsibility and possess ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing.

Ms. Haas informed the board that the final WIOA regulations were supposed to be issued by the DOL at the end of 2015; however, it will now be Spring of 2016. The final regulations are to provide guidance in developing new policies in accordance with the WIOA Act. Due to the delay, Ms. Haas asked the board for approval to grandfather in the current policies under the WIA Act. Those policies included 1) Supportive Services, 2) Individual Training Account, 3) Priority of Services, 4) Veterans and Eligible Spouses Priority of Services, 5) Eligible Training Provider, 6) Memorandum of Understanding, 7) Self-Sufficiency, 8) 6th Youth Barrier, 9) Coordination and Non-Duplication of Services, 10) Procedures for Resolution of Findings, 11) Customer Flow Policies, 12) General Contracting Policies, 13) Work Experience, OJT and Customized Training. The policy manual was available for any board member who had questions or wished to review the policies. On a motion by Steve Hall and second by Garry Lawrence, the Board approved grandfathering in the current policies.

Ms. Haas informed the group that a National Dislocated Worker Grant in the amount of \$60,559 from the DOL had been received. It will cover Independence and Izard Counties and create temporary jobs for ten eligible persons to assist with clean up and recovery efforts as a result of severe storms. She explained that an eligible person must be a dislocated worker or long term unemployed (15 out of the last 26 weeks). The grant period is August 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016.

In other business, Ms. Haas told the board that the next meeting is set for March 9, 2016.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Garry Lawrence and second by Regina Burkett.



Randy Ratliff, WDB Chairman