

North Central Arkansas Workforce Development Board – Meeting Minutes 6-13-18

The North Central Arkansas Workforce Development Board convened for its quarterly meeting on June 13, 2018 at the University of Arkansas Community College in Batesville. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Chair Pam Williams.

Members in attendance included: Pam Williams, Angela Ryland, Shayne Gaither, Jada Ragland, Tim London, Regina Burkett, Denise Wilson, Darline Tucker, Garry Lawrence, Ben Baxter, Dara Samuel, Gayle Cooper, Sherry Organ. Proxy votes were submitted by Keith McClanahan, Pat Dunagan and Micah Woods. A quorum was declared.

Others in attendance were Tanya Plunkett (ADWS), Arnell Willis (ADWS) Dave Hoque (IBEW), Trish Miller (Ozarka College Adult Ed), Robin Tate (ARS) and Leonard Mesa (ASU-Beebe). Attending from WRPDD/WIOA were Rebecca Patterson, Lynn Poff, Byron Southerland, Ronda Ivy, Jan Smith, Wendy Howard, Greg Miller, Mitzi Hargan, Carrie McIntosh, Donetta Bradford, Angela Goodwin and Karla Rush.

Minutes from the March 2018 meeting were approved unanimously after a motion from Garry Lawrence and second by Tim London.

The next agenda item was presented by Karla Rush. Ms. Rush discussed the process involved in updating four policies (Work Experience, Individual Training Account, Procurement, and Supportive Services for Youth and Adult/Dislocated Workers). Rush explained the updates were in compliance with state recommendations and the intent of the local workforce development board's mission. With a motion to approve all policies as presented from Ben Baxter seconded by Angela Ryland, the motion passed unanimously.

A financial report was provided by WRPDD accountant Byron Southerland and program updates were given on one-stop operations and core partners by Karla Rush, NEG program by Angela Goodwin and WIOA participation by Donetta Bradford.

After introductions of visitors and members, Chair Williams invited comments from special visitor Arnell Willis, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services Director. Willis discussed the barriers for job seekers, the interest of regional workforce leadership to create strategies to serve target populations and upcoming performance measures for Arkansas' workforce boards. Director Willis stressed increased business services, funds utilization rates, increased services to ex-offenders and to target populations with fourteen specific barriers to employment. Board members engaged in question/answer time with Director Willis.

Chair Williams asked the board members to think about potential educational initiatives and training topics for upcoming meetings.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:20.

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Approved: Carnie Williams

Date: September 12, 2018