

**North Central Arkansas
Workforce Development Board
November 15, 2023
Minutes**

The North Central Arkansas Workforce Development Board convened at White River Planning and Development District on November 15, 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	Karen Palmer
Stacy Gunderman	Jennifer Pike
Dr. Zach Harber	Gina Wells
Janet Hearyman	
Garry Lawrence	
Amber Neal (Zoom)	
Wiley Osborn	

Others Present:

Staff included; Janet Smith, Bree DeShazo, Taylor Smith, Chase Shonk, Calvin Wright and Elizabeth Smith. Guests included; Tom Pittman (ADWS), Eddie Thomas (ADWS), Charles Walker (ASUN), Stephen Partridge (DSB), and Trish Miller (Ozarka College).

Members not present:

Michael Arnold
Brittany Baker
PaTricia Cargill-Zelasko
Renee' Martin
Amie McBride
Laura McGuire
Marcus Orf
Chad Vincent

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

1st Mrs. Stacy Gunderman 2nd Mr. Garry Lawrence All members voted yes for approval of the minutes.

Chairman Cooper then called upon Ms. Elizabeth Smith to present the WIOA participant videos. Ms. Smith showed two videos to the Board which included testimonies from participants about how the WIOA Title I-B program has helped them reach their goals.

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 actual sub-grant agreement per ADWS. Ms. Smith presented this to the Board. Chairman Cooper asked for approval of the One-Stop sub-grant.

1st Dr. Zach Harber 2nd Stacy Gunderman All members voted yes for approval of the sub-grant agreement.

Ms. Smith then proceeded to explain the policy changes. ADWS issued an Issuance regarding the Local Areas Individual Training Account policy and procedures. Ms. Smith showed the changes to the Board and Chairman Cooper asked for approval.

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

Chairman Cooper then called on Mr. Calvin Wright and Mr. Chase Shonk to present the financial report. Mr. Wright explained where North Central was at in terms of spending the allocated funds. He also explained that North Central was anticipating a cut in funding for the new 2024 year. Mr. Wright explained that this was due to the unemployment rate decreasing in our ten county area. Mr. Shonk showed specific charts that detailed where the money was being spent and showed what areas were spending the most. Mr. Shonk also stated that currently North Central was not aligned with the Youth 75/25 rule but expected those percentages to even out as the Summer Work Experience had ended. Chairman Cooper asked the Board to approve the budget.

1st Dr. Zach Harber 2nd Mr. Wiley Osborn All members voted yes for approval of the financial report.

Chairman Cooper then asked Mrs. Taylor Smith to give a One-Stop update. Mrs. Smith shared the monthly activity report of the Searcy Workforce Center. She explained the job orders and referrals that were taking place as well as the increased outreach efforts of the Searcy Workforce Center to meet the needs of the ten county area. Mrs. Smith also provided a list of activities that were forthcoming.

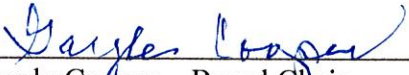
Chairman Cooper asked Mrs. Tamika Speed to tell the Board about a recent youth conference she had attended on behalf of the Local Board. Mrs. Speed discussed the different sessions she was able to attend and she spoke about the new youth techniques she was excited to show her coworkers.

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 176 participants. Mrs. DeShazo then presented the ETPL to the Board which had one major change which was that of ASU-Beebe's price increases. (This price increase includes the campuses under ASU-Beebe which is Heber Springs and Searcy.) Chairman Cooper asked for discussion before approval of the ETPL.

1st Mr. Garry Lawrence 2nd Dr. Zach Harber All members voted yes for approval of the ETPL and the price increases at ASU-Beebe.

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

1st Dr. Zach Harber 2nd Mr. Wiley Osborn All members were in favor of adjournment.



Gayle Cooper – Board Chair
North Central Arkansas Workforce Development Board