

Southwest Arkansas Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

Southwest Ark. Planning & Development District, Magnolia

Members Present: The Southwest Arkansas Workforce Development Board convened a full Board meeting on January 14, 2025. The meeting was conducted in-person and remotely utilizing Teams and teleconference. Whitney Peterson, Cory Walker, LaVennier Brown, Rory Gulick, Barbara Hamilton, Voniece French, Della Wooley, John Mack, Becky Ives, Ivory Curry, Ophelia Strickland, Don White, Cory Walker, Diann Epps, Talia Worth, Chad Martin. Southwest Staff attended: Renee Dycus, Annette Hughey, Lori White, Christina Tate, Lisa Stamper, Sherry Bailey, and Shelda Garland; Special Guests: Brian Rogers, Jennifer Schroeder

Welcome: Board Chair, Whitney Peterson, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Action Item #1 – Approval of September 17, 2024, minutes: Mr. Gulick made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Wooley seconded. Via a voice vote, the minutes were approved.

Action Item #2 – Approval of the DLW Transfer to Adult Funding: Ms. Stamper discussed the need for a funding transfer. Mr. Walker made a motion to approve the transfer and Ms. Epps seconded. Via a voice vote, the transfer was approved.

Action Item #3 – Approval of the 2025 Board Meeting Calendar: Ms. Peterson presented the 2025 Board Meeting Calendar for approval. Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the 2025 calendar, and Ms. Wooley seconded. Via a voice vote, the calendar was approved.

Special Workforce Presentations: Ms. Schroeder – SouthArk, gave a presentation on Workforce Grants with an overview of each one received and how the board may assist; Mr. Davis gave a presentation on transforming lives and his journey as a WIOA Training Provider.

Committee Reports

Ms. Peterson gave the Executive Committee Report, LaVennier Brown gave the Disability Committee Report, and Rory Gulick gave the One-Stop Committee Report.

Staff Reports

Ms. Garland – Board Staff, Ms. Stamper – Staff Accountant, Ms. Bailey – OSO, Ms. White – WIOA Program Manager, and Ms. Hughey – Business Services, gave updates on the WIOA Program and Business Services activities.

Partner Updates


Ms. Hamilton – SAU-Tech Adult Ed, Ms. Brown – ARS, and Mr. Richmond – Employment Services gave updates for core partner programs.

Other Business

- The next meeting date was scheduled for 8.12.25.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:35 pm.



Whitney Peterson, SWAWDB Chair

4/15/25

Date