

Southwest Arkansas Workforce Development Board
December 12, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.
Southwest Arkansas Planning & Development District

Members Present: The Southwest Arkansas Workforce Development Board convened a full Board meeting through electronic means on December 12, 2023. The meeting was conducted in-person and remotely utilizing Teams and teleconference. Adija Banks, Vice Chair, presided with the following members voicing their presence: Becky Ives, Shaun Clark, Ophelia Strickland, Diann Epps, John Mack, Barbara Hamilton (Denise Johnson), Rory Gulick, LaVennier Brown, Cory Walker, Kevin Smith, Chris Donaldson, Ivory Curry, Voniece French, Phoebe Bailey, Dr. Christine Holt, Lola Smith. Southwest Staff attended: Renee Dycus, Annette Hughey, Lori White, Lisa Stamper, Reese Broadnax, Sherry Bailey, and Shelda Garland; Special Guest - David Mason, ACDS

Welcome: Vice Chair, Adija Banks, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Action Item #1 – Approval of September 12, 2023, minutes: Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes and Dr. Holt seconded. Via a voice vote, the minutes were approved.

Action Item #2 – Approval of the Work Experience Policy for Adults and DLW: Ms. Garland discussed the revised section within the Work Experience Policy for Adults and Dislocated Workers. She explained how the policy had to be reworded in order to reflect accurate procedures. Mr. Gulick made a motion to approve the revisions and Ms. Ives seconded. Via a voice vote, the Work Experience Policy revisions were approved.

Action Item #3 – Approval of Proposed Transfer from DLW to Adult: Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Walker seconded. Via a voice vote, the Transfer was approved.

Action Item #4 – Approval of Board Meeting Calendar for 2024: Mr. Donaldson made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Smith seconded. Via a voice vote, the 2024 Calendar was approved.

Staff Reports

Ms. Garland, Ms. Bailey, Ms. White, and Ms. Hughey gave updates on the WIOA Program and Business Services activities.

Partner Updates

Ms. Johnson, Ms. Brown, and Ms. Smith gave updates for Adult Education, Rehabilitation, and Employment Services.

Community Updates

Chantel Jones gave updates for the local Health Coalition.

Special Presentations included SW WIOA Success Stories from Mr. Paul Harness and Mr. Marcus Yarbrough; "Get to Know Your Board Members" presentations from Ms. Phoebe Bailey, Ms. Adija Banks, Mr. Cory Walker, Mr. Rory Gulick, and Mr. Ivory Curry; "Leveraging Apprenticeships by Industry Sector" by Mr. David Mason, and Ms. Ophelia Strickland on the "Power of the Introvert".

Other Business

The next meeting date was announced for March 12, 2024

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:03 pm.



SWAWDB Chair



Date