

**Southwest Arkansas Workforce Development Board**  
**August 10, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.**  
**Arkansas Workforce Center – Adult Education Classroom**

**Members Present:** The Southwest Arkansas Workforce Development Board convened the first full Board meeting through electronic means on August 10, 2021. The meeting was conducted in-person and remotely utilizing Teams and teleconference. One-Stop Committee Chair, Rory Gulick presided with the following members voicing their presence: Diann Epps, Jelyn Wynn, Whitney Peterson, Ophelia Lindsey, Don White, Pam Willis, Barbara Hamilton, Rory Gulick, Krystin Hicks, Sonya Archer, John Mack, Bentley Wallace, Kevin Smith, Joshua Taylor, Kensel Green by proxy Emily Wilson. Southwest Staff attended: Renee Dycus, Annette Hughey, LaToyia Williams, Lisa Stamper, and Shelda Garland. Guests attended: Jennifer Black, Director of Adult Education UA Cossatot; Leslie Daniels, UA Cossatot; Sherry Bailey, SW One-Stop Operator; LaDonna Fusilier, ARS; Chad Brown, Director of AR State Workforce Board; Tyler Gibbons, AR State Board Administrative Assistant. A quorum was declared.

**Welcome:** In the absence of the Board Chair, Tammy Waters, and the Vice-Chair, Julie Roberson, Rory Gulick called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Gulick welcomed the new Board member, Krystin Hicks. Ms. Hicks introduced herself as the owner of Barks and Bubbles in Prescott.

**Action Item #1 – Approval of May 25, 2021 minutes:** Diane Epps made a motion to approve, and Jelyn Wynn seconded the motion. Via a roll call vote, the minutes were approved.

**Action Item #2 – DLW Transfer to Adult:** Ms. Stamper informed the board about the oversite and the recapture of DLW FY20 funds in the amount of 14,313.89 and there was discussion of the dwindling demand for DLW funds. She discussed with board the low DLW demand for funds and the need to transfer DLW PY20 and DLW FY21 funds in the amount of \$250,000 to Adult PY20 and FY21 funds, since all of these grant funds will be expiring on June 30, 2021. Ms. Stamper also reported that SWAPDD is seeing more of a need for Adult funds than DLW funds. New DLW funds are coming available with the issuance of PY21 funds and the coming issuance of FY22 DLW funds. Kevin Smith made a motion to approve and Jelyn Wynn seconded the motion. Via a roll call vote, the transfer was approved.

**Report from One-Stop Committee Chair – Rory Gulick:** Mr. Gulick updated the Board on the committee's plan to complete the One-Stop Certifications at each of the 5 workforce centers.

**Report from Youth Committee Chair – Shannon Puckett:** On behalf of Ms. Puckett, Ms. Garland reported that the committee had met to discuss various barriers for youth and staff that they need to devise plans to increase outreach and participation. They also set up plans for a Traveling Townhall Meeting/Resource Fair in which they can communicate with the community what services their partners provide. The Fair would travel to overcome any geographic barriers. Another item they discussed was a reverse job fair where students present themselves to potential employers. Another great idea that came from this meeting was to increase awareness of youth programs by using social media.

**Report from Disability Committee Chair – Kensel Green:** Ms. Green's proxy, Emily Wilson, reported that the Disability committee discussed disability etiquette Training for employers in the southwest region. The goal is to provide at least 3 employer trainings per quarter. They will start with Union, Columbia, and Ouachita counties. In both Union and Ouachita Counties, they will attempt to schedule this training through the Chamber of Commerce. AmFuel has been identified in Columbia County.

They will also provide training to the WIOA Staff and will make contact with Mrs. Williams to schedule that for September. Disabilities awareness is in October. Their goal is present a virtual job fair. They would like to have ten employers present information about their companies, positions available, and hiring process. They will work with participants on how to interview remotely and prepare them for job fair. The proposed date in Oct 27<sup>th</sup> 10-12.

**Report from Board Staff – Shelda Garland:** Ms. Garland introduced the new One-Stop Operator, Ms. Sherry Bailey, as a native of Rosston, AR, a graduate of Southern AR University, and 8 years of experience with the AR Human and Development Corporation.

**Report from One Stop Operator – Sherry Bailey:** Ms. Bailey reported she is in the process of coordinating a Partner’s Resource Fair for the Southwest Workforce Development Area. She is working with UA Community College in Hope to use the Hempstead Hall on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Presentations:** Ms. Jennifer Black and Leslie Daniels gave a presentation on YouthBuild, a program which provides training to youth, ages 16 to 24, for the construction trades.

**Other Business:** Mr. Gulick recognized guests, Mr. Chad Brown and Mr. Tyler Gibson, from the AR State Workforce Development Board. The next board meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2021.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to discuss, Shelda Garland did a roll call and adjourned the meeting at 11:30 am.



SWAWDB Chair



Date