

Southwest Arkansas Workforce Development Board

February 9, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Board Meeting/Conference Call

Welcome: Tammy Waters, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Members Present: The Southwest Arkansas Workforce Development Board convened the first full Board meeting through electronic means on February 9, 2021. The meeting was conducted remotely utilizing Zoom and teleconference. Chair Tammy Waters presided with the following members voicing their presence: Becky Ives, Charlie Goodwin, Julie Roberson, Christy Ouei, Whitney Peterson, Pam Willis, Sonya Archer, Robert Harrison, Tim Golden, John Mack, Shannon Puckett, Barbara Hamilton, Rory Gulick, Joshua Taylor, and Kensel Green. Southwest Staff attended: Renee Dycus, Annette Hughey, LaToyia Williams, Lisa Stamper, Carolyn Woods, Shelda Garland, and OSO Rodney McGee. Guests attended: Regional Advisor, Dr. Claudia Griffin. A quorum was later declared.

Action Item #1 – Approval of November 17, 2020 minutes: Robert Harrison made a motion to approve, and Kensel Green seconded the motion. Via a roll call vote, the minutes were approved.

Action Item #2 – Committee Sign Up: Ms. Waters encouraged Board members to sign up for the Standing Committees and the Ad Hoc Committee. Ms. Garland stated she will accept sign up via email for the following week. Christy Ouei made a motion to approve the committee sign up. Shannon Puckett seconded the motion. Via a roll call vote, the motion passed.

Action Item #3 – OSO Contract/Performance Measures: Ms. Dycus reported that the One-Stop Operator requested for the number of customer surveys, in the original contract, be cut in half. During the last meeting, the Board voted to keep the performance measure the same during 3rd quarter but cut them in half ongoing, including the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2021. Ms. Dycus proposed to update the One-Stop Operator contract with an amendment to reflect the Board's decision and specify the required performance measure goal for incentive. Via a roll call vote, the motion passed.

Report from Board Chair – Tammy Waters: Ms. Waters gave an overview of the Eligible Training Providers process. Ms. Hughey added that an Ad Hoc committee would need to be formed in order to review the providers and approve training programs.

Report from Board Staff – Shelda Garland: Ms. Garland reported that the Arkansas Governance Training was held a week prior to the Board meeting and is available on the Board's website, swawdb.com. Ms. Garland also reported that the annual state monitoring is coming up March 8th through 12th. Ms. Garland concluded that the Workforce staff are working with the Arkansas Consumer Report System and the America Job Link Alliance to establish the transition from AJL to Rapidstorm.

Report from Title I Service Provider – LaToyia Williams: Ms. Williams reported the current status of Title I-B for the Southwest Development Area includes 201 program participants, in which 15 completed all training and follow up services since the last meeting in November 2020.

Report from Business Services – Annette Hughey: Ms. Hughey reported that several employers have reached out for job referrals, and Business Services has been making referrals to other entities and partners. There are 120 participants in the apprenticeship program with Lockheed Martin. The Southwest region is currently working with the Office of Skill Development to improve apprenticeship programs in the area.

Report from Finance – Lisa Stamper: Ms. Stamper reported financial updates: To date, all of the adult FY 2020 funds were spent in about 13 months, including the \$150,000 from the DLW account. Ms. Stamper stated that the biggest concern, at the moment, is meeting the 20% Work Experience requirement.


Reports from Partners

Adult Education – Barbara Hamilton: Ms. Hamilton reported the Adult Ed centers in Southwest are open and students are being provided services both in person and virtually. The state and local Adult Education staff and Business Industry representatives have been working together over the past year to revamp the WAGE program. They are currently piloting the new changes with 13 Adult Education providers across the state, requiring all Adult Education students to earn the Workforce Preparation certification.

Employment Services – Joshua Taylor: Mr. Taylor reported that 90% or more of employment activity is assisting customers with unemployment insurance, and DWS staff is currently receiving training on AJL Rapidstorm.

Rehabilitation Services – Kensel Green: Ms. Green reported that 19 field offices across the state are up and running with the CDC guidelines in place for COVID. Also, they are providing services remotely for individuals not coming into the office. Ms. Green further reported that Region 8, which includes the El Dorado and Texarkana offices, was number 1 producing region in the state of Arkansas. The region had 370 successful closures placing 370 individuals with disabilities into competitive employment.

Adjournment: There being no further business to discuss, Shelda Garland did a roll call and adjourned the meeting at 10:55 am.



SWAWDB Chair



Date