

Southwest Arkansas Workforce Development Board

March 12, 2024 – 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 March 12, 2024. The meeting was conducted in-person and remotely utilizing Teams and teleconference. Whitney Peterson, Board Chair, presided with the following members voicing their presence: Adjia Banks, Becky Ives, Julie Roberson, Ophelia Strickland, John Mack, Barbara Hamilton, Rory Gulick, LaVennier Brown, Tracie Lee, Cory Walker, Kevin Smith, Chris Donaldson, Ivory Curry, Phoebe Bailey, Lola Smith, and Don White. Southwest Staff attended: Renee Dycus, Annette Hughey, Lori White, Christina Tate, Lisa Stamper, Donna Harper, Reese Broadnax, Sherry Bailey, Tawana Staten and Shelda Garland; Special Guests: Valerie Clark – Lafayette County Judge, Danny Ormand – Lafayette County, Pam Warren – UAHT Adult Ed, Jasmine McCrary – Arkansas Workforce Connections

Welcome: Board Chair, Whitney Peterson, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Action Item #1 – Approval of December 12, 2023, minutes: Mr. Mack made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Smith 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 PY24 - PY27 Local Plan which was reviewed by the board. Ms. Garland further explained how the local plan must be posted for a 30-day period of public comment. Adjia Banks made a motion to approve the Plan for a 30-Day Comment period and Barbara Hamilton seconded. Via a voice vote, the PY24-PY27 Local Plan was approved for comments.

Staff Reports

Ms. Garland – Board Staff, 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. Ms. Smith – Employment Services, and Ms. Brown – ARS gave updates for core partner programs.

Community Updates

Pam Willis gave updates for UAHT Adult Ed Program.

Special Presentations

Recap of the Inaugural Arkansas Lithium Innovation Summit, Judge Valerie Clark

Other Business

- The next meeting date was announced for June 11, 2024

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:03 pm.



SWAWDB Chair

6/11/24

Date