

AGENDA

DECEMBER 16, 2015

ARKANSAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

1:30 P.M.

Call to Order and Introductions Brian Itzkowitz, SP Committee Chair

ACTION Item 1: Approval of Minutes of October 13, 2015 Meeting

Chairman's Comments Brian Itzkowitz, SP Committee Chair

Report from the Staff Cindy Varner, ADWS

- WIOA Interagency Policy Committee Activities
- WIOA National Convening

Report on Board Strategic Planning Event Cindy Varner, ADWS

Review of Draft Board Goals

Review of Draft Vision/Mission Statements

Defining Regions for WIOA Planning Purposes

Announcements

Adjournment

NEXT MEETING DATES

January 12, 2016	10:00 a.m.	SPC Committee	Little Rock
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Goodwill Industries of Arkansas
7400 Scott Hamilton Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas



**For Consideration of the
Arkansas Workforce Development Board
Strategic Planning Committee**

December 16, 2015

AGENDA ITEM 1 – ACTION: Minutes of the October 13, 2015 Committee Meeting

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Strategic Planning Committee approve the minutes of the October 13, 2015 committee meeting.

INFORMATION/RATIONALE: Minutes of the meeting are attached.

UNOFFICIAL

MINUTES

ARKANSAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Strategic Planning Committee

October 13, 2015

The Arkansas Workforce Development Board (AWDB) Strategic Planning Committee was held on October 13, 2015, beginning at 10:02 a.m., at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 11301 Financial Centre Parkway in Little Rock, Arkansas. Chairman Brian Itzkowitz presided with the following members present: Ms. Karen Breashears, Dr. Charisse Childers (by proxy Mr. Jonathan Bibbs), Ms. Diane Hilburn, Mr. Michael Newcity, Mayor Harold Perrin, Mr. Mike Preston (by proxy Mr. Steve Sparks) Ms. Melissa Hanesworth, Mr. Dean Inman, Ms. Katy Morris, Mr. Chad Bishop and Ms. Melissa Hanesworth. Mr. Robert East was unable to attend.

Chair Itzkowitz, recognized a quorum being present, called the meeting to order and called for the first item of business.

Agenda Item 1 – ACTION – Minutes of the September 25, 2015 Strategic Planning Committee:

Chair Itzkowitz proceeded to Agenda Item 1, asking if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. The minutes were approved on a **motion by Mayor Harold Perrin, seconded by Ms. Karen Breashears and carried unanimously.**

Chairman's Comments: Chair Itzkowitz stated there was a new member appointed to the committee since the last full board meeting, Mr. Robert East. However Mr. East was unable to attend the meeting.

Report from Staff: Ms. Cindy Varner provided an update on the board strategic planning event and activities of the WIOA Interagency Policy Committee. Ms. Varner stated the board strategic planning event would take place on November 30th and December 1st and would be facilitated by Maher and Maher, the same facilitator from the July WIOA training and strategy session.

Ms. Varner then provided an update on the WIOA Interagency Policy Committee. She stated Ms. Katy Morris, Ms. Karen Breashears, and Mr. Jonathan Bibbs, who was proxy for Dr. Childers, are members of the policy committee. She stated that the goal of the WIOA Interagency Policy Committee is to develop cross-program cross-agency policies to help prevent duplication and streamline services to both employers and jobseekers. Ms. Varner stated that the committee determined there were 24 policies that need to be developed; 12 are listed as priority and 12 are being placed in a "parking lot" awaiting the release of federal regulations before being developed. The committee members were engaged and asked several questions about the information Ms. Varner presented.

Agenda Item 2 – ACTION – Approval of Policies: Chair Itzkowitz stated that one of the responsibilities of the committee was to review and approve state policies to support the workforce development system. Ms. Varner then provided information on the WIOA Title I Adult Eligibility Policy, WIOA Title I Dislocated Worker Eligibility Policy and the WIOA Title I Youth Eligibility Policy. Following discussion, **a motion to approve the three policies as presented was made by Mr. Dean Inman, seconded by Mr. Michael Newcity, and carried unanimously.**

Committee discussion led to a request of staff to provide more information on the flow of funding, the origin of funding sources, the purpose of the funding, what agencies it flows through, and a report of what activities are being funded. It was determined that Mayor Perrin and Committee Chair Itzkowitz would work with staff to determine further data needed for review by the committee to better understand the programs already in place.

Announcement: Chair Itzkowitz announced that the next meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee will be at 10:00 a.m. on January 12, 2016. He announced the next meeting of the full board will be for the strategic planning session on November 30th and December 1st.

Adjourn: Chair Itzkowitz adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m., on **a motion made by Mr. Dean Inman, seconded by Dr. Chad Bishop, and carried unanimously.**

Brian Itzkowitz, Committee Chair

Daryl Bassett, Director
Department of Workforce Services

*Minutes recorded by Stephanie Carlo
Department of Workforce Services Staff*

Arkansas Workforce Development Board
Strategic Goals for PY 2016 – PY 2019
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2020

Strategic Goal 1: Develop an efficient partnership with employers, the educational system, workforce development partners, and community –based organizations to deliver a platform that will prepare a skilled workforce to existing and new employers.

Goal 1 Objectives:

1. Expand employer partnerships through the support of industry engagement.
2. Identify and promote best practices (private and public) for developing and sustaining partnerships.
3. Expand partnership with economic development to refine sector strategies.
4. Improve communication/participation between education entities, local and state boards, government agencies, community-based organizations, and employers.
5. Increase accountability and clarity of action between all workforce related boards.
6. Increase the utilization of Registered Apprenticeship programs as viable talent development opportunities.
7. Increase connections with employers and Vocational Rehabilitation agencies to provide support and employment for youth and adults with disabilities.
8. Partner with K12 education, higher education and career and technical education to provide consistent rules and eliminate barriers to implementing training programs around the State.
9. Explore data sharing opportunities with non-governmental organizations that are committed partners to the state’s workforce center system that will lead to improved intake, referral, and case management for customers served by multiple agencies (both public and private).
10. Expand small business participation.

Strategic Goal 2: Enhance service delivery to employers and job seekers.

Goal 2 Objectives:

1. Develop a common intake process for jobseekers and businesses that will efficiently connect them with services available from all workforce development partner programs.
2. Develop an integrated data system that will enable the sharing of information between partner agencies to more efficiently service both employers and job seekers.
3. Promote training that leads to industry recognized credentials and certification.
4. Support transportable skill sets for transportable careers.
5. Support career pathways development and sector strategy initiatives as a way to meet business and industry needs.
6. Expand service delivery access points by the use of virtual services.

7. Develop a common business outreach strategy with a common message that will be utilized by all workforce system partners.
8. Develop a menu of services that is available at each service delivery access point that provides a list of the services and training opportunities available through Arkansas's talent development system.
9. Utilize customer satisfaction surveys to ensure continuous improvement of the State's talent development system.

Strategic Goal 3: Increase awareness of the State's Talent Development System

Goal 3 Objectives:

1. Increase access to the workforce development system through a no wrong door approach to services.
2. Change employer and job seeker perceptions of the workforce system.
3. Develop an image-building outreach campaign that educates Arkansans about the services and the career development opportunities available in the State.
4. Utilize technology, including social media and search engine optimization, to better connect jobseekers and employers with the talent development system in Arkansas.
5. Develop a reader friendly website that provides a common repository of information about career development opportunities that's relevant to K12 education, parents, educators, adults, employers, government agencies, and the general public.

**For Consideration of the
Arkansas Workforce Development Board
Strategic Planning Committee**

December 16, 2015

AGENDA ITEM: Defining Regions for WIOA Planning Purposes

INFORMATION/RATIONALE: Section 106 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act requires states as part of the planning process for developing the State plan to identify regions in the State. This must be done prior to the second full program year of implementation, which is July 1, 2016. This information must be included in the State plan as well, which is due on March 3, 2016.

The law requires the State to identify:

- which regions are comprised of one local area that is aligned with the region;
- which regions are comprised of two or more local areas that are (collectively) aligned with the region (referred to as planning regions).
- which regions are interstate areas contained within two or more States, and consist of labor market areas, economic development areas, or other appropriate contiguous subareas of those States.

After consultation with the local workforce development board directors, concern was expressed about the unknown impact of the identification of multi-area regions, including:

- concern that the final WIOA regulations have not been released and will not be prior to the completion of the State plan;
- unknown impact on performance due to lack of guidance from the federal oversight agency; and
- unknown reporting responsibilities when combined with other states for region planning purposes.

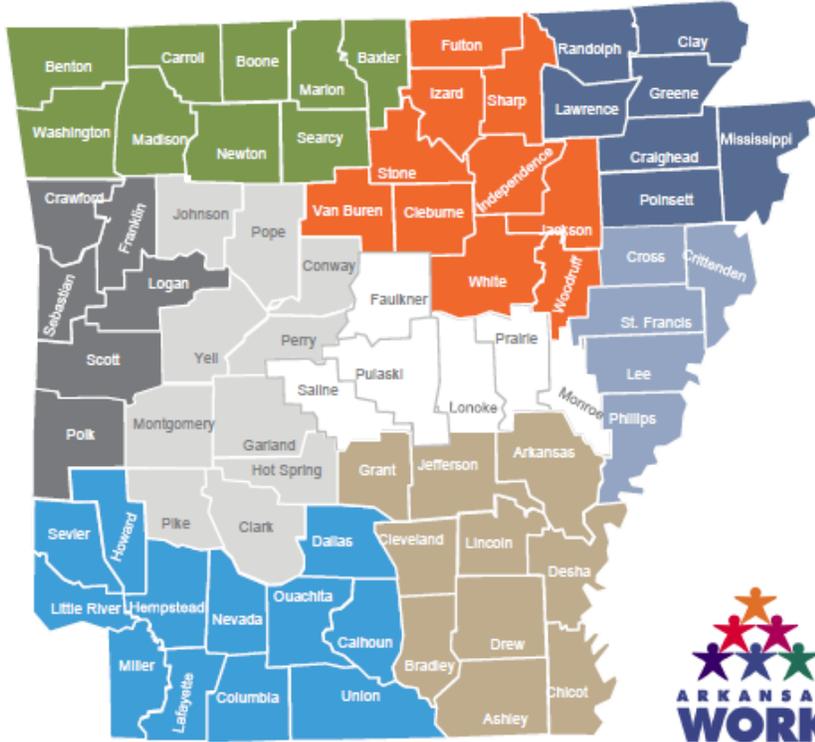
RECOMMENDATION: Due to these concerns expressed above, it is recommended that for the first cycle of the State plan, which can be modified in two years, that the state define regions as follows:

All multi-county local workforce development areas are considered to be regions for the purposes of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act planning. Any local workforce development area that is smaller than two counties will be part of a region for WIOA planning purposes with the local workforce development area(s) that closely align with the region's economic development planning district or metropolitan statistical area.

For the purposes of WIOA regions, the following distribution is proposed.

**State of Arkansas
WIOA Proposed Regions**

-  Central/City of Little Rock Region
-  Eastern Region
-  North Central Region
-  Northeast Region
-  Northwest Region
-  Southeast Region
-  Southwest Region
-  West Central Region
-  Western Region



For information purposes, the following diagram depicts the ten local workforce development areas with metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) identified.

State of Arkansas

Local Workforce Development Areas with Economic Development Districts & Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)

