

# AGENDA

April 12, 2016

## ARKANSAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD TANF OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

10:00 A.M.

Call to Order.....Thomas Anderson, Committee Chair

Chairman's Comments.....Thomas Anderson, Committee Chair

### ACTION Item 1

Minutes of the January 19, 2016 Committee Meeting

Act 1205 of 2015 Updates

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment & Training Program Collaboration  
Update between ADWS-TANF program and Department of Human Services

Announcements

Adjournment

### NEXT MEETING DATES

July 12, 2016	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	Committees Full Board Meeting	Little Rock Little Rock
October 11, 2016	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	Committees Full Board Meeting	Little Rock Little Rock

Embassy Suites Hotel  
11301 Financial Centre Parkway  
Little Rock, Arkansas



**For Consideration of the  
Arkansas Workforce Development Board  
TANF Oversight Committee**

**April 12, 2016**

**AGENDA ITEM 1 – ACTION:** Minutes of the January 19, 2016 Committee Meeting

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the TANF Oversight Committee approve the minutes of the January 19, 2016 committee meeting.

**INFORMATION/RATIONALE:** Minutes of the meeting are attached.

UNOFFICIAL

**MINUTES**

**ARKANSAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Oversight Committee  
January 19, 2016**

A meeting of the Arkansas Workforce Development Board (AWDB) TANF Oversight Committee was held on January 19, 2016, beginning at 10:15 a.m., at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 11301 Financial Centre Parkway, in Little Rock, Arkansas. Chairman Thomas Anderson presided with the following members present: Mr. Lindsay Brown, Mr. Jerry Riley, Mr. Robert Thorne, and Ms. Mary Franklin, Interim Director of the Division of County Operations for the Department of Human Services. Mr. Daryl Bassett, Judge Brandon Ellison, and Mr. Johnny Key were unable to attend.

Chairman's Comments: Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. noting that the agenda items would be presented for informational purposes only until a quorum is present. He informed the board that Mr. Randy Hopper retired after 40 years of service and relinquished his position on the board. His position is vacant until an appointment is made by the Governor.

Agenda Item 1 – Minutes of the October 13, 2015 Committee Meeting: Chair Anderson proceeded to Agenda Item 1, asking if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. Action was deferred until a quorum is reached.

Following the agenda as presented, Mr. Anderson reported that staff provided information concerning Act 1205 of 2015 that requires drug screening of Transitional Employment Assistance (TEA) and Work Pays applicants to determine if there is reasonable cause to believe the applicant engages in the use of illegal drugs. Chair Anderson called on Mr. Derwin Taylor, TANF Program Operations Manager, to share the pilot program policy with the committee. Mr. Taylor directed the committee members attention to the following handouts: Senate Bill 600 (Act 1205 of 2015), House Bill 1004 (an amendment to add definitions to the Senate Bill), the Public Notice and Request for Public Comment, the State Plan Amendment, Section 14, Drug Screening and Drug Testing Pilot Program, and the Manual Transmittal of the Policy Directive.

Mr. Taylor proceeded to provide an overview of the rulemaking process as required by the Administrative Procedures Act, Arkansas Code 25-15-201 for submittal of adopted rules, proposed rules, and notices with the Office of the Secretary of State. The committee discussed the drug screening/testing procedure, program funding, and various components required by the state law. Mr. Taylor reported this is a two year pilot program for drug screening of all TEA and Work Pays applicants and current recipients that are otherwise eligible. The drug screening process will be used to determine whether reasonable cause exists to perform drug testing on eligible recipients.

Upon the arrival of Ms. Mary Franklin, Chair Anderson recognized a quorum present. He then asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting. Hearing none, **a motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Lindsey Brown, seconded by Mr. Robert Thorne, and the motion carried unanimously.**

Chair Anderson then asked Mr. Taylor to continue with his report to the committee. Discussion ensued concerning the number of states participating in drug screening of program recipients. The committee was referred to Section 20-76-703 Administration, which lists the following bordering states: Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and any other state bordering Arkansas with a drug screening or drug testing program for TANF. There was further discussion concerning the recommended drug policy, funding, and the success rate of other states that have implemented drug screening and testing. The committee charged staff to research the outcomes of border states participating in drug screening and testing as it relates to the number of states participating, implementation date, savings incurred, and the possibility of funding rehabilitation so individuals affected can be productive. The committee also requested that a copy of the screening questionnaire be provided at the next meeting in April.

Chair Anderson asked for any questions or comments. Hearing none, **a motion to recommend approval of the Drug Screening and Drug Testing Policy to the full board was made by Ms. Mary Franklin, seconded by Mr. Jerry Riley, and carried unanimously.**

Chair Anderson stated the TANF program is an optional program in the WIOA Combined State Plan. He requested that Mr. Elroy Willoughby, ADWS Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (TANF) Division Chief, provide an update on staff involvement in the development of the State Plan and the information included from the TANF program. Mr. Willoughby called the committee's attention to the TANF handout and proceeded to detail the information contained therein. He specifically referenced the Certifications handout which requires certification by the Governor, and two new entries to the policy as required by federal law contained in sections (g) and (h) regarding access of electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards by participants. Mr. Willoughby provided information concerning the U.S. Department of Labor's TANF block grant allocation which allocated \$56.7 million per year since 1996 and supplemental grants which allocated \$5.6 million from 1996 until 2010. While TANF funding has remained unchanged since 1996, caseloads have decreased in all states offsetting inflation and additional costs. Chair Anderson asked for any questions. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Willoughby and asked him to update the committee on the TANF program operations and performance.

Mr. Willoughby stated that TANF block grant recipient states utilize a performance measure called work participation rate which is calculated in two ways; (1) for all families and (2) for two parent families. From FY 2006 to FY 2011, the State of Arkansas met both rates. However, notification was received in 2015 for FY 2012 that Arkansas failed to meet its two parent participation rate. Upon receipt of federal notification, the state can either pay a fiscal penalty or it can enter into a corrective compliance process. The agency submitted a corrective compliance plan to the Administration of Children and Families in summer 2015, which was accepted. Fourteen out of 27 states, including Arkansas, failed to meet the two parent

participation performance measure which requires that both parents must be engaged for a minimum of 35 hours per week if no federally funded child care is provided. At least 30 of the 35 hours must be in one or more core activities. If federally funded child care is provided, the two-parent family must be engaged for a total of 55 hours. At least 50 of the 55 hours must be in one or more core activities. In order to meet the September 2016 corrective compliance deadline, major corrective strategies implemented through the plan include the designation of two parent case specialists, special training for caseworkers designated to work two parent cases, and performing a review of case information to ensure its accuracy and timeliness. Mr. Willoughby explained that the work participation rate for all families is 50 percent of the case load and for two parents it's 90 percent of the case load. He further reported that in 2010, the federal government enacted more stringent work requirements for participants resulting in a drastic reduction in caseloads. Chair Anderson asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Willoughby for his presentation.

Chair Anderson opened the floor for committee discussion about what information or other resources the members' need in order to fulfill committee responsibilities. Following a brief discussion, the committee charged the staff with providing the TANF Committee members with the forms utilized by other states in their drug screening process.

Chair Anderson gave Ms. Franklin an opportunity to introduce herself and provide a short background, which she did. Chair Anderson asked if there were any other questions or information needed. Hearing none, he proceeded to the announcements.

Announcements: Chair Anderson stated that the next meeting of the TANF Oversight Committee will be at 10:00 a.m. on April 12, 2016 in Little Rock at a location to be determined by staff.

Adjourn: Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m., on **a motion made by Mr. Lindsay Brown, seconded by Mr. Robert Thorne, and carried unanimously.**

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Thomas Anderson, Committee Chair

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Daryl Bassett, Director  
Department of Workforce Services

*Minutes recorded by Darlister Mitchell  
Department of Workforce Services Staff*