

MINUTES

Arkansas Apprenticeship Coordination Steering Committee

March 7, 2024

Meeting Commence

Chairman Kelley Sharp called the meeting to order at 12:32 CST.

Roll Call

Present

Heath Harris
Bill Roachell
Kelley Sharp
David Stephens
Dr. Bill Allison
Cathy Riggins

Tracy Chambers
Aaron Chastain
Ed Carrington

Absent

Dr. Zach Harber
Mary Beth Hatch

Guests in Attendance

Derrick Daniels – OSD
Donald Bellcock – OSD
Brandy Langford – Conway Plumbing
Zach Smith – Streib Company
Stephanie Isaacs- OSD Director
AJ Hart- NWACC
Amy Martindill- Evers Electric
Laveda May- OSD
Elisa Conrade- Mister Sparky

Patricia Sanderson – Black River Tech. College
Dr. Jamie Frakes – AR Northeastern College
Shannon Murphy- UAM
Michael Yarnell – Hill Electric Inc
Sheri Overstreet – Arkansas College of Electricity
Casey Long- Fort Smith JATC
Tracy Tucker- UAM
Mark McManus- OSD
Marsha Seaborn- AR Rual Water

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Bill Roachell and seconded by David Stephens to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2024, Motion passed.

US Department of Labor Apprenticeship Report

DOL staff was not present to provide a report.

Derrick informed the programs that the RAPIDS numbers are Program specific and not apprentice specific. He was informed this by Troy Johnson of US DOL. So, an apprentice could end up having multiple RAPIDS numbers. There are also new requirements for a transfer per US DOL. They are requiring a transcript lined out as was presented to a few programs by Troy. This requires an OJT and RTI transcript that follow's your standards and notes the hours completed by the apprentice. We are going to try to have a meeting next week for all programs to attend with US DOL and allow them to inform all our programs of the requirements.

Bill Roachell noted that it is odd that we have been doing it wrong for a long time and they are just now saying something about it. Kelly noted that they had always been told that the RAPIDS number was specific to the apprentice, and this will be confusing going forward.

TA Fund Report

Derrick Daniels reported \$946,562.18 has been paid out as of March 1, 2024. He reported the new TA starting balance is \$1,804,220 with WAAP being approved last month.

CT Fund Report

CT budget is exhausted. As discussed at last meeting, the remaining \$45,664.63 is going to be paid from OSD funds.

OSD Report

Derrick informed the committee that he and Don had stumbled across another grant opportunity out there for apprenticeship programs. It is through the Arkansas Contractor's Licensing Board and has been around since 2009. They have 2 budgets for grants. One is \$100,000 and one that is \$250,000. They are accepting applications for their grants. He said he is going to send out the contact information and rules for the grants to the apprenticeship programs. Cathy Riggins said they have been utilizing their grants for their program at Vilonia School District. ACEF was another program that had utilized that grant. He also said that maybe it would be something that OSD could bring those funds over to their department since we provide workforce grants daily, but that would be a conversation with them down the road. Jimmy Lawson is not the Director for the Arkansas Contractor's Licensing Board.

Program Visits

Don said that he had done a couple of program visits and class verifications. He found that a LEA had kept over \$1,800 from the program. He has talked them about this and getting the money back to the program.

There was an executive order that had came out earlier today from the White House. They are establishing apprenticeship within the Federal Government system.

Pre-Apprenticeship presentation

Mark McManus provided a power point presentation on the Arkansas Certified Pre-Apprenticeship program. He opened the floor for any questions. There were many questions about the program. Discussion takes place at the 34-minute mark of the recording.

AACSC By-Law review and approval

The AACSC reviewed the By-Laws that were revised by OSD. The committee went through the document, discussed some items, changed some items, and ultimately approved the AACSC By-Laws. Derrick will take the approved By-Laws to the OSD Director for final approval. After she signs off on them, He will send a copy of the signed document to the members.

Open Discussion

None

Next Meeting

The minutes from this meeting will be submitted by Bill Allison prior to the next meeting to be held on April 4, 2024 at 12:30pm.

A motion was made to adjourn. Motion passed.

