

**Arkansas Apprenticeship Coordination Steering Committee
August 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 12:34 pm on August 5th, by Chairwoman Breashears (via GoToMeeting)

Roll Call:

Present: Greg Aleshire, Karen Breashears, Nanci Caillouet, Kathy Fulks, Bill Roachell, and Kelley Sharp

Absent: David Stephens

Guest: Amy Martindill, Donna Lyon, Tondra Love, Jessica Rohlman, Mark McManus, Reuben Gage, David Wallace, Randy Prather, Rocky Mantooth, Sheri Overstreet, Patricia Sanderson, Dr. Hamby, and Director Waits

Previous Month's Meeting Minutes:

-There was a motion by Nanci Caillouet and a 2nd by Kathy Fulks to approve the minutes from the June meeting as presented. Motion passed.

New Business:

-Approve CT- Annual Training Reimbursement- CT application was not completed at time of meeting.

-TA, Plumbing, and Electrical Rules will be updated- Mr. Mantooth made the committee aware that the OSD will be reviewing TA Rules, Plumbing Rules, and Electrical Rules and they also will be adding OA to the title of anyone working at the Office of Skills Development- Office of Apprenticeship.

-Chairwoman Breashears asked if OSD would be sending out a copy and asking for feedback from the AACSC Board members, on these rule changes. Mr. Mantooth stated they would do so.

-Director Waits stated that OSD planned to have a draft emailed out to members the week of August 16th, take feedback for a couple weeks, and the finalize at the AACSC September meeting. The rules would then go before the Career Education and Workforce Development Board at the September 14th meeting.

-Discuss 30-30 Rule- Director Waits stated that the concern was if the 30-30 rule could be viewed as limiting competition and that OSD would review it during this period of rules review.

-Chairwomen Breashears stated that, as discussed during the previous-weeks executive session, the intension of the 30-30 rule was to keep a town like Mena, with 14 electrical apprentices employed by four different electricians, from having four different electrical apprenticeship programs with four different instructors and each program applying for enhancement funds. Mr. Mantooth stated that OSD has been having discussions regarding a minimum number of apprentices required to apply for funding. Greg Aleshire stated that to the argument currently being made against this rule, if there was a minimum number of apprentices requirement, would that not also be limiting competition by the OSD.

-Chairwoman Breashears asked Bill Roachell what his thoughts on this issue were and he read the committee a tweet, then stated that he thinks it does limit competition and that it would likely get noticed by someone in the legislature.

-Greg Aleshire stated that this was a point of much contention during AACSC meetings a decade ago and if this rule was removed from the books there would be a large number of "new programs" created with their only intent to apply for state money and the OSD would have a difficult time making sure they were having the classes required and keeping up with the required paperwork.

-Mr. Mantooth stated that the 30 students part of the 30-30 rule was based on the rule of after 30 apprentices, at a school, a program could then apply for funding of a third instructor.

-AACSC Committee Changes and Timing- Director Waits reported that committee members will be receiving a letter from Boards and Commissions stating that the AACSC board make-up has been changed. The board will remain intact through August and September. Reappointments will be on more staggered terms. Anyone currently on the committee will need to reapply to the Governor's Office for a chance to continue to serve on the committee.

-Greg Aleshire stated that the reason all members, but Kathy Fulks, have the same terms was when the number of board members was cut in half a few years ago, the members who had their terms coming to an end were not reappointed, thus the remaining eight members had the same term.

-USDOL vs SAA Pros and Cons- Director Waits stated that this has been being talked about for over a year and now is the time to discuss the impact it would have on apprenticeship in the state. Funding- either way would remain the same as it has been before. OSD would be more hands on with SAA.

-Chairwoman Breashears asked for the things Director Waits saw as Pro's. Director Waits listed (1) data integrity and a level of comfort with the state controlling the information. (2) local and state control is better than federal control, (3) OSD feels there is sometimes a delay in working with companies through the USDOL and an SAA would be more efficient. (4) funding would be the same for registered programs.

-Chairwoman Breashears asked Randy Praither if the USDOL would still be required to register programs in an SAA state. He replied no, that task would fall to the state. Mr. Praither stated that even as an SAA state, new programs would still be required to meet CFR29-29 and CFR29-30. SAA states may still be required to use RAPIDS the same way a USDOL state does. The OSD would be tasked with compliance visits to programs but the USDOL would still have oversight and could request audits of the program compliance visits at any time.

-Mr. Praither stated in his two years on the job with USDOL he has registered 17 programs and 14 are currently active.

-Mr. Praither asked OSD if some programs in the state remained with USDOL and did not sign on as SAA would those programs receive the same funding as the SAA programs. Director Waits replied yes, there would be no difference in the funding levels.

-Mr. Praither then asked why would the state want to have to hire someone to take on all of the task and responsibilities that the USDOL already provides at no cost to the state.

-Chairwoman Breashears stated that the Electrical and Plumbing laws in the state would have to be re-written by the legislature before those trades could be switched from USDOL to SAA.

-Nanci Caillouet asked how OSD planned on funding the additional payroll and resources required to perform the task that USDOL currently provides at no cost.

-Director Waits stated that OSD has federal grants through 2023 along with additional funds and if necessary possibly using existing funds.

-Kelley Sharp asked how many new positions would be required to perform the task USDOL currently provides. Director Waits stated that in currently unclear.

-Kelley Sharp asked that OSD send out a list of "Pro's and Con's" to each AACSC board member so the board could give feedback on this very important matter. Director Waits stated that OSD will put together that list and email it out in a few days. Kelley Sharp asked how much input will the AACSC board members have in this matter. Director Waits stated that the board and its many years of experience will be very beneficial to the decision OSD makes.

-Greg Aleshire asked if other states, looking to transition to an SAA state, have a board set up like the AACSC. Director Waits stated that Alabama did not. Colorado does but he would have to get more information as to its make-up.

-Kathy Fulks asked how does this play into OSD's plans for career centers and career pathways. Director Waits stated that it did not necessarily, it might make it a little easier, but those would still fall under USDOL CFR-29-30.

-Randy Praither stated that CFR-29-13 is good reading material for the requirements of an SAA state.

-Nanci Caillouet stated that it will be very important to get feedback from all the programs in the state before a final decision is made.

-Greg Aleshire asked if inside the state some programs are USDOL and some are SAA and both are eligible for funding and would be funded the exact same way, why would OSD want to add the additional workload to themselves.

-Bill Roachell asked if this change need to be made legislatively. Director Waits said no, 369 of 19 would only require a letter from the Governor.

-Chairwoman Breashears asked if DOL-OA regulations will remain the same. Randy Praither stated yes.

Other Business:

Chairwoman Breashears commented on the status of the Electrical Board's struggle to get licenses out in a timely manner and asked if there is anything the AACSC can do to assist them with speeding up the process. Mr. Mantooth stated that they had a new system come online on July 1st and it has since crashed. He stated that there is a new person in that office who is beginning to get things moving at a quicker pace.

Mark McManus Report:

Mr. McManus reported that OSD is partnering with Arkansas PBS to produce and distribute some videos to promote apprenticeship in the state. Those videos will feature some employers and programs in the state and are scheduled to be produced between August 25th and September 3rd.

OSD-OA: Mr. Mantooth reported:

Traditional Apprenticeship Funds for FY21/22 \$1,611,456.00

CT Funds for FY21/22 \$673,864.00** this odd amount is based on the amount of permit receipts.

-Guidelines have been sent out

-Please fill out and send in your 242 Forms

-Please fill out and send in your class rosters by August 27th. This information will be needed to provide a proper hourly rate to be approved at the September meeting.

-Dates to remember will be sent out in the next couple of days

-CT applications will be accepted until April 15th this year.

-Semester reports will be due on January 15th for the fall semester and June 17th for the spring.

-Additional Instructor applications will be due on January 3rd.

US DOL Office of Apprenticeship, Mr. Prather reported:

-Programs are doing a good job taking care of their overdue apprentices.

-National Apprenticeship Week- there is currently no official date set and there is a possibility it could be moved from November to May. Mr. Prather will let us know as soon as he has more information.

Active Programs- 120

Apprentices- 7016

New Apprentices- 1980

Suspended- 5

Cancellations- 957

Completed Apprentices- 469

Employers- 708

These numbers are based on October 1st 2020 start date

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 2:15pm

As all of these meetings are recorded, anyone wanting to review this or any of this board's previous meetings, in their entirety, just contact Rocky at rocky.mantooth@arkansas.gov

The next meeting is scheduled for September 2nd @ 12:30pm (via Zoom)

Sincerely,

Greg Aleshire
Secretary, AACSC