

MINUTES

Arkansas Apprenticeship Coordination Steering Committee

September 7, 2023

Meeting Commence

Chairman Kelley Sharp called the meeting to order at 12:30 CST.

Roll Call

Present

Heath Harris

Bill Roachell

Kelley Sharp

David Stephens

Mary Beth Hatch

Ed Carrington

Absent

Dr. Bill Allison

Guests in Attendance

Cynthia McLain – US Department of Labor

Patricia Sanderson – Five Rivers Plumbing
Apprenticeships

Rocky Mantooth – National Apprenticeship
Training Foundation (NATF)

Crystal Cormell – Little Rock Electrical JATC

Dr. Zach Harber – University of Arkansas
Community College at Batesville

AJ Hart - Western Arkansas Apprenticeship

Bryan Spradley – AR/OK Carpenters
Apprenticeship

Dr. Jamie Frakes – Arkansas Northeastern College

Jenna Kuykendall – University of Arkansas
Community College at Batesville

Don Bellcock – Office of Skills Development

Kimberly Moore – Associated Builders and
Contractors

Kathy Faulks – Arkansas Construction Education
Foundation

Sheri Overstreet – Arkansas College of Electricity

Derrick Daniels – Office of Skills Development

Brandy Langford

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Heath Harris to approve the minutes from the August 3, 2023. All present voted in favor and the motion passed.

US Department of Labor Apprenticeship Report

Cynthia McLain reported the following data. This data provides a snapshot of state of Apprenticeship programs in Arkansas.

1. Active Programs – 151
2. New Apprentices – 3,091 (31.42% increase)
3. Total Apprentices – 8,386 (5.95% increase)
4. Suspended Apprentices – 11 (22.22% decrease)

- 5. Cancelled Apprentices – 1,509 (7.78% increase)
- 6. Completed Apprentices – 798
- 7. Participating Employers – 975 (2.3% increase)

TA Fund Report

Derrick Daniels reported no TA funds have been paid to date. He reminded the committee that the starting budget for this fund was \$1,611,456.

CT Fund Report

Derrick Daniels reported that only 1 CT application had been submitted which was recommended for approval by the AACSC and approved by OSD during its August meeting. Also, he reported the starting budget for this fund was \$800,000.

Funding Sheet Open Discussion

Derrick Daniels gave an overview of the funding sheet which included data comparison between fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024. There was open discussion and elaboration on why some programs received less than the number of instructors requested with an emphasis on virtual programs. The following data was reported:

| | FY2023 | FY2024 |
|---------------------|--------|--------|
| Class Locations | 119 | 118 |
| Programs | 41 | 42 |
| Instructional Hours | 40,679 | 44,595 |
| Apprentices | 4,546 | 5,310 |
| Instructors | 262 | 280 |

TA Requests

A motion was made by Bill Roachell and seconded by Heath Harris to approve the recommended number of instructors as presented by OSD with the exception of 17 instructors recommended for Associated Builders & Contractors of Arkansas and 9 instructors recommended for Jonesboro Area Plumbing. Motion passed.

A motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Mary Beth Hatch to approve 17 instructors recommended for Associated Builders & Contractors of Arkansas and 9 instructors recommended for Jonesboro Area Plumbing. Motion passed.

Total instructors approved to fund: 280

A motion was made by Bill Roachell and seconded by Mary Beth Hatch to recommend the instructor hourly rate to be \$40 per hour. Motion passed.

Please see attachments.

CT Requests

CT-24-2: Motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Ed Carrington to approve the recommended amount of \$5,042.79. Motion passed.

CT-24-3: Motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Ed Carrington to approve the recommended amount of \$2,756.37. Bill Roachell abstained. Motion passed.

CT-24-4: Motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Ed Carrington to approve the recommended amount of \$9,236.92. Bill Roachell abstained. Motion passed.

CT-24-5: Motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Ed Carrington to approve the recommended amount of \$7,651.62. Bill Roachell abstained. Motion passed.

CT-24-6: Motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Ed Carrington to approve the recommended amount of \$1,240.09. Bill Roachell abstained. Motion passed.

CT-24-7: Motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Bill Roachell to approve the recommended amount of \$1,406.96. Motion passed.

CT-24-8: Motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Ed Carrington to approve the recommended amount of \$5,288.98. Motion passed.

CT-24-9: Motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Ed Carrington to approve the recommended amount of \$3,970.00. Motion passed.

Please see attachments.

Program Visits

Don Bellcock reported he conducted an administrative review of Boonville Plumbing. He stated Boonville Plumbing was in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations.

Additionally, Don stated he is concluding program reviews for 3 miscellaneous programs with no reported issues.

Open Discussion

Heath Harris brought an issue with the plumbing license renewal processe to the committee. He provided details of ongoing issues he is experiencing with his school. Others stated they too are experiencing similar issues. Kelley Sharp made the recommendation for Heath to be added to the October Plumbing License committee meeting agenda to discuss mitigations to improve the current process.

David Stephens asked for an update on the Governor's progression towards appointing members to current vacant committee positions. OSD stated Mike Rogers informed them they were still working through the process.

Next Meeting

The minutes from this meeting will be submitted by Dr. Bill Allison prior to the next meeting to be held on October 5, 2023 at 12:30pm.

A motion was made to adjourn. Motion passed.