



MINUTES



Arkansas Apprenticeship Coordination Steering Committee

March 6, 2025

Meeting Commence

Chairman Kelley Sharp called the meeting to order March 6, 2025, at 12:30pm CST.

Roll Call

Present:

Heath Harris

Kelley Sharp

David Stephens

Dr. Cathy Riggins

Bill Roachell

Aaron Chastain

Tracey Chambers

Ed Carrington

ABSENT

Guest In Attendance

Derrick Daniels -OSD

Zach Sloan- ACEF

Latrice Hildreth – OSD

April Ambrose- LEED

Shannon Murphy – UAM College of Technology

Scott Phillips - UACCM

Kimberely Moore- ABC

Michelle Christen – BWMA

Amy Martindell – Evers Electric

John Kuznar – USDOL

Approval of Minutes: :58

A motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Heath Harris to approve the minutes as presented from the February 6, 2024, meeting. Motion passed.

Informational Item: CT & TA Funds: 1:31

Derrick Daniels provided the OSD, March 2025 Report. He shared that CT funds are presently exhausted. Seventeen additional requests have been made for a total of \$58,828.00. Derrick indicated that he is seeking additional funding to cover these requests. It was reported that yearly TA expenditures are expected to be close to the budgeted total for the year.

Informational Item: Arkansas State Legislature 95th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2025: 5:47

The floor was open for discussion concerning any bills that will affect apprenticeships in Arkansas. In-depth discussion occurred around HB 1446, SB 246, and SB390. **(39:16)** John Kuznar, Director USDOL, joined the meeting and was invited to share an update. He stated that once the new Secretary of Labor is confirmed, there will be more directions. Mr. Kuznar indicated that there are no expectations that apprenticeship funds will be cut under federal changes.

Informational Item: 50:04

Derrick provided an update on the SAEF 3 Grant. The deadline has been extended to March 27, 2025. Through the grant, the department is expecting to hire an Expansion Coordinator and Grant Manager. Derrick also shared information concerning Arkansas Launch. The website will streamline workforce opportunities for the people of Arkansas. <https://launch.arkansas.gov>

Open Discussion: 1:00:30

There was no open discussion.

The next meeting will be on April 3, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. The minutes of this meeting will be submitted by Dr. Riggins prior to the next meeting.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Aaron Chastain and seconded by Tracey Chambers to adjourn. Motion passed.