



MINUTES



Arkansas Apprenticeship Coordination Steering Committee

April 4, 2024

Meeting Commence

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

Roll Call

Present:

Heath Harris

Aaron Chastain

Bill Roachell

Tracey Chambers

Kelley Sharp

Ed Carrington

David Stephens

Dr. Zach Harber

Dr. Cathy Riggins

Absent

Mary Beth Hatch

Guest In Attendance

Derrick Daniel OSD

Jimmy Lawson – Arkansas Contractors Licensing Board

Darlene Akel- Arkansas Contractors Licensing Board

Patricia Sanderson – Black River Tech. College

Zac Smith – Streib Company

Light Dudley- DOL

Linda Rushing

NATF

Conway Apprenticeship

Kimberely Moore- ABC

Shannon Murphy-UAM

Approval of Minutes 1.10

A motion was made by Bill Roachell and seconded by Heath Harris to approve the minutes as presented from the March 7, 2024, meeting. Motion passed.

Election of Secretary 2.52

A motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Bill Roachell to elect Dr. Cathy Riggins as Secretary. Motion passed.

Grant Report from Arkansas Contractors Licensing Board 7:05

Jimmy Lawson, Administrator of Arkansas Contractors Licensing Board, and Darlene Akel, staff member, joined the meeting to share information about grant money available from the Arkansas Contractors Licensing Board. Mr. Lawson stated that the board has been issuing grants since around 2009. The amounts awarded collectively in a calendar year have typically ranged from \$125,000.00 to \$150,000.00. The grants are awarded by the Contractors Licensing Board to programs that support education to further the construction industry in the state. Mr. Lawson and Ms. Akel presented a detailed explanation of the grant process and answered questions from the committee. Kelley Sharp, chairman of the committee, expressed gratitude, on behalf of the committee, to Mr. Lawson and Ms. Akel for their informative presentation and time.

U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Report 28:07

Mr. Dudley announced that to date, there were 9,200 active apprentices. He shared that the new goal is 10,000. Presently, there are 155 programs with applications still being processed from various crafts and trades.

Mr. Dudley encouraged the committee to be aware of the announcement of the new State Director on April 8th. He indicated that the new director would be available to meet with committee members on April 17th. A reminder was also given to apply for the ABA grant at grants.gov. The deadline is soon approaching.

OSD Report 31:11

Derrick Daniels reported that as of April 2024, a payout of \$1,137,286.00 has been expended leaving a budget of \$666,933.00. He also shared that Stephanie Issacs, Director of OSD, has provided an additional \$250,000.00 this year for support. The amount of \$45,000.00 was used from these funds to address the remaining CTE grant request.

Mr. Sharp reminded the committee that the physical year is soon approaching.

TA and CT Report 34:43

Derrick Daniels presented a report, created by Don Bellcock, concerning the annual spending budgets from 2000-2024. He shared that the TA budget has been \$1,611,000.00 since 2012. The CTE budget has fluctuated, but since 2008 it has remained at \$800,000.00.

Derrick also mentioned he had shared two spreadsheets with information concerning the number of apprentices since November of 2021. These spreadsheets will be updated on a yearly basis to support data needed for directors and legislators.

Derrick commented that the CTE budget has money put into the account every month and does not expire. Mr. Sharp expressed interest in seeking ways to increase the TA budget.

TA & CT Funding Guidelines 41:44

Mr. Sharp reminded the committee to review the TA & CT funding guidelines before the next meeting and be prepared to discuss. It is a goal to have all needed changes made and the final copy ready for approval by the July meeting.

Open Discussion 44:09

Mr. Sharp provided opportunity for any needed discussion from the board or guest. A question was presented concerning the timeline for when guidelines were mailed out. Derrick Daniels responded that these were provided in August and at the committee training. Mr. Sharp and Mr. Daniels both expressed their willingness to provide an additional copy to anyone who needed to request.

Next Meeting 44:56

The minutes from this meeting will be submitted by Dr. Riggins prior to the next meeting to be held on May 2, 2024, at 12:30 p.m.

A motion was made to adjourn. Motion passed.