

Career Education and Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: December 10, 2024

Time: 10:30 AM

Location: Department of Commerce, with some members attending via Zoom

Board Members in attendance:

Voting Members

Danny Games, Vice-Chairman
Jeff Marcussen
Kris Carson
Cat Hamilton
Butch Rice
Len Pitcock

Ex-Officio Members

Dr. Ken Warden
Kristi Putnum
Ross White
Mike Rogers
Stephanie Isaacs
Dr. Charisse Childers
Cody Waits
Kyla Waters (proxy for Dr. Andrea Henderson)

Members absent:

Voting Members

Kevin Tipton, Chairman

Ex-Officio Members

Hugh McDonald
Jacob Olivia
Clint O'Neal
Mike Hernandez
Esperanza Crane
Tracy Dowell

Guests

Senator Jane English
Derrick Daniels, OSD
Shane Broadway, ASU
Rachel Bunch, AR Healthcare Assoc.

Dr. Brian Shonk, UACCB
Scott Kuttenkuler, SCCTC
Dr. Shannon Fleming, AR Healthcare Assoc.

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Danny Games called the December 2024 meeting to order at 10:57 AM.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chairman Games asked members review the minutes from the previous meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jeff Marcussen and seconded by Cat Hamilton. The minutes were approved.

Apprenticeship Rules

Derrick Daniels, Director of the Arkansas Office of Apprenticeship, presented a new proposed consolidated rule for apprenticeship programs. The rule combines four separate rules for OSD apprenticeship programs. Len Pitcock made a motion to approve the rule, which was seconded by Butch Rice. The motion was approved.

Arkansas Healthcare Association

Rachel Bunch, Director of the Arkansas Healthcare Association, presented an overview and update of the organization's programs. The Association serves approximately 21,000 frail or elderly customers. Bunch highlighted the nursing career ladder and the inclusion of MA-C professionals in 2023 at 27 locations in Arkansas. This program has seen significant success, leading to the development of an LPN program that will train students in 10 months. OSD has invested \$1.3 million in this program. Director Isaacs commented that this initiative is a prime example of a large-scale workforce improvement project.

Agenda Item 4- Approval of Secondary Area Technical Center tiered funding.

Director Isaacs presented an update on tiered funding recommendations for the Secondary Area Technical Centers. The funding committee recommended the following changes:

- Eliminate Tier 3 programming, including culinary and criminal justice;
- Eliminate a firefighting high school program at Metro;
- Move the UAMS high school program for drone classes from Tier 1 to Tier 2; and
- Reduce FTE funding for non-current credit instruction to 80%.

A discussion was held by Board members and Scott Kuttenkuler, a committee member. Len Pitcock made a motion to adopt the committee's recommendations for the Fall semester of 2025, which was seconded by Marcussen. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 5 - HIRED Grants

Director Isaacs provided an update on the HIRED grants, which are funded by federal ARPA dollars. Nineteen awards have been announced, with \$48 million allocated through Track 2 funds. The awards have garnered significant positive press coverage. Director Isaacs gave the Board a summary of each project.

Director's Report of the Office of Skills Development

Director Isaacs presented a report on the activities of the Office of Skills Development (OSD) in the first half of the fiscal year. Key points included:

- OSD oversees \$123 million in funds with 8 staff members.
- OSD has provided training grants to 145 companies so far this fiscal year.
- Staff have participated in twenty-one large-scale workforce projects totaling \$21 million.
- Apprenticeship expansion program awards totaling \$985,000 have been allocated to companies across the state.
- Traditional apprenticeship grants to training providers have been awarded, with \$800,000 allocated for construction trade grants.
- OSD has invested \$25 million in nursing programs through ALIGN.
- The Office has allocated \$48 million for HIRED grants.

Old Business

None

New Business

- Dr. Childers announced a virtual training session for the Discover Arkansas database, scheduled for December 11, 2024, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM.
- Discussion was held regarding the frequency and timing of Board meetings. Members explored various options in order to proceed with setting the calendar for 2025. Members agreed to continue to meet bimonthly.

Adjournment

With no further business, Vice Chairman Games called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Len Pitcock and seconded by Jeff Marcussen. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 12:06 PM.

Next Meeting: Second Tuesday in February 2025, 10 AM in the Rockefeller Conference Room.