

KANSASWORKS STATE BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

July 22, 2009 • 10:00 a.m.–2 p.m.

Ramada Inn • Regency Ballroom

420 S.E. 6th St.

Topeka, KS 66612

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Mike Fleming, Chair of the **KANSASWORKS** State Board. Mike welcomed and introduced new members Martin Kennedy, Acting Secretary of Aging, replacing Kathy Greenlee, and Debra Zehr with the Kansas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. First on the agenda was approval of the minutes from the April 22 meeting. Phillip Chappuie requested the attendance list be modified to show he was present. **Ed Berger made the motion to approve the minutes as modified. Criss Mayfield seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Report from the Policy Committee

Enrollment and Document Standards

Rod Blackburn reported on behalf of the Policy Committee. He explained the *Enrollment and Document Standards Policy* was reorganized and reviewed by the Policy Committee. The policy provides guidance on what constitutes a program and performance enrollment as provided in the WIA, Wagner-Peyser, and Trade Act programs. In addition, it establishes minimum documentation standards, which support enrollment. It was created after program operators expressed numerous concerns about the lack of specific guidelines on what services constitute a program and performance enrollment and what documentation standards are needed to support the enrollment. The Policy Committee recommended the policy be adopted by the **KANSASWORKS** State Board. **Rod made the motion to approve the policy, which was seconded by Ed Berger. The motion passed unanimously.**

Standard Changes

Standard brand, intergration, language and title changes were made to the following policies:

1. 1-02-02 *Oversight and Monitoring*
2. 1-03-01 *WIA Discrimination Complaint Processing Procedures*
3. 1-06-01 *Implementing the Salary and Bonus Limitations in Public law 109-234*

The changes were non-substantive therefore, no action was required.

Rod thanked the members of the Policy Committee and the staff who assisted.

Workforce Study Task Force

Ed Berger explained the Task Force is looking at prioritizing green jobs in Kansas, in response to the \$500,000 grant application relating green jobs. There was an initial review of the five local areas, trying to get a sense of what the green jobs were and how many were out there. A great deal of qualitative information was received, but not much quantitative information.

The Task Force worked with the KS Department of Labor (KS DOL) to improve on the data gathered. KS DOL will develop a green jobs survey, which will hopefully be statically relevant. It will be sent to a number of Kansas employers to look at quantifiable data that will help with the grant application. Ed

thanked Inayat Noormohamad who volunteered to put the document together to assist in making a strong grant application.

The survey will address each of five areas: producing renewable energy, increasing energy efficiency, agriculture and natural resource conservation, pollution prevention and environmental cleanup, and clean transportation and fuel. The survey should be completed in early fall.

Inayat explained the survey will be sent to six thousand employers in each of the local areas statewide next week. The Docking Institute will pull the returned data together. In order to have valid data a 50 percent response rate by industry classification is needed.

The floor was opened for comment. Mike asked when feedback was expected to be received. Responses should be received within four to six weeks after mailing, and then the data will be compiled. Jim Garner explained Kansas was one of six states to do this type of survey and it positions the state well for future grant opportunities.

Debra Zehr asked who would receive the survey. Inayat explained he researched other states and decided on the potential business sample based NAICS codes. In addition to businesses utilizing the codes, random samples of businesses with fifteen or more employees will be completed.

Ed explained the initial input from the local areas helped prioritize. Jim thanked the local areas for their involvement and let them know their feedback was helpful in designing the survey tool.

Mike Fleming told the Board the survey will be discussed at the October meeting.

ARRA Update

Caleb Asher provided the ARRA update. He began with the green job grant. There is about a half a billion dollars available throughout the US Department of Labor for green jobs. Each of these grants has various deadlines. The first grant is due in a couple of weeks the last one isn't due until October. It is divided into the following five different areas:

1. State Labor Management and Information System Improvement - about \$50 million. The maximum award is \$750,000 to \$1.25 million for individual states and up to \$2 to \$4 million for a consortium of states. The LMI unit at KS Department of Labor has been having conversations and looking at how to work on a consortium with other states. America's JobLink Alliance (AJLA) has been contacted by other states looking for a consortium as well. Discussions will focus combining the two pieces and submit something that will be beneficial to Kansas and the consortium.
2. Energy Training Partnership – about \$100 million dollars with a maximum award of \$2 to \$5 million. This piece is being reviewed to determine how to go after it.
3. Pathways out of Poverty – \$150 million dollars. \$3 million to \$8 million for national grantees or \$2 million to \$4 million for local grantees. There is some initial work underway and some work being done in the Kansas City area.
4. The Energy Sector Partnership in Training – This is the biggest piece and one Commerce is very interested in. There is \$190 million available and awards will be between \$2 and \$6 million. The work from the Task Force will help with this piece. Finding ways to connect our local partners to the

community and technical colleges will be important. A conversation was held at the governor's office about how to get this grant because the partnership is so important. Partnering wherever possible is imperative. The governor's office said they will not sign letters of support without a good effort to partner on these types of activities.

5. Green Capacity Building – \$500 million. \$50 to \$100 million will be available to states. Each state can receive up to two grants. Kansas Department of Corrections is working on a piece of this grant and Commerce is looking at an apprenticeship component.

A reoccurring theme in all of the grants is partnership. We will need to insure we are partnering as we move forward.

The Registered Apprenticeship program has developed a scholarship program up to \$500 per company. The focus is on key industries, however, all applications received will be considered. This will help some of the businesses that have been unable to afford to participate.

Commerce is part of a Longitudinal Taskforce, which has come together to find ways to share data between agencies and apply for a \$250 million grant. The group consists of the Department of Commerce, the Department of Education, the Kansas Board of Regents, Department of Corrections, Department of Labor, the Juvenile Justice Authority, Department of Social and Rehabilitation and the courts.

Secretary Solis made the announcement that a \$220 million healthcare-related grant will be made available. Over the next couple of weeks information and a webinar will provide more details. The Department of Commerce, Board of Regents, Health Care Policy Authority and others have been working in preparation for the announcement.

Commerce continues to meet every other week with local partners and board members are welcome to participate. These calls have been helpful and the interaction with local partners appreciated.

Caleb reported that in late May the federal office came to Kansas and did preparedness audits in Local Areas II and III related to plans for spending Recovery Act funds. The review was not formal. The federal reviewers were pleased with their findings. Commerce felt the audit useful enough that staff went to the other local areas to see how they were doing. Commerce felt everyone was prepared to meet the challenges.

With Recovery Act dollars, Commerce hired a youth coordinator, special projects/grant writer, and an apprenticeship position. These are limited term positions.

Vern Jarboe asked when the subcommittee established to monitor Recovery Act expenditures and reporting will meet. Mike Fleming replied originally that subcommittee would track all of the youth numbers, but Commerce is on top of that and he didn't want to pull the subcommittee together to meet for the sake of meeting.

Local Area Updates

Vern expressed concern over the numbers in the local report. Staff reported the inconsistencies in reporting will be reconciled before the next meeting.

Local Area V

Renea Cavaness discussed the information contained within the Local Area V report. Additionally, she discussed the challenges faced with the Summer Youth program per Secretary Garner's request. Renea explained that with all of the correctional facilities a number of contracts remained unfulfilled and youth were placed into those positions. The majority of youth placements are in the private sector. Youth have been placed in all seventeen counties and the number placed in each county is based on poverty levels. Crawford County is weighted the highest, because it has the highest unemployment rate. Youth were placed based upon the career exploration piece and areas of interest.

Local IV

Keith Lawing discussed the information contained with the Local Area IV report. In addition he told the board, Local Area IV is planning a Green Economy Symposium. The focus will be how green will impact job growth and economic opportunities. It will include national and local experts.

Secretary Gardner inquired about the expended allocation. Keith explained there are no enrollments occurring now. There is a current waiting list of 1,500 for dislocated workers. There is also a waiting list for adult and youth funding. The area is using additional funding from the WIRED and Workforce Solutions grants.

Local Area III

Trent Howerton discussed the information contained within the Local Area III report. Additionally, he discussed the new Paola office and buying new equipment for the Leavenworth office through the new Registered Apprenticeship grant. He also explained the challenges with the area youth in passing drug screens.

Local Area II

Kris Kitchen discussed the information contained within the Local Area II report. Additionally, Kris passed out a flyer containing information on two of the areas Summer Youth Participants. Area II is removing information that is no longer needed on computers. Kris thanked Jeff Schroeder and Bryan Traylor, Disability Program Navigators for providing equipment for the youth highlighted in the flyer.

Local Area I

Bob Dalke discussed the information contained within the Local Area I report. Additionally, he told the board about a Power Lineman Rodeo that will be held for area employers looking for linemen. The fourteen linemen will be interviewed by the companies on site and FEMA will also be involved. Bob said he spoke with the Topeka contractor who won the \$80 million highway project and the company is anxious to work with the workforce centers.

Technical Education Authority Update

Jim Garner reported for the Technical Education Authority saying there is good interaction between the workforce system and education. They have developed a new model for distributing higher education funding in response to some programs being more expensive than others. A retreat is planned for the first week of August and then the plan will be presented to the Board of Regents.

Marketing efforts are committed to change perception of technical education. Technical Education is crucial to economic development within the state and needs to be lifted to a major priority. Parents, counselors and students need to see technical education as a legitimate path.

The authority is also working curriculum standardization throughout the state. There will be modules in every training program approved by the authority. Each core program will have the flexibility to allow for more enhanced training. Students will have the ability to take an additional 15 hours of core education classes to get their associates degree.

The governor has set up round table meetings with business leaders across the state. The common theme reported is the importance of training. Do not loose site there will be a recovery and we have to have a trained workforce out there.

An effort was announced by the governor yesterday. Beginning July 1 anyone receiving unemployment compensation will be automatically registered and enrolled into the **KANSASWORKS** system. Rod Blackburn complimented the effort saying it will make a monumental difference to the citizens of Kansas.

Rod asked when the Board of Education would be joining this effort. Jim agreed this should start before high school and said the Commissioner of Education is on the authority. Kathy Hund stated the point was well taken and has been heard over and over again. She explained that the basic core curriculum can slide down into high schools.

Eddie Estes told the board he thought the beginning conversations were happening. A number of representatives from the Department of Education have attended the meetings. The President has called for a lot more graduates in community colleges by the year 2020. The authority is convinced it will happen. Career education should start the minute they start schools.

State's Update

Caleb Asher explained that Kansas is below sanction level on two performance measures those being adult retention and dislocated worker. He believed those will be above sanction level before the reporting year ends.

The first of the Recovery Act reports was received on July 15th. The first financial report is due on August 15th. We continue to meet weekly for tracking purposes.

As a result of the state exceeding performance measures in both WIA and Adult Education for the first time Kansas is eligible to apply for \$788,000 in additional money. Caleb thanked all of the areas and their partners for exceeding the expectations. Only eleven states qualified for the additional money and five of those states are in Kansas' region. \$150,000 will go to each local area and \$150,000 to Adult Education. The hope is to increase participants in moving from GED into post secondary education. We Learners need to be moved into technical jobs.

In post-secondary education learners will be accommodated by moving them into online training. Hopefully, it will help show the importance of technical education. Kathy Hund and Blake Flanders have been working with partners on the online piece. Online courses will be offered that expand to real-time on demand education.

Caleb reported Commerce is very pleased with integration.

Much is going on with Recovery Act and the US Department of Labor. Commerce continues to sync unemployment and reemployment for the RES grant.

Rod asked for clarification on PY09 funding and new performance goals and whether they are applicable in the current environment. Susan Weidenbach stated funding levels are relatively unchanged and were published the week before last and put on the Web site. She further said changes were proposed in performance in the state plan, but a reply has not been received. State goals will be the same unless staff hears otherwise. A discussion took place relating to the relevance of performance goals. The state will look at them.

Eddie Estes reminded the group the Workforce Summit will be January 20 and 21, 2010.

The next state board meeting is scheduled for October 28th. The meeting adjourned at 1:18.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS	PRESENT
Mike Fleming , Chair	X
Eddie Estes , Vice Chair	X
Dr. Ed Berger , President, Hutchinson Community College	X
Rod Blackburn , Co-Owner, WB Construction LLC	X
Phillip Chappuie , Director of Services, Class LTD	X
Representative Steve Brunk	U
Secretary David Kerr	E
Tim Cotter , Director HR, Envision	E
Jack Fowler , Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs	X
Secretary Jim Garner , Kansas Department of Labor	X
Robert Giesen , Owner, B&B Electric Motor Company	X
Interim Secretary Martin Kennedy , Kansas Department on Aging	X
Vern Jarboe , Attorney, Partner Sloan, Eisenbarth, Glassman, McEntire & Jarboe	X
Doug Kinsinger , President, Topeka Chamber of Commerce	X
Patricia Kirkman , Teamsters Local #696	X
Lloyd Lavin , Business Manager, IBEW Local #226	U
Larissa Long , Kansas Community Relations Director, Aquila	X
Criss Mayfield , Abbott Workholding Products	X
Lynn Peterson , Memorial Art Co. Inc.	X
Representative Louis Ruiz	U
Debra H. Zehr , Director, KS Association of Homes and Services for Aging	X
Candace Shively , Deputy Secretary, Kansas Dept of SRS	X
Judy Gifford , Director of Labor Participation, United Way of Wyandotte County	X

X=Present
 E=Excused Absence
 U=Unexcused Absence

ATTENDANCE

GUESTS
Jo Adams , Workforce Partnership, Local Area III
Sharon Beyer, Heartland Works, Local Area II
Inayat Noormohmad, Kansas Department of Labor
Aeron Kelvington, United States Department of Labor VETS
Bob Dalke, KANSASWORKS , Local Area I
Kris Kitchen, Heartland Works, Local Area II
Keith Lawing, Workforce Alliance, Local Area IV
George McAtee SE KANSASWORKS , Local Area V
Renea Cavaness, SE KANSASWORKS , Local Area V
Jim Snyder, Silver Haired Legislature
Doug Ewing SE KANSASWORKS , Local Area V
Carolyn Benitez, SER
Richard Lopez, SER
Trent Howerton, Workforce Partnership, local Area III
Maureen Toll, Salina Area Chamber of Commerce

COMMERCE STAFF	
Shelly McDonald	Mike Beene
Christine Bohannon	Sherry Gegen
Ronnie Murphy	Bill Thompson
Susan Weidenbach	Ann Duffy
Keith Myers	Shelly Jones
Linda Weaver	Leticia Perez
Kathy Hund	Candace Molzhon
Loretta Shelley	Shelly Jones
Ann Duffy	
BOARD STAFF	
Cindy Nau	