

KANSASWORKS STATE BOARD

Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2009

Capital Plaza Hotel, Emerald I & II

1717 SW Topeka

Topeka, KS 66612

Call to Order

Mike Fleming called the meeting to order and offered the Pledge of Allegiance. Mike introduced Governor Mark Parkinson.

Brief Statement

The governor thanked the board members for their dedicated service to the state of Kansas. He explained the important role the board would be playing in the next few years as Kansas heads out of recession. While the high unemployment rate is a temporary phenomenon three to five years from now the state of Kansas will again be looking at a labor shortage. It is extremely important that Kansas is able to fill the under supply of workers with skilled workers. He encouraged the group to proceed with strategic planning.

The Governor entertained questions on healthcare and energy and again thanked the board for their work.

Introduction of New Board Members

Mike introduced two new board members. Blake Flanders and Diane Glass both from the Kansas Board of Regents. They were welcomed.

Approval of Minutes

Larissa Long made the motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting, which was seconded by Criss Mayfield. The motion passed unanimously.

Report from Policy Committee

Candy Shively presented on behalf of the policy committee. She explained there were two policies the committee seeks approval on that have substantial changes and five that had standard changes in programmatic titles.

3-28 Training Expenditure Monitoring Policy

The Workforce Investment Act has not required states to have a minimum spending percentage on training; however, the state and the feds seem to think it is important to increase spending on training. This is moving towards continuous improvement. Most local areas have met this year's 35% training expenditure policy. In the absence of knowing the best level to establish, the committee decided to move toward a 40% benchmark asking the outliers for narrative information on why the benchmark was not met or what best practice was implemented to exceed the 40%. The committee would like to put this policy in place to monitor what is happening for a couple of quarters and see how it is working. Other changes to the policy include adding the term "expended allocation" in place of "allocation" in the first paragraph.

There were also some costs removed—case management and overhead are excluded. Pell grants were also removed. The benchmark range is 35-45 since last year three areas exceeded the thirty five percent benchmark by quite a bit. The other significant change was to choose not to tie this to incentive or sanctions at this time. Candy recommended the policy be approved. Mike Fleming asked for discussion.

All but one of the local area executive directors expressed concern over the ability to comply with the policy due to low funding levels, high customer demand and overhead costs. It was reiterated that the policy was to be used as a monitoring tool to see what works best for Kansas, thus the reason for not tying incentives or sanctions to the policy.

Eddie Estes explained the dire need for better reporting. Kansas has to make its measurements clear. This discussion wouldn't be happening if we didn't need to better explain our results.

Dianne Glass stated she was new and there may be things behind the quarterly reports she doesn't fully understand, but when she compares the dollars spent on training in Local Area III and Local Area V (see *Agenda Packet p. 62 and 72*) it seems to her there may be a need to lay off some staff in Local Area III. Area V is serving a lot more people with a lot less money.

Mike thanked Dianne and asked for any other comments or questions.

Candy Shively motioned to approve the policy, which was seconded by Criss Mayfield. The vote was eight yea and four nay and one abstention (two board members were out of the room at the time of the vote).

Foreign Labor Certification, H-2A and H-2B Non-immigrant Programs, Prevailing Wage Determinations

The revised Foreign Labor Certification policy combines three policies into one. There was a lot of overlap in the policies and it made sense to combine them. Also included in the revised policy are federal changes, which are mirrored in regulation. Even though the policy is being presented today it is anticipated it will return sometime in the future with additional changes due to pending lawsuits.

Mike Fleming made the motion to approve the policy, which was seconded by Larissa Long. The motion was approved unanimously.

Standard Changes

Candy reported that five policies were approved by the Policy Committee with standard language changes. Examples are changing Workforce Development to Workforce Services, changing Kansas JobLink to **KANSASWORKS.com**. There were no material changes to the policies themselves.

Mike thanked the Policy Committee and the Commerce staff that worked on the policies.

Report from Workforce Study Task Force

Keith Meyers reported that over the last several months a great deal of work has been done with regards to prioritizing green jobs. One of the challenges was the lack of hard data relating to green jobs. The task force was working closely with the Kansas Department of Labor staff to pursue a green survey on statewide basis. The *2009 Going Green Survey* was initiated through the Department of Labor. A number of milestones have already been met through that process. Highlights include receiving 1,700 usable responses from employers with a response rate of over 28%. KS DOL is in the process of doing follow up with employers in coordination with the Docking Institute. Analysis of the data will begin in November with an anticipated completion date of December 2009.

Green job information gleaned from the five local areas prior to this survey was utilized in the State Energy Sector Partnership (SESP) grant. It was the largest of the five green jobs grant opportunities that the Federal government issued this summer. The State Energy Sector Partnership is a group of 21 individuals, chaired by Mike Fleming, which has representation from five local board chairs, cabinet secretaries, representatives of non-profits and industry. The partnership grappled with current state policies and looked at the priorities and established sectors that were actually pursued in the green job grant application. A great deal of hard work and input has been provided by the five local areas and they have been instrumental in putting together a strong grant proposal with regard to the SESP grant and also with the high growth and emerging industry grant, which is another Recovery Act opportunity.

ARRA Update

Caleb Asher provided the recovery act update. Most of the activity has been centered on preparing grant applications to submit to the US Department of Labor. He reiterated Keith's sentiments that a lot of the work was pulled together at Commerce, but it couldn't have been done without the local partners and organizations. The state has not heard yet on the outcome of those grant submissions, but we are hoping to hear they were received successfully and we receive some additional dollars. An explanation was provided in detail as to all of the grants for which the state of Kansas applied. The grants include funding for energy, bio science, healthcare, and labor market information.

The statewide Summer Youth Program wrapped up at end of September. Jeff Schroeder reported as of September 20 3.4 million dollars of the funds had been expended. Across the state 1,783 youth were served. Kansas initially received 7.1 million and the funds expire June 20, 2011. Jeff said in general USDOL thought we had a successful program around the state. Given such short notice we should be really proud of what has been done across the state. USDOL came in early August to Local Area III and they were impressed with what they saw in Local Area III. No deficiencies were found.

Caleb stated one other piece to the Summer Youth Program was Wichita State University was commissioned to do a third party review of how Kansas performed. Hopefully, we will be learning from that as we move into the program for next year and look for opportunities and areas of success as well.

One final piece relating to the recovery act is that a number of dollars have been held at the state in WIA set aside and RR set aside. Commerce has reinvested those back into that state and to the locals. Local Area I received \$150,000 to supplement their formula to continue the good work they have been doing there with the youth program. Local Area IV received \$200,000 for Dislocated Workers because of waiting lists in their areas. We will continue to have discussions with Area IV to ensure that additional dollars are being invested and those individuals are being trained.

Technical Education Authority Update

The update was presented by Secretary Garner. The Technical Ed Authority has reviewed and recommended for approval to the Kansas Board of Regents new technical education programs. A response is still to come from the Board of Regents.

The Tech Ed Authority continues to work on program alignment and approved program alignment for auto technology, auto collision, and welding. There are a lot of other programs being reviewed to obtain core curriculum alignment and enhance curriculum.

Another big charge is coming up with a funding formula for distributing all of the technical education funding provided by the legislature for the state. A tiered model has been developed, recognizing that not all programs are alike and that some programs have a lot more cost associated with them. An example is the medical programs. They have more expense associated with them. The Tech Ed Authority has developed a tiered approach based on cost and a data driven approach. The Authority is ambitious and aggressive and thought it would have a model to present to the legislature the next legislative session. After some reflection and additional the Tech Ed Authority decided to take a year to allow more sharing of information and modification of this model by engaging the presidents to the technical colleges and the community colleges in order to get more feedback and involvement from the institutions. Also, with all of the challenges of the state in the budget arena, this is not a good year to throw out a new funding model for consideration. Kansas needs to get through the crisis at hand and when it's in a bit more stable funding situation then it would be a more appropriate time to unveil a new model for distributing technical education money throughout the state.

The last charge is to market and promote technical education and technical careers to the to Kansas public. There has been a subcommittee chaired by Secretary Kerr that has been moving forward. They have a new website called *KansasCareerZoom.com*. It is a resource that has been developed for educators, students and parents. The next step would be to find synergism between the **KANSASWORKS.com**, Kansas Career Pipeline and the Kansas Career Zoom and find a way to have cooperation between them. They each have a specific purpose—**KANSASWORKS** is about career placement, Career Zoom is about the intuitions and educational opportunities, and Career Pipeline is more about assessment and helping people identify what career paths might be for them. A real opportunity exists to bring the websites together and maximize those tools.

Local Area Updates

The Executive Directors from each local area provided updates. All expressed concern of low funding and high demand. The local areas are all very pleased with the partnerships that are being made between each other and state agencies. All local areas will be able to have some kind of Summer Youth Program next year.

State Update

Caleb Asher gave the state performance report. The state has met or exceeded all performance measures for the year.

The addition of Unemployment staff people and dedicated computers in the workforce centers has been a significant addition to the workforce centers and will help people navigate the online system. There will be a two month media campaign to push people to the online the website for online claims.

Caleb also discussed the integration of multiple websites into the **KANSASWORKS.com** website. In the future **KANSASWORKS.com** will include training needs and educational institution pieces along with a career path assessment piece.

A strategic planning process was implemented at Commerce this fall. A plan will be presented to Secretary Kerr next week. There was “out of the box” thinking on what can be done to support the workforce system for the next few years. The focus is on outcomes rather than activities; however Commerce is working as a department and with industry teams.

The Midwest Governors Association is working on the new energy platform and also an agreement as to what is needed across the states. They are looking to Kansas for a number of things it has done, but the piece that is new is the jobs platform piece. The state must ensure we are connecting not only energy opportunities but the jobs that go with those.

Commerce is working with Eddie Estes on the Kansas Workforce Summit in January. The Director of the DC office of the Midwest Governor’s Association has been invited and will present in January. Eddie explained the purpose and composition of the summit. Information on the summit may be found at www.3ishow.com/KWS/index.htm.

Caleb reported the remote access system throughout the state is working and Commerce will install additional sites across the state. It is not exactly face-to-face, but it is pretty close. Commerce will begin holding meetings by remote access and save travel dollars.

Chairs Update

Mike Fleming announced Hutchinson Community College was selected to receive the very first ACT Workforce Readiness Award.

The 2008 WIA annual report is available on the website. This is the second year in a row we have met or exceeded common measures.

There will be a board retreat one day in Topeka early next year. The board needs to focus on what it wants to do or see happen in the next year or coming years consistent with governor’s remarks about strategic planning. Ideally, it will occur in January, February, or March unless anyone is opposed. Cindy will poll the board on dates.

The Kansas Workforce Summit is January 21 and 22. The state board meeting will be held on the 21 following conclusion of the summit.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS	PRESENT
Mike Fleming , Chair	X
Eddie Estes , Vice Chair	X
Dr. Ed Berger , President, Hutchinson Community College	E
Rod Blackburn , Co-Owner, WB Construction LLC	E
Phillip Chappuie , Director of Services, Class LTD	E
Representative Steve Brunk	U
Secretary David Kerr , Kansas Department of Commerce {arrived after lunch}	X
Tim Cotter , Director HR, Envision	X
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
Secretary Martin Kennedy , Kansas Department on Aging	X
Vern Jarboe , Attorney, Partner Sloan, Eisenbarth, Glassman, McEntire & Jarboe	E
Doug Kinsinger , President, Topeka Chamber of Commerce	E
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, KSHSA, Melissa Sica (Representative)	X
Candace Shively , Deputy Secretary, Kansas Dept of SRS	X
Judy Gifford , Director of Labor Participation, United Way of Wyandotte County	E
Blake Flanders , Kansas Board of Regents	X
Dianne Glass , Kansas Board of Regents	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 (by teleconference)
Kris Kitchen, Heartland Works, Local Area II
Keith Lawing, Workforce Alliance, Local Area IV
Phyllis McCune, Heartland Works. Local Area II
Renea Cavaness, SE KANSASWORKS , Local Area V
Jim Snyder, Silver Haired Legislature
Doug Ewing SE KANSASWORKS , Local Area V
Scott Anglemeyer, Workforce Partnership, Local Area III
Jerry Atkinson, Chair, Local Area V
Trent Howerton, Workforce Partnership, Local Area III
Maureen Toll, Salina Area Chamber of Commerce

COMMERCE STAFF	
Caleb Asher	Mike Beene (by teleconference)
Christine Bohannon	John Wilson
Joey Frederickson	Ronnie Murphy
Susan Weidenbach	Ann Duffy
Keith Meyers	Shelly Jones
Linda Weaver	Leticia Perez
Kathy Hund	Candace Molzhon
Armand Corpolongo	Jeff Schroeder
Ann Duffy	Susan Nickerson
Susan Symons	Kathy Hund
Jeff Schroeder	
BOARD STAFF	
Cindy Nau	