



WORKFORCE ARIZONA COUNCIL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

<https://azcommerce.zoom.us/j/91124143093>

1-669-900-6833 Meeting ID: 911 2414 3093 Password: 112919

Council Members will receive their Zoom Link for participation

Members Present

Senator Heather Carter - Arizona State Senate
Representative Joanne Osborne - Arizona House of Representatives
Dawn Grove - Karsten Manufacturing
Susan Anable - Cox Communications
Greg Anderson - Summit Healthcare
Audrey Bohanan - Adelante Healthcare
Mark Gaspers - Boeing
Todd Graver - Freeport Mc
Will James - Centene Corporation
Tom Jenkins - Advanced Business Services
Gretchen Kitchel - SRP
Larry Lucero - Tucson Electric Power
Stephen Macias - Pivot Manufacturing
Brian Rice - Hensley Beverage
Daniel Seiden - Intel
Drew Thorpe - APS
John Walters - Liberty Mutual
Allison Gilbreath - Arizona Chamber of Commerce
Supervisor Bill Gates - Maricopa County Board of Supervisors

Mayor Jen Miles - City of Kingman
Jonathan Schmitt - ASU
Thomas Winkel - Arizona Coalition for Military Families
Sheryl Hart - Arizona Department of Education
Jeff Fleetham - Arizona Registrar of Contractors

Members Absent

Randall Garrison - FinTek Industries
Alex Horvath - Tucson Medical Center
Thomas Longstreth - Ventana Medical Systems
Karen Molina - Raytheon
Dennis Anthony - Arizona Apprenticeship Advisory Committee
David Martin - Arizona Chapter, Associated General Contractors
Michael Wisheart - Arizona Department of Economic Security
Sandra Watson - Arizona Commerce Authority

I. Call to Order

Chair Dawn Grove allowed extra time for those logging on virtually and called the Workforce Arizona Council meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Quorum was present after roll call.

III. Welcome

Chair Grove welcomed all those in attendance at the virtual meeting.

IV. Chairman's Report

Chair Grove noted statistics media reports released this morning on the unemployment crisis show that Arizona is faring much better than the US overall and better than most states in keeping people employed during the pandemic. She explained that the State Plan approved by the Council in February was submitted after the appearance of COVID-19, and a paragraph was added regarding actions being taken in response to the pandemic. She noted that many of the State Plan's targeted in-demand industries and occupations--in healthcare, manufacturing, IT, construction, logistics, etc.--were excellently chosen and remain in demand despite the pandemic. Nonetheless, the State Plan will be updated as needed to support economic recovery. She applauded the ACA's in-demand job listings and Small Business Bootcamps, and expressed appreciation for the participation of local board chairs and executive directors in virtual meetings to ensure the Council can be promptly responsive to on-the-ground needs throughout Arizona.

V. Manager's Report

Ashley Wilhelm, Workforce Arizona Council Manager, indicated the next steps for the Council's committees would be to focus their work on COVID-19 economic recovery efforts, and to move forward with work begun earlier on IT solutions, Eligible Training Provider List, Policy updates, continued marketing and communications and strategic planning.

VI. Call to the Public

Tom Colombo, Workforce Development Division Director, Maricopa County, commented on the successful implementation of the Return Stronger campaign, and indicated that they have received over 700 inquiries for training assistance as of May 27th.

Marcelino Flores, Pima County, requested that local areas be included in the strategic planning process of the Return Stronger campaign.

VII. Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 25, 2020

Gretchen Kitchel moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Danny Seiden; motion was adopted unanimously.

VIII. Arizona Workforce Association

Teri Drew, Chair of the Arizona Workforce Association (AWA), expressed the concerns of the local areas regarding the state's reserve of the Rapid Response funding and asked that the local areas be included and/or considered when a plan is put in place for the use of those funds. Teri also addressed concerns of the volume of inquiries received by the local areas through the Return Stronger campaign and areas to consider for improving the campaign.

IX. UI Claims Data Summary

Doug Walls from the Office of Economic Opportunity reported on unemployment in Arizona. He explained that Arizona has fared better than the US average when it comes to job loss. He gave details on the industries who have experienced job loss and to what level. He also gave an overview on the demographics of those that are receiving unemployment compensation which is being tracked on a dashboard on the Office of Economic Opportunity website.

X. COVID-19 Statewide Workforce Initiatives

Kolu Wilson from the Office of Economic Opportunity explained that the workforce team has quickly stood up initiatives to address rapid response needs with specific industries and led employment efforts for large employers. The workforce team has also presented to businesses to

address rapid response activities and unemployment programs. The Arizona Commerce Authority has initiated a rapid employment job training grant with added flexibilities due to COVID-19. Kolu explained that the next steps are to focus on recovery planning, phase 2 of Return Stronger campaign, and post COVID-19 planning with the Council's guidance.

A. Return Stronger Marketing Campaign

Jena Coolidge McGovern from the Arizona Commerce Authority walked the Council through the Return Stronger marketing campaign that was launched one week prior. She explained that print ads will run from May 18 - June 7 and to date there have been over 18,000 impressions to the website with close to 3,000 forms submitted inquiring about training services provided by ARIZONA@WORK. Of those individuals who have submitted inquiry forms, 96% have applied for unemployment benefits so the campaign is reaching the intended target audience.

XI. WIOA Title I Funding Allocations Approval

Kolu Wilson gave an overview of the process for the WIOA Title I funding allocations. She explained that the state has received a 31% increase in overall funding. WIOA allows the State to set aside 25% of the Dislocated Worker program funds to be used on Rapid Response activities. This year the State has elected to set aside the allowable maximum of 25%. Kolu then walked the Council through the allocation funding options for the Adult, Youth and Dislocated Worker programs indicating the options recommended by the AWA. Mayor Jen Miles moved to approve the WIOA Title I funding allocations as recommended by the AWA as follows:

- Adult - Option 2b
- Youth - Option 2b
- Dislocated Worker - Option 3

Tom Jenkins seconded. The motion was adopted unanimously.

XII. DES Updates

A. WIOA Waiver Plan

Moriah Robles from the policy team at the Department of Economic Security explained the allowability of waiver requests from the U.S. Department of Labor and the research that was conducted to identify the necessity for the State to request waivers. The State is recommending that no waivers be requested at this time, but the data will continue to be reviewed and a waiver can be requested when a need arises.

B. Local Planning Process

Rachael Tashbook from the policy team at DES stated that there has been a request from the local areas to extend the local plan deadline. She requested that the Performance Excellence Committee consider local plan submissions on a case by case basis when reviewing the recertification process.

C. Policy Flexibility Updates

Nancy Meeden from the policy team at DES explained that they have made adjustments to their policies to allow for additional flexibilities regarding program delivery and administrative funding. Discussion followed regarding the ETPL Emergency updates and Dislocated Worker Policy update. The Council, recognizing the need to act promptly while also ensuring appropriate WIOA compliance and public comment opportunities, tasked the Performance Excellence and Quality Workforce committees with reviewing and approving

policy changes, such that any changes to the ETPL and Dislocated Worker policies both committees agree on, will become the approved policies of the Council.

D. State Plan Updates

Chair Grove asked for volunteers to assist the State Plan Task Force with providing input on post-COVID-19 State Plan updates. Bill Gates, Mark Gaspers, Gretchen Kitchel, Jon Schmitt and Greg Anderson volunteered to assist.

XIII. Committee Reports

A. Local Board Recertification Approval

Ashley Wilhelm gave an update on the local board recertification process that the Performance Excellence Committee has been reviewing this quarter. The Committee approved Coconino local board for recertification and Yavapai County local board after conflict of interest issues were reviewed. Larry Lucero moved to approve Coconino County and Yavapai County local board recertification. Gretchen Kitchel seconded. Motion was adopted unanimously. Further committee updates were postponed due to time constraints.

XIV. Council Member Remarks

No additional remarks were received.

XV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.