



WORKFORCE ARIZONA COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Minutes

Tuesday, August 23rd, 2022

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

<https://azcommerce.zoom.us/j/91270386515>

Members Present

Mark Gaspers, Chair – Boeing

John Walters – Liberty Mutual

Audrey Bohanan- Adelante Healthcare

Members Absent

Bill Gates – Maricopa County Board of Supervisors

1. Call to Order - 1:02 p.m.

2. Welcome

Chair Mark Gaspers welcomed everyone, and offered a special welcome to Audrey Bohanan as newest member of the Executive Committee, serving as Chair of the Quality Workforce Committee.

3. Call to the Public - none

4. May 24th, 2022 Executive Committee Minutes Approval

John Walters moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Audrey Bohanan. The motion was carried unanimously.

5. New OEO, Council Staff Updates

Mark announced that Stacey Faulkner is now the Deputy Administrator of the Workforce Team at the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) and Erin Gallagher is now the Council Project Manager. Stacey mentioned that she was excited to be part of this team and to support the council's progress in the coming years.

Audrey and John welcomed Stacey.

6. Grant Updates - OEO

Stacey reported that, unfortunately, the Good Jobs Challenge Grant was not awarded to any entity in Arizona. OEO has submitted a proposal for a new grant called the Arizona Quest Grant with a statewide collaborative of six Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) and six colleges for \$15 million, having a focus on quality jobs, equity, strategy, and training- disaster recovery. Awards are expected to go out in September 2022.

Stacey also reported on the National Governors Association (NGA) Summer Symposium 2022. The council may establish priorities with grants, for example career planning programs for K-12

education, considering that students are the future of the workforce. She encouraged members of the council to watch for grant opportunities.

Audrey mentioned the importance of identifying where LWDBs have needs and gaps, and to seek grants that fill those needs.

John said he was interested in learning more about the best practices from other states, and that perhaps those could be shared out in council meetings.

7. Local Plan Modifications

Stacey spoke first regarding some of the reasons for requesting extensions, the proposed deadlines, as well as the potential actions for this committee. Three local boards, Coconino, Nineteen Tribal Nations, and Northeastern Arizona, have submitted requests for an extension. The extension request process was developed in early July after it became clear that some Boards would not have a plan modification submitted prior to this committee meeting.

Matt Smith, WIOA Project Specialist at DES Division of Employment and Rehabilitation Services, provided an overview of the Local Plan Modification Cycle, expectations, the timeline, and the DES Review Process. The project timeline was established in 2021, in coordination with LWDBs. The various steps and deadlines were established in anticipation that all twelve Local Plan Modifications would be presented to this committee and the Council for approval by the 2022 4th Quarter Council meeting. Local Areas were expected to conduct labor market analysis, get stakeholder input, revise narratives and otherwise update plans before posting for public comment. He reported that nine of the twelve Local Workforce Area Boards have submitted plan modifications, and currently eight have Initial Compliance Approval. The ninth plan, from Mohave-La Paz, is conditionally approved - but will need to go out for Public Comment and be resubmitted with any comments and needed updates before DES formally grants the initial compliance approval. This committee is requested to recommend to the full council to approve the modifications for Pinal County and Yavapai County, and to recommend to the full council to approve the extension requests of Coconino, Nineteen Tribal Nations, and Northeastern Arizona.

Audrey Bohanan provided the motion, John Walters seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

8. Nineteen Tribal Nations (NTN) Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) Update

Nancy Meeden, of DES DERS, provided an informal update to the committee that many of the NTN compliance issues have been resolved. Job Center Certification received provisional approval in February 2022. Yet to be completed are the Fiscal Agent, Local Plan, and Procurement of a OneStop Operator.

9. Committee Reports

a. Strategic Communication and Partnership Committee Update

Stacey Faulkner provided the report. There are currently two vacancies on the committee. There will be a draft of the ARIZONA@WORK brand policy coming in September 2022, which will go to the public for comment in October, and hopefully for approval by the council in November.

The date of December 8, 2022 and venue of West-MEC Southwest Campus in Buckeye, Arizona have been secured for the Annual Council Convening, and planning is underway.

b. Measuring Effectiveness Committee and Performance Excellence Committee Update

John Walters introduced the proposed consolidation of the two committees, its proposed new name, the Performance and Accountability Committee, and explained that the committee recommended adoption of the name and a proposed new mission statement.

Audrey moved to recommend to the council the new committee, its name, and mission statement. John seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

c. Quality Workforce Committee Update

Audrey reported that the committee has one vacant position. In this quarter's meeting, the committee received an update on progress with the Arizona Career Readiness Credential Program, along with other reported accomplishments and lessons learned.

10. Council Updates and Agenda

Chair Gaspers offered a big thank you to Ken Mall for his guidance this year, another thank you to DES and OEO for their collaboration and leadership, and to all the Local Workforce Areas for their contributions. He mentioned that there is a lot to look forward to in Arizona right now with expanding opportunities.

He went on to outline three areas that stand out to him as important for the focus of the council. One is addressing the healthcare pipeline, and he mentioned that he is especially grateful for the representation of Audrey Bohanan and a new leader on the council coming from the healthcare industry. Another is advanced manufacturing, particularly the semiconductor industry which is getting global attention, and there are tremendous people working on that. Also, he spoke about Arizona's diversity, especially emphasizing the importance of rural and tribal locations.

Audry spoke up to express that she agrees with the focus on workforce and talent, regardless of the sector, and identifying unique ways to bring them in and elevate their skills.

John mentioned a priority of the recession-proof arenas, emphasizing work-based learning and apprenticeship, and guidance on how to plug in to those opportunities.

John Walters moved to approve the council agenda for August 30, 2022, and Audrey Bohanan seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

11. Adjournment - 1:51 p.m.

*Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to members of the Workforce Arizona Council Executive Committee and to the general public that the Committee will hold a meeting, open to the public, on **Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at 1:00 pm.** via Zoom. For more information, please call (480) 904-0826.*

Persons with a disability may request reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by calling (480) 904-0826. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation. A copy of the material provided to Committee members (with the exception of material relating to possible executive sessions) is available for public inspection at the Office of Economic Opportunity, located at 100 N. 7th Avenue, Suite 400, Phoenix, AZ 85007.

Under A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3), the Committee may vote to go into executive session, which will not be open to the public, for the purpose of obtaining legal advice on any item on the agenda.

At its discretion, the Committee may consider and act upon any agenda item out of order. Members of the Committee may appear by telephone.