

**PHOENIX BUSINESS AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
ALIGN INVESTMENT STEERING COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes**

**February 7, 2024  
1:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:**

Daniel Barajas  
Nick Bielinski  
Kaaren-Lyn Graves  
Brandon Ramsey

Alison Rapping  
Stephanie Rimmer  
Raghu Santanam

**Public Attendees:**

Jacyln Boyes  
Deb Furlong  
Michelle Gillis  
Micha Harris  
LaSetta Hogans  
Hayden Maynard

Terrence Pinkston  
Christina Quijada  
Demitria Robles  
Ariadna Valentin  
Justin West

Action items taken are noted in **bold** print.

**1. Call to Order / Roll Call:**

The Align Investment Steering Committee (AISC) Chair, Brandon Ramsey, called the February 7, 2024, meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Roll call was completed and a quorum of six members was present.

**2. October 18, 2023, and November 16, 2023, Align Investment Steering Committee Meeting Minutes:**

**A motion to approve the October 18, 2023, and November 16, 2023, Meeting Minutes** was made by Align Investment member Nick Bielinski and seconded by Align Investment member Stephanie Rimmer.

Approved: Nick Bielinski, E. Cole, Kaaren-Lyn Graves, Brandon Ramsey, Alison Rapping and Stephanie Rimmer.

**Opposed: None**

**Abstained: None**

**Motion passed.**

**Align Investment Member Jaclyn Boyes joined the meeting at 1:09 pm and Align Investment Member Micha Harris joined the meeting at 1:10 pm.**

**3. Braided Funding Options and Proposed Plan of Action:**

AISC Chair Brandon Ramsey shared with the Implementation Plan Goals with the committee:

2 (a) Build insights to inform goals for the workforce development system and investment decisions for the Board and individual organizations.

2 (b) Report on the PBWD Board's programs' return on investment and value for money.

3 (a) Design a model that braids funding, review and scale.

3 (b) Help providers. Community colleges and others to access additional funding streams.

Bloomberg Associates (BA) presented key interventions to support employers at the January Phoenix Business and Workforce Development (PBWD) Board meeting. AISC Chair Brandon Ramsey suggested the AISC Steering Committee to explore the opportunity of adopting the recommendations:

**6. Utilize philanthropic vehicle to supplement WIOA, fund localized programs**

- Bring on grants resources, corporate sponsorships, charitable contributions, and in-kind support to support workforce efforts, offer flexible funding
  - Develop, pitch 2-4 new initiatives for private funding in 2024
  - Develop fundraising, cultivation strategies to target 3-5 private funders
  - Leverage funding to drive announcements, visibility, support for the work
  - Deliver long-term solution to support immediate needs, timely programs

Align Investment Ad-hoc member Jaclyn Boyes suggested composing a "Network Power Map" to assist with who the key players are and provide clarity for the funding targets to assist other AISC members.

AISC Chair, Brandon Ramsey asked that committee members bring forward any Information to assist in identifying opportunities/"hot lead" contacts with PBWD Board Staff – LaSetta Hogans/or Hayden Maynard. Additionally, PBWD

Board Staff will set up time with Bloomberg Associates to collaborate with committee members to decide “best approach”.

**E. Cole left the meeting at 1:40 p.m.**

**A motion to approve the Braided Funding Option and Plan of Action** was made by Align Investment member Kaaren-Lyn Graves and seconded by Align Investment Ad-hoc member Jaclyn Boyes.

Approved: Nick Bielinski, Micha Harris, Brandon Ramsey, Alison Rapping and Stephanie Rimmer.

**Opposed: None**

**Abstained: None**

**Motion passed.**

**4. Align Investment Steering Committee Expectations:**

The Align Investment Steering Committee (AISC) Chair, Brandon Ramsey asked committee members and bring things forward and opportunities to assist in mapping out our course of action.

**5. Future Agenda Items: None**

**6. Call to the Public and Announcements: None**

**7. Adjournment:**

**AISC Member Stephanie Rimmer motioned to adjourn the meeting, AISC Member Alison Rapping seconded.**

**Nick Bielinski, Jaclyn Boyes, Kaaren Lyn-Graves, Brandon Ramsey, Micha Harris, Alison Rapping, approved the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.**