

MEETING MINUTES

LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Date: August 27th, 2025,

Time: 11:02 AM

Meeting called to order by: David Miller (Chairman)

IN ATTENDANCE

David Miller (Chair), James Bruzzi (Vice-Chair), Chad Meier (T), Chris Pasterz, Elizabeth Flake, Elizabeth Valdez, Janet Dean, Ryleigh Aubuchon, Tabitha Stickel, Steve North, Jennifer Fair, Kelly Zagrzebski, Peter Tims

Excused: Billy Smith

Absent: Dominic Marcanti, Derron Hansen

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Minutes from June and July 2025 were approved

- Motioned by James Bruzzi
- Seconded by Elizabeth Flake
- All were in favor; motion carried

REPORTS

Rapid Response Report (Greg Clark)

- BSR Nolen Seymore resigned and took position with Zenni Home. His position will remain vacant.
- Matching employers with potential employees via AJC
- July 28th there was a serious fire at Zenni Home creating a major loss for the company. This could delay progress for 6-8 months.
- Steve North inquired how BSRs match employers with job seekers after taking job orders from the employer, posting them on AJC whereas T1 helps job seekers with applications, registering in AJC, and creating resumes. Partnering together placements take place.

Director's Report (Adam Garrard)

- Losing BSR Nolen Seymore was on a good note and due to Budget changes, the position will not be filled at this time.
- MOU/IFA is finished and will be going out for signatures this week.

- Board recertification was reviewed by Council Board, and some key components are being awaited on such as the Local Plan. Local Plan just finished with the Public Comment period and will be completed in the near future. Recertification will be considered after all parts are finished and submitted to the Council Board.
- Presentation regarding the EO Monitor of NEAZ ARIZONA@Work by Aaron Moon, Regional Director with Eckerd Connects. Update on services provided by Eckerd (T1B contractor for NEAZ ARIZONA@Work).
- ETPL Monitor needing board assistance to expand ETPL to include all 5 sectors which are in the 4-year Plan. NEAZ only has one ETPL currently.
- Title 1 Monitor in October.
- NEAZ will start monitor of OSO and Eckerd to provide during NEAZ monitors.
- Sunshine introduced to Board as Show Low's Chamber Executive Director.

OSO Report (Jessica Head)

- July – 29 job placements making an average of \$37,502.40 annually (\$18.03/hr.)
- Eckerd has included the OSO in the process with new participants and maintained active communication. Shout out to T1B provider by OSO for their efforts at gaining buy-in from prospective participants before offering the application.
- Issue is skeleton crews, especially with Title 3, which is a struggle everywhere.
- OSO and Business Service Coordinator will be working on ironing out details such as traffic flow in September.
- Chris Pasterz inquires about difference in the success of the program after the decision by the Board to change providers. OSO reports there has only been positive feedback and outcomes so far, but it is still too early to know if the endgame will be better or not.

Financial Report (Briony Buchholz)

- PY24/FY25 and PY25/FY26 awards shared and reviewed.
- Requested final approval on Budget after adjustments made with actual allocations and losing a BSR, needs approval vote.
 - Chris Pasterz motioned to approve adjusted budget
 - Liz Flake seconded motion
 - All were in favor; motion carried
- Adam stated 196,000 was verbally given in a meeting with the State of AZ but allocation was higher. To not jump ahead, BSR will not be filled.
- Adam mentioned NAWB has no budgeted funds, and this comes as a hardship to the board as NAWB is a good resource for advocating for WIOA and for learning what is coming down the pipes in the future. Negotiations were made to pay a one-time fee of \$750.00 but no action has been taken.
- Ryleigh questioned RingCentral on the budget as board had voted to cancel it, but contract had no cancellation options leading to NEAZ having to continue to pay RingCentral until end of contract in June 2026.

OLD BUSINESS

- Awards were presented to partners that have gone above and beyond. Awards presented to:
- Josh Drake resigned from the board due to company going out of business and Dennis Robbins Cox resigned.
 - Motion to approve removal of Josh Drake and Dennis Robbins Cox from the NEAZ ARIZONA@Work Board made by Liz Flake
 - Seconded by James Bruzzi
 - All were in favor; motion carried
- DES office in Globe is undergoing a remodel and NEAZ needs to wait to move in or it will be responsible for paying a portion of the remodel costs. No timeline known at this time on when it will be completed.

NEW BUSINESS

- Donald McLaughlin application to represent White Mountain Economic Development presented before the Board.
 - Chris Pasterz motioned to approve application of Donald McLaughlin
 - Peter Tims seconded motion
 - All were in favor; motion carried
- Jason Forest recommended representative as prospect as a Board member from Little Colorado Meats.
- James Bruzzi will do some research to find a prospect for Gila County position on the Board and will keep in communication with Adam Garrard.
- Adam suggested that the board move back to bi-monthly full-board meetings during odd months and executive committee meetings during even months. Chairman put it before the board for discussion. James Bruzzi and Liz Flake stated their approval of moving to bi-monthly after September's meeting.

BOARD UPDATES/COMMENTS

Chris Pasterz commended the NPC hiring event in June and the work that was put into it while remaining professional. Chris inquired about the AI challenges and asked what is working and what is not in the job centers.

- Bulk text messaging is used and blessed
- Chat GPT is impressive when doing new resumes in bulk
- Social Media sites

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be on September 24th, 2025, at 11:00 AM at Show Low City Hall located at 180 N. 9th Place in Show Low, Arizona for those who wish to attend in person. A virtual option will also be available; the link will be sent out prior to the next meeting with the agenda. Link will also be posted on NEAZ webpage.

Adjourned at 12:24 PM

- Motion to adjourn made by Steve North
- Seconded by James Bruzzi
- All were in favor, none opposed – motion carried