



ARIZONA TRIBAL WORKFORCE

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ARIZONA TRIBAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (ATWDB)

MEETING MINUTES

March 3, 2026

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Virtual Meeting

Prepared by: Nadine Talayumtewa/Terilene Rios

I. Call to Order – Crystal Banuelos, ATWDB Chair

Chairwoman Banuelos called the meeting to order at 1:37 pm

II. Roll Call - Connie Fraijo, ATWDB Executive Director

Nadine Talayumtewa conducted a roll call; a quorum was present

Members' Present: Neil White, Angelina Flores, Erin Pazos, Crystal Banuelos, Bernadette Kniffen, Wendy Begay, Genevieve Datsi, Wallin Gustin and Chris Kawabata

Members' Absent: Anisa Patch, Sam Molina, Ronald Quasula, Aaron Brown and Kelli Patton

Staff Present: Connie Fraijo, Nadine Talayumtewa, Sherri Placencio and Debra Slater

III. Approval of February 17, 2026 minutes - Approval of the minutes was tabled pending further clarification

IV. Call to Public – Crystal Banuelos, ATWDB Chair - Jon Rios asked the question about the upcoming EO Training regarding date and time. And who is required to attend. Connie stated that the training will be on March 9<sup>th</sup> and she would resend information again.

V. New Business – Crystal Banuelos, ATWDB Chair

a. Presentation: Healthcare Strategic Initiative – Maricopa Community College presentation on their program by Rochelle Rivas and Ana Cunningham. (PDF presentation)

b. Presentation: Title I-B Adult Impact Training – AZ Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) Presentation by Jason Clustra, Economist III. (PDF presentation)

VI. Old Business – Crystal Banuelos, ATWDB Chair –

a. Update on ATWDB Local Plan – MaryAnn Lawrence. MaryAnn gave a brief update on where we stand on the plan. Her meetings with Crystal and other staff will be happening tomorrow. She hopes to have a draft available on March 31st, 2026. So, we should be able to review in April. This will be posted for 2 weeks but we will post for one month. We want it to be a document the board

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can support. MaryAnn left her contact information: Phone: 317-946-7916 and email is [malaw528@gmail.com](mailto:malaw528@gmail.com).

- b. Status of IGA – Crystal stated that Mayen did bring everyone up to date on this. We are still trying to get this to the AG's office. She has given her feedback on this.

VII. ATWDB Reports

- a. ATWDB Chair & Vice Chair Updates – Crystal Banuelos and Wendy Begay. Vice-Chair. No recent updates from Chair or Vice Chair. Uploads have been finalized by Connie and things that were outstanding on our recertification. Our Local Plan is also still outstanding at this point, but we are addressing that. Our One Stop Operator RFP is posted, and we will look further at it. Also, we are addressing our board membership.

- b. ATWDB Executive Director Updates – Connie Fraijo, ATWDB Executive Director – (I/D)

- i. Administrative

**Local Board Vacancies** – WMAT a second waiver request was sent to the Workforce Arizona Council; we are hopeful that by April, we will have this filled. Hopi I'll be sending a letter to request a replacement. We will continue to review the bylaws to address members that have had two consecutive absences, bylaws state that the board chairperson shall send, or cause to be sent, written notification to the appropriate Chief Elected Official or other appropriate entity and to the board member.

**Local Board Recertification** – We have been working on the Action Plan, this will be a continuous process, and some of the items Connie discussed are part of the recertification this includes the Service Provider Agreements. So there is still work to be done.

**Local Plan** – You heard from MaryAnn earlier. Connie continues to work with her to ensure that we are meeting the responsibilities that are detailed in the SOW.

**OSO Procurement** – Connie reported that we did not receive any responses. Connie has a meeting with our Fiscal Agent on March 4<sup>th</sup> to determine our options. These documents are part of the recertification that also includes the board membership.

**Cost Allocation Remaining Report** – Connie has requested this report from DES fiscal, once received Connie will send it out to the Board and Directors.

**ATWDB New Hires** – Connie onboarded new board assistant, Terilene Rios. She started yesterday – This is great news! This will allow Connie to spend more time on some of our priorities. Connie has been working with our Business Service Rep and our compliance specialist in their new roles.

- ii. Operational

**Program Monitoring – For PY25** we only have two areas that we are still working with. EO Training is scheduled for March 9<sup>th</sup> this will include the directors.

**The MIS work group** met last week and reviewed our WIOA Performance. We still have some data mining to do to get to our targets. We also reviewed some of our common program findings to get clarification or provided resources. We discovered that not everyone has the access in AJC to view certain screens, Connie is looking into the AJC privileges to resolve this.

**The Directors meeting** – Connie provided an update on the board compliance. Lana provided updates on the National Tribal Conference she attended. We spent a lot of time on the Dislocated Worker program that included performance, eligibility and outreach and recruitment effort. Each completed a questionnaire that Connie created to understand the enrollment challenges and outreach

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strategies. Connie went over scenarios and brainstormed them as a group. We also went over program enrollment numbers. Linda and Connie shared an update on the ATW 2026 training conference, and we voted on a theme. Refresh, Reset and Refocus. Connie has sent conference proposals to different locations to secure a venue.

**Training Expo** – Is scheduled April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Desert Willow in PHX. It's a one-day event. Connie will send out the details to the Board. We are also planning on sending our Tribal Directors and staff to this event and pay for the registration fee. This type of training was projected on our PY24 budget to allow this.

**AZ Workforce Summit 2026** - Save the Date Tuesday & Wednesday, June 9–10, 2026, Mesa Convention Center – Connie will send the Save the Date to the Board and encourage your attendance. The Summit could be strengthened by including a tribal workforce perspective. If anyone will be willing or interested in working with your tribal workforce leaders in developing a session? It could provide valuable insight into what tribal workforce systems look like. Connie will include this in your Save the Date in case there are any interested individuals.

- VIII. Next meeting will be on April 7, 2026, at 1:30 pm
- IX. Adjournment – Motion was made to adjourn meeting by Wendy Begay, seconded by Wallin Gustin. Meeting adjourned at 2:52 pm.