



ARIZONA TRIBAL WORKFORCE

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ARIZONA TRIBAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (ATWDB)

MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 2026

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Virtual Meeting

Prepared by: Nadine Talayumtewa

I. Call to Order – Crystal Banuelos, ATWDB Chair

Chairwoman Banuelos called the meeting to order at 1:43 pm

II. Roll Call - Connie Fraijo, ATWDB Executive Director

Connie Fraijo conducted a roll call; a quorum was present

Members' Present: Neil White, Erin Pazos, Crystal Banuelos, Bernadette Kniffin, Wendy Begay, Wallin Gustin, Kelli Patton, Chris Kawabata

Members' Absent: Anissa Patch, Angelina Flores, Ronald Quasula, Aaron Brown, Genevieve Datsi

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

III. Approval of January 6, 2026 minutes - Approval of the minutes was tabled pending further clarification

IV. Call to Public – Jessica Mills ask about how to reallocate funds from a tribe who has access funds and cannot spend them. Crystal stated she would talk with Connie regarding this since this would need to come to the board for approval. Connie did mention that we do not have a current policy to address that but will do some research and get back to Jessica. Jessica commented that if tribes don't spend their funds, we should be able to use those funds. Crystal commented that we will get more information and get back to her.

V. New Business – Crystal Banuelos, ATWDB Chair

- a. Prior Year WIOA Grant Compliance Summary – Program Year (PY) 2024. Connie presented a document for review to the board for prior year compliance. We reviewed PY24 audit letters that covered WIOA Program, Equal Opportunity and Fiscal. The summary results were from observations/findings, corrective actions required and those that are open or closed.

VI. Old Business – Crystal Banuelos, ATWDB Chair –

- a. Status of IGA – We had a meeting with OEO Thursday, and work is continuing on completing the IGA with OEO, ATWDB and DES. Work continues. Erin Pazos commented that her Executive Director needs a date when this will happen so they can get a jump on getting it through their process. Wendy Begay supported that and added that there are other documents that need to go through their process as well.
- b. ATWDB One-Stop Operator RFP Update – Executive Director gave a brief update on the status of the RFP that closed January 29, 2026 and received no response. Connie will be working with OEO to determine next steps.

VII. WIOA Performance Update for PY 2025 – Nadine Talayumptewa, ATWDB Program Coordinator – Nadine presented our status on where we are standing with performance. Youth performance we are currently meeting the 4th Quarter and Median Earnings. We are not meeting 2nd Quarter, Credential and MSG rates. For the Adults we are meeting Median Earnings and Credential performance. We are not meeting 2nd Quarter, 4th Quarter and MSG rates. Our numbers have not moved since November 2025. We do have a MIS meeting coming up on February 24th at which time we will be addressing these goals.

VIII. ATWDB Reports

a. ATWDB Chair & Vice Chair Updates – Crystal Banuelos and Wendy Begay. Vice-Chair

b. Special Operations Committee Chair Linda Valenzuela – ATWDB Staffing Discussion and Approvals.

1. ATWDB Staffing Discussion and Approvals a) ATWDB Board Assistant Terilene Rios. Motion was made by Erin Pazos, seconded by Wallin Gustin. Motion was passed and approved.
2. The next discussion was to approve ATWDB staff agreements. A copy of the Agreements was shown on the screen and reviewed by board members. Board Chair Crystal added the names and titles to the agreements, after which the motion was approved by the Board. A motion was made by Wallin Gustin and seconded by Erin Pazos. Additionally, clarification is provided regarding the approval of the terms of staff agreements. All staff agreements were approved for a duration of two and one-half (2½) years, with the following effective periods:
 - Operations & Compliance Specialist – Approved from February 2026 through June 30, 2028
 - Business Representative – Approved from February 2026 through June 30, 2028
 - Executive Director – Approved from January 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028
 - Program Coordinator – Approved from January 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028
 - Board Assistant – Approved from March 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028

c. Executive Director Updates Connie Fraijo, ATWDB Executive Director –

- i. Administrative – Connie introduced Sherri Placencio and Debra Slater as the two new ATWDB staff hired by the board. They both introduced themselves and have been on board since February.

Membership -White Mountain still has a vacancy, and Connie is working with Marjorie Quade on this. It was reported by Hopi that their representative will have to be replaced. Local board recertification, IGA and One Stop Operator are documents for the recertification as well as the Local Plan that we are working with Mary Ann Lawrence, she will be meeting Directors at meeting next week. This One Stop Operator will be working with Mayen. ATWDB policies are going to be updated, we now have extra staff to help with that.

Operational – Program audits, six of those have been closed and we have three still working on. Enrollments have increased and we will be talking about this next week. Data Validation is complete and closed. We received a 99% accuracy rate for that quarter. MIS meeting is on February 24th followed by Directors' meeting on February 25th.

IX. Next meeting will be on March 3, 2026, at 1:30 pm

X. Adjournment – Motion was made to adjourn meeting by Wendy Begay, seconded by Erin Pazos.
Meeting adjourned at 2:52 pm.