



MEETING MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
MARICOPA COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Thursday, April 16, 2026 | 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Members Present:

Albert Blanco, Anne Landers, Chris Richardson, Che' Collins, Danielle Lertique, Elias Medina, Gregg Ghelfi, JakinDee Kosaka, Loren Granger, Minky Kernacs, Noelle Trinder, Scott Holman, Shawn Hutchinson, Tim Willenborg, Tina Drews, Tom Saxon

Members Absent:

Anna Yap, Brittany Holmes, Danielle Goodman, Jacob Evenson, Kathryn Ybarra, Michael Vazquez, Wallin Gustin

Call to Order.

Chair Tim Willenborg called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Roll Call.

Roll call was conducted by Management Analyst, Madison Ginsberg. Quorum was confirmed.

Welcome, Chair Opening Remarks.

Chair Willenborg welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chair Willenborg informed everyone of some information that he learned from attending the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Forum in Las Vegas, Nevada March 22-26, 2026. Other members of the Board who also attended The Forum shared some insights and takeaways.

WDD Service Provider Update.

Andrew Lucero, WDD Manager, presented the WDD highlights. Occupational skills training trends show that for youth participants, healthcare and social assistance leads at 57%, followed by transportation and warehousing, construction, and IT. For adult, dislocated worker, and Smart Justice programs, transportation and warehousing leads at 51%, followed by healthcare and social assistance, IT, and construction. Through quarter three, total occupational skills training expenditures were approximately \$605,000 for adult dislocated workers, \$143,000 for Smart Justice, and \$393,280 for youth. Average training costs were highest in construction.

Andrew provided an update on registered apprenticeships, noting 560 participants enrolled to date toward a goal of 3,000 by 2026. Construction accounts for the majority of enrollments, followed by manufacturing and other sectors. Total training investment has exceeded \$1.8 million, with an average cost of \$3,341 per participant.

Job fair engagement has increased significantly. Through quarter three of the current program year, 513 employers and over 6,300 job seekers have participated across fewer sites. Operational updates include the transition of contact center responsibilities to WDD, with two new program service representatives being hired to manage incoming calls by June 1.

Andrew also highlighted current and upcoming events, including the Exceptional Worker Summit at ASU West with approximately 150 employers focused on inclusive hiring, and an upcoming apprenticeship fair on April 29.

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Pre-registration for the fair has reached nearly 600 participants, significantly exceeding previous attendance, with potential relocation to a larger venue to accommodate demand.

Consent Agenda.

Chair Willenborg introduced the consent agenda. The consent agenda included: (a) Meeting Minutes: February 19, 2026 (b) FY27 Administrative Budget, (c) FY27 MCWDB Meeting Schedule, (d) One Stop Operator Quarter 3 Performance Assessment, (e) Title 1B Quarterly Report, (f) MCWDB Membership Update (g) DES WIOA Industry Driven Skills Training Fund Grant Award

Chair Willenborg asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items.

Noelle Trinder moved to approve the consent agenda. Scott Holman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Community Impact Statement.**Success Story.**

Career Advisor Elsa Aldana shared a success story of Kristol. Kristol, previously unemployed and dependent on family support, expressed a strong interest in pursuing a nursing career but lacked prior experience and job opportunities. Through guidance and WIOA funding, Kristol enrolled in and completed Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training. As a result, he secured employment as a CNA earning \$18 per hour and enrolled in a nursing program. Kristol has demonstrated strong motivation and is on a clear pathway toward becoming a registered nurse.

Information/Discussion/Possible Action.**Targeted In-Demand Occupations**

Policy and Compliance Manager, Laura Malhoit, presented recommendations for updated Targeted In-Demand Occupations and outlined the methodology used to develop them. A focus group composed of board staff, Workforce Development Division (WDD) leadership, and Business Services representatives met over multiple sessions to review labor market data and validate findings. The group analyzed labor market information from the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), regional economic priorities, participant outcomes, and existing board and state priorities. Selection criteria included projected job growth, competitive wages, training availability, realistic educational requirements for WIOA participants, and alignment with regional employer demand.

The focus group developed two lists: (1) Targeted In-Demand Industries (presented for board approval) and (2) a Targeted Occupations list which was presented and attached to the meeting packet. These updated occupations will guide training investment eligibility, strengthen case management and service alignment, enhance employer engagement, and improve participant outcomes.

Chair Willenborg asked for a motion to approve the Targeted In-Demand Occupations.

Albert Blanco moved to approve the Targeted In-Demand Occupations. Elias Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PY Dislocated Worker to PY Adult Funds Transfer

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WDD Grants Accountant, Eddie Contreras, summarized the Dislocated Worker to Adult Funds Transfer request. The request was presented to transfer \$632,245 from the PY24 Dislocated Worker program to the adult program, in accordance with WIOA Section 133 and state policy. This transfer does not change the total allocation but reallocates funds to better align with current service demands. Following the transfer, the Dislocated Worker allocation will decrease to \$362,068, and the adult allocation will increase to \$1,303,367. Funds must be expended by August 15, 2026. The request is supported by current labor market conditions, including a lower unemployment rate in Maricopa County (4.3%) and reduced demand for dislocated worker services due to successful rapid re-employment efforts. Despite the transfer, sufficient funding will remain to serve all eligible dislocated workers.

The transfer will not impact the ability to meet priority of service requirements, with approximately 95% of adult participants already meeting priority categories. Outreach efforts to dislocated workers continue through responses to layoff notices and enhanced intake processes. Overall, the transfer is expected to improve service delivery by aligning funding with higher demand in the adult program while maintaining strong performance outcomes across both programs.

Chair Willenborg asked for a motion to approve the Targeted In-Demand Occupations.

Che' Collins moved to approve the Dislocated Worker to Adult Funds Transfer. Anne Landers seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Information/Discussion Only.

MCWDB Workgroup Updates.

Management Analyst, Madison Ginsberg, provided the update for the Advanced Manufacturing and Semiconductor Workgroup. The Workgroup last met on February 9th and discussed mapping and coordination. A sub-workgroup was created to focus on awareness and marketing to create actionable steps. The next meeting is on April 21, 2026.

Special Projects Manager, Katelyn Harris-Lange provided the update for the Regional Workforce and Economic Development Workgroup. The workgroup last met on March 16th and focused on regional business services, a unified employer facing document draft, common language and skills mapping, and the Regional Forum Series. The next meeting will be on May 11, 2026.

Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) Overview

Management Analyst, Nancy Avina, provided an overview of the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) highlighting its role as a list of approved training providers and programs eligible to receive WIOA funding and support participants in accessing training aligned with in-demand industries. Currently, Maricopa County has 58 training providers and approximately 246 programs.

The Board's role includes annually identifying in-demand industries and occupations and ensuring sufficient training provider availability to support informed participant choice. Eligible providers include public and private post-secondary institutions, registered apprenticeship programs, and organizations serving individuals with barriers to employment.

The ETPL application process involves state approval of providers, followed by local review of programs to ensure alignment with federal, state, and local requirements, including alignment with in-demand industries. Programs must lead to recognized credentials such as certifications, licenses, or degrees.

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Ongoing responsibilities include approving initial eligibility, monitoring at least 15% of programs annually, conducting continued eligibility reviews, and ensuring performance data meets required standards. Case managers support participants by guiding training selection, issuing training vouchers, and monitoring progress. Since assuming oversight, Nancy has improved processes, strengthened compliance and monitoring, enhanced collaboration with the state, and received positive feedback from training providers.

PBS Jobs Explained

Arizona PBS presented an overview of its workforce development grant, American Graduate: Jobs Explained, a national initiative focused on engaging young adults (ages 15–26) in career exploration through short, social media–friendly videos. The project highlights in-demand industries including construction, trades, healthcare, technology, and advanced manufacturing.

The videos are produced at no cost to participating employers and are distributed on platforms such as Instagram and YouTube to reach a Gen Z audience. Arizona PBS is seeking employer partners willing to feature early-career employees and share insights on career pathways, skills, and job experiences.

The grant runs through Summer 2027, with ongoing efforts to expand employer participation—particularly in the technology sector—and potentially secure additional funding. Arizona PBS also noted opportunities to amplify impact through partnerships and potentially add a dedicated workforce reporter. Additional optional paid video production services are available for organizations seeking full editorial control.

OSO Annual Progress Report

The OSO reported strong performance in quarter one, with customer satisfaction rates averaging 98.5% across East and West Valley One-Stop locations, reflecting consistent, high-quality service delivery and effective customer triage.

Significant efforts were made in partner engagement and staff development, including collaborations with Gateway Community College, the Arizona Registrar of Contractors, and Bank On Arizona. These partnerships enhanced staff awareness of available resources and strengthened referral pathways for customers. The OSO also facilitated collaborative leadership meetings focused on cross-training, problem-solving, and data-driven decision-making, including presentations on labor market trends and referral systems. System coordination efforts included reconnecting with Mesa Community College, SNAP partners, and DES DERS to improve alignment, accessibility, and support for shared customers. Overall, quarter one demonstrated strong customer satisfaction, enhanced partnerships, improved system coordination, and continued commitment to high-quality service delivery.

MCWDB Committee Reports.

Chair Willenborg provided an update on the Executive Committee. The last meeting was on March 19, 2026. The main topic of discussion was reviewing the target occupations, discussing the upcoming forum series, and planning for the summer retreat.

Youth Committee Chair, Anne Landers, shared the update on the Youth Committee. The last meeting consisted of youth program updates, reports about the Youth Build Program, and an overview of the advancements made by the Agua Fria Union High School District.

Call to the Public.

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Chair Willenborg called for public comment. No public comments were made.

Adjourn.

There being no further business, Chair Willenborg thanked all attendees and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Che' Collins made a motion to adjourn. Anne Landers seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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