

 **Virtual:** Via Zoom
 **Date:** Tuesday, May 5, 2026
 **Time:** 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
Prepared by: Nadine Talayumtewa & Terilene Rios




Arizona Tribal Workforce Development Board (ATWDB) Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order by Chairwoman Crystal Banuelos at 1:33 PM
2. Roll Call by Executive Director Connie Fraijo. A quorum was present.

Name	Present	Absent	Status
Neil White	P		Member - Cocopah Indian Tribe
Anissa Patch		A	Member – Colorado River Indian Tribe
Angelina Flores		A	Member - Gila River Indian Community
Ronald Ouasula Sr.		A	Member - Hualapai Tribe
Erin Pazos	P		Member - Pascua Yaqui Tribe
Aaron Brown		A	Member - Quechan Indian Tribe
Crystal Banuelos	P		Member – Salt River Pima Maricopa
Bernadette Kniffin	P		Member – San Carlos Apache Tribe
Winifred Begay	P		Member – Tohono O’odham Nation
Genevieve Datsi	P		Member Yavapai – Apache Nation
Wallin Gustin	P		Member – AZDES
Kelly Patton		A	Member – AZDES
Christopher Kawabata	P		Member – Yavapai College
Connie Fraijo	P		ATWDB Staff
Nadine Talayumtewa	P		ATWDB Staff
Deborah Slater	P		AWTDB Staff

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Name	Present	Absent	Status
Sherri Placencio	P		AWTDB Staff
Terilene Rios	P		AWTDB Staff




3. Approval of Minutes for February 17, 2026: A motion was made by Wallin Gustin to approve the February 17th Meeting Minutes and seconded by Wendy Begay. All were in favor. None Opposed. Genevieve Datsi Abstained. Motion was passed with the noted change.

Approval of Minutes for April 7, 2026: A motion was made by Chris Kawabata to approve the April 7th Meeting Minutes with a motion seconded by Bernadette Kniffen. All were in favor. None Opposed. None Abstained. Motion passed.

4. Call to the Public by Crystal Banuelos, ATWDB Chair: None
5. New Business by Crystal Banuelos, ATWDB Chair
 - A. Presentation: Tribal Workforce Success Story – Pascua Yaqui – Linda Valenzuela: The tribe in collaboration with Phoenix Computer Academy put together a program consisting of 5 individuals using AI coding. One individual used the training to help preserve the Pascua Yaqui language and another used it on a project for poison plants. There was 100% attendance and 100% completion. The students enjoyed it a lot. If you are available the CEO from Phoenix Computer Academy, Aparna can present this. A question by Vice-Chair Wendy Begay, “What was given to participants upon completion?” Participants earned State Certification.
6. Old Business by Chair Crystal Banuelos
 - A. Waiver Request Update – Crystal Banuelos, ATWDB Chair stated that Jeremy Smith with Office of Economic Opportunity has been very supportive in working on the waiver as well as the State. “If the waiver is submitted, how do we implement that?” We want to have Jeremy add his comments. Our board recertification, One-Stop System and One-Stop Operator approval depends on getting recertification. ATW is different from other LWDBs because we are geographically spread out over the State of Arizona. Once we draft the language and

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everyone is comfortable with it, we take it to the Tribal Leaders, then to the public and approval by the Board. Erin Pazos asked if they could have a draft that can be presented to leadership to begin the review process within the Tribes. Additionally, does this affect tribal funding? Mr. Tom Colombo stated that it does not affect funding because that is based on something else. Wendy Begay then stated that in August of 2021 she prepared a spreadsheet and presented that to leadership. She would also have to have the waiver go through legislative approval. Each Tribe has a review process.

- B. IGA Update – Chair Crystal Banuelos: I see a lot of representatives from the State. I’m seeing progress but our funds will be gone by June 30, 2026 and we need to get this approved. Salt River will probably run out of funds by June 2026 and so we will need to figure that out. Funds lapsing is worrisome. We are still committed to getting this done, a lot of work was done and discussions. Salt River attorney reviewed and provided comments, we spoke to Angela at the Tribal relations office. Tom mentioned that he had not yet heard from Angela, but noted that DES and OEO have been actively working on this. He plans to follow up with David to finalizing the agreements.
- C. ATWDB Local Plan – Executive Director Connie Fraijo: Reported that the Local Plan is posted on ARIZONA@WORK website for public comment from April 21st through May 21st. The link was sent out to partners and Board members on April 22nd.




7. WIOA Performance Report – Nadine Talayumtewa, ATWDB Staff:

Nadine presented the red and green report. We have made strides in data diving on our measures. As of today, we are meeting 4 out of 5 measures for Youth and 3 out of 5 for Adults. Dislocated Worker is exceeding Median Earnings which we have not passed in the past two years. We will continue to work on those 3 measures we are currently not meeting by June 30, 2026.

8. ATWDB Reports

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- A. ATWDB Chair & Vice-Chair Updates Crystal Banuelos, Chair & Winifred Begay, Vice-Chair: No new information to share, just our processes about contracts and how long it takes to get things signed.
- B. ATWDB Director – Updates Connie Fraijo, Executive Director:
 - Administrative – ATWDB membership is coming along, letters for expiring terms will go out this month. The modification timeline was received by OEO something we will have to start reviewing after our plan is approved. The MOU will be expiring on June 30, 2026 we will have to determine what options we have if we are seeking a waiver. There is a link to AZ Workforce Summit that you can register on. I would be good for board members and directors to attend.
 - Operational – Very excited to report that the final details for the conference in Tucson at Desert Diamond is being completed. It starts Monday, May 11 at Desert Diamond Casino in Tucson. We have 3 training sponsors for the event, we have at least 55 registered for the training portion and about 20 for the Fiscal session for our finance people which we encourage them to attend. We will have a session on business services by our Business Service Rep and OEO on the High Impact training. I want to thank Mayen for all the work in helping secure the venue.
- 9. Next Meeting will be on June 2, 2026
- 10. Adjournment –by Chair Crystal Banuelos. Motion to adjourn by Erin Pazos and Seconded by Wendy Begay. Meeting adjourned at 2:44 pm.

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