




Arizona Tribal Workforce Development Board (ATWDB) Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order by Crystal Banuelos, ATWDB Chair at 1:41 PM
2. Roll Call by Connie Fraijo, ATWDB Executive Director. 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		A	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		A	Member Yavapai – Apache Nation
Wallin Gustin	P		Member – AZDES
Kelly Patton			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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 **Virtual:** Via Zoom
 **Date:** Tuesday, June 2, 2026
 **Time:** 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
Prepared by: Terilene Rios

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

3. Approval of Minutes for May 5, 2026: A motion was made by Wallin Gustin to approve the May 5th, 2026. Meeting Minutes and seconded by Bernadette Kniffin. 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
6. Old Business, Crystal Banuelos, ATWDB Chair & Connie Fraijo, ATWDB Executive Director
 - A. IGA Update – Crystal Banuelos, ATWDB Chair: Maintaining communication with fellow state agencies. As of June 1st Tribes have no updates for PY25 funds. Result is Tribes are in distress and concerned for Tribes to come up with plans and consultations. Nancy Meeden shared there are no updates. Crystal stated there are no further updates/responses. Vice Chair Winifred Begay stated it is passing time to reach out for tribal consultation. What avenues; legal avenues are possible. Speak with leadership, government to government relationship. Executive Director.
 - B. Waiver Request Update – Chair Crystal Banuelos, ATWDB Chair: Waiver Request was presented to Board. OSO outstanding procurement didn't get response so waiver letter with timeline sent to leaders to review feedback and requested by this week. Connie Fraijo stated comment is due June 5th questions from 3 areas have been received to clarify operator role, expected outcomes, and delivery services. The Waiver will be posted for 30-day public comment on June 5th. Connie will send the link once posted on ARIZONA@WORK website. Jeremy Smith from OEO commented waiver is going great with public comments. Currently working on what plans will look like for Tribes, a simple plan that will be ready for July or August ATWDB meeting.

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- C. Recertification Update – Connie Fraijo, ATWDB Executive Director reported that conditional approval for recertification letters sent to the tribal leaders on May 27th, 2026. There is still work to do for the ATWDB full certification in May 2027. Items still outstanding are the local plan and approval of the one stop system waiver request, along with implementation of alternative service-delivery framework that meets WIOA expectations. WAC staff will follow up on these contingencies during the 2027 board recertification process, which begins Q2 of PY26. Upon successful completion of all requirements ATWDB would be eligible for full recertification.
- D. Approval of ATWDB Local Plan – Connie Fraijo, ATWDB Executive Director reported that the local plan was posted for 30 days for public comment. There was no comment from the public. Section 6 of the plan was completed by the consultant that documented the public comment process and confirms that no feedback was submitted. The next step is to seek approval from ATWDB. The plan was sent to the board on May 28th so that members could review it in advance and prepare to approve it there were no questions or concerns. Vice-Chair Winifred Begay inquired about a redline version of the plan. There is no redline version of the plan this is the final draft. Connie confirmed that the Local Plan went out to ATWDB on May 28th, which was the final draft of the plan. She also clarified that the local Plan follows state plan guidance and scope of work to align in developing plan. Partners were engaged during a stakeholder meeting, and another opportunity will be during public comment period. Connie also clarified the next steps according to the Shared Governance Agreement requires that the plan be submitted to tribal leaders for their approval. Once the tribal leadership approves the plan is then submitted to OEO for review and feedback. Chairwoman Crystal motioned for the approval of the ATWDB Local Plan to be sent out to Tribal Leaders. Wallin Gustin commented the Local Plan correlates and matches up with the State Plan therefore complies with the State Plan. Chairwoman Crystal concurs with Wallin’s statement. A motion by Bernadette Kniffin to approve the ATWDB Local Plan. Walling Gustin seconded the motion. Vote is all in favor; none opposed and abstained. Tribal Leadership will review and approve.

7. ATWDB Reports

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- A. ATWDB Chair & Vice Chair Updates. Chairwoman Crystal Banuelos has no updates. Vice-Chair Winifred Begay provided updates on Tohono O’odham Nation (TON) moving forward with FY25 budget. Questions from Executive Team and budget reviews. Provided 2-page summary and in person to update leadership team for next steps. TON budgets are moving forward. Wendy commented that most tribal budgets run Oct. – Sept.
- B. ATWDB Director – Updates Connie Fraijo, ATWDB Executive Director:
- Administrative – Recertification making significant moves and progress has been made but additional steps remain. ATWDB Membership letters have been sent out to Tribes with expiring terms. White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT) vacancy is not filled, and the member waiver that was submitted in February to the WAC, we didn’t get it filled within the timeframe therefore its expired. This delay is attributed to WMAT’s newly elected Chairman and leadership transition. We will need to submit another waiver letter to the WAC, however we need an estimated timeframe from WMAT. ATWDB Title 1A Monitoring meeting is scheduled for June 8th with Jeremy Smith to meet deadline of June 12th. The meeting will consist of walk-through of missing documentation and submission process. WIOA Performance – we received guidance on the process. The ATWDB staff will be working on conducting data analysis to determine our proposed levels to negotiate with the state, this is due June 30th. ATWDB MOU is expiring June 30th we have a new template that will go through and add anything from the previous MOU that still applies. Once completed we will have a partner meeting. WIOA Summit is scheduled for June 9-10, 2026, in Phoenix.
 - Operational – 2026 ATW Training Conference was successful. An event survey has been sent out to gather feedback and help us with the overall experience. Our state partners delivered valuable training, including QAIA monitoring and the Data Validation Process. Topics included AJC case management and business services presentation provided by our business service representative, Keynote speaker delivered motivation activities. Thank you to the training committee and Mayen for working with Connie to secure the venue. We also had 3 training providers that had informational material and sponsored our light breakfast. WIOA Performance Measures: We are doing really well, we still need

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to meet Adult 4th qtr. employment by 4 participants. Youth measure is exceeding. Data Validation PY25 2nd and 3rd qtr. We are still waiting for the 2nd qtr. closure letter and just recently received the notice that 3rd qtr. will start in June. Our program monitoring by QAIA still have 2 outstanding areas waiting for closure letters from the state. Those areas are Hualapai and Yavapai. EO Monitoring PY 25 started and we received so far two closure letters. The ATWDB Business Representative has been very busing with business services tasks that include the development of tools, policy research, draft procedures, menu of services that we can offer to employers and an employer tracing system. Other focused tasks include OJT, Work Experience and business engagement.

8. Next Meeting will be on July 7th, 2026
9. Adjournment –by Crystal Banuelos, ATWDB Chair: Motion to adjourn by Christopher Kawabata and seconded by Wallin Gustin. Meeting adjourned at 2:33 pm.

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