

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MARICOPA COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 – 9:30 a.m.

WDB Staff Office

701 W Jefferson St. Ste 104 Phoenix, AZ 85007

WebEx: <https://mcwdb-1095-9b71.my.webex.com/meet/mcwdb>

Phone: +1-510-338-9438; Access Code/Meeting ID: 625 125 871

Members Present: Angie, Ferguson (Ph), Charisse Ward, David Drennon (Ph), Drew Thorpe, Elizabeth “E” Cole, Julie Stiak, Mark Lashinske, Mark Wagner, Marla Lazere, Neal Dauphin, Shawn Hutchinson, Tina Drews, Tom Jenkins

Members Absent: Gregg Ghelfi, Vanessa Andersen

Call to Order

Chairman, Drew Thorpe, called the Maricopa County Workforce Development Board (MCWDB) meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Welcome, Introductions and Chair’s Remarks – Chairman Thorpe welcomed board members and attendees to the meeting. Open meeting law reminders were provided.

Roll Call – MCWDB Liaison, Nancy Avina took roll. Quorum was present.

Consent Agenda Approval

Chairman Thorpe asked if anyone wanted to remove consent agenda items for discussion. Board member, Shawn Hutchinson asked to remove the quarterly MCWDB draft report; the item was removed. Chairman Thorpe asked for a motion to approve the remaining items on consent agenda. Mark Lashinske made a motion. Shawn Hutchinson seconded the motion. All present were in favor. On the phone in favor: Angie Ferguson, David Drennon. Motion carried.

A brief inquiry was made by Mr. Hutchinson on the on data provided on page 9 of the quarterly MCWDB draft report and what the term “exiters” number consisted of. Chairman Thorpe asked WDB staff to follow up with the career services provider to seek further clarification. Shawn Hutchinson made a motion to approve the quarterly MCWDB report. Tom Jenkins seconded the motion. All present were in favor. On the phone in favor: Angie Ferguson, David Drennon. Motion carried.

Approval of OSO 2020-2021 Contract Renewal

OSO Workgroup Lead, Tom Jenkins provided a brief summary of all OSO previous renewals and allowance for one additional extension through June 2021. Chairman Thorpe inquired on the plan [after the extension]; Mr. Jenkins briefly informed on the plan of action and scheduling of an RFP with a contract start date of July 1, 2021.

Chairman Thorpe asked for a motion to approve the OSO contract extension. Julie Stiak made a motion. Shawn Hutchinson seconded the motion. All present were in favor. On the phone in favor: Angie Ferguson, David Drennon. Motion carried.

Chairman Report

Chairman Thorpe informed on the upcoming local board review of Title II applications. WDB staff will be reaching out to a few individuals to take on the task. A brief status update on the drafting of RFP’s was also provided. A meeting with the Maricopa County procurement office is also still being coordinated.

Discussion and Possible action on the Status of the FY 2021 Budget

Chairman Thorpe shared a timeline summary on the submission of the FY2021 budget, to the Fiscal Agent and CEO Liaison, which included a presentation to the Board of Supervisors Chief’s of Staff and working with Budget Director, Cindy Goelz. Chairman Thorpe shared information on adjustments to the budget based on auto calculations on the County’s finance system. He also informed of Ms. Goelz’s additional requests for information, discomfort with the budget, and Ms. Goelz’s recommendation to submit flat funding and positions. Chairman Thorpe expressed his agreement for the time being and until the strategy for next year has developed to a greater

level of detail. Once the strategy for FY2021 is refined in the coming months further discussions directly with the Board of Supervisors will be pursued.

Based on the events shared and with the unresolved DOL findings, Chairman Thorpe asked for the boards support to ratify the budget as recommended by Ms. Goelz in the Budget Office for the time being and asked for a motion to approve the budget office recommendation of a FY2021 \$633,169 budget for now to keep our work going with the intention to meet with the BOS in the coming months to ensure they understand why the FY 2021 budget increase is required. David Drennon made a motion. Tom Jenkins seconded the motion. All present were in favor. On the phone in favor: Angie Ferguson, David Drennon. Motion carried.

Audit Committee Summary, Recommendation and Possible Action

Chair of Audit Committee Mark Lashinske provided a summary of the timeline and activity that took place, as a result of the Audit Committee and the task at hand to resolve the DOL report findings. He informed on 2 options regarding the structure, shared governance agreement and bylaws – one that was approved 5-0 by the committee and another that was presented by Maricopa County leadership with a 5-0 vote to submit to DES for review. DES reviewed the second option and did not approve it and Maricopa County legal would not review the first option. Mr. Lashinske further informed the committee has reached a standstill of no progress and asked the Chairman Thorpe to accept the decision to dissolve the Audit Committee.

Chairman Thorpe expressed his appreciation of the Audit Committee and reiterated some of the timeline items, as a member of the Audit Committee. Chairman Thorpe reminded all, of the purpose of the committee, the purpose of recertification, as well as communications from the State. Mr. Thorpe reiterated the issues in the difference in views and informed that as of November 11th no productive discussions have been held and therefore, is in agreement with Mr. Lashinske's thoughts and that the Audit Committees' value and performance is complete. Chairman Thorpe dissolved the Audit Committee.

Chairman Thorpe further shared that due to lack of productive conversations to move towards a compliant state, the board is potentially moving towards decertification. He shared the need to take steps to try and mediate the impasse to find a viable solution to prevent decertification. Chairman Thorpe reiterated the impacts of decertification and expressed it was an unacceptable solution and the board should do everything in its power to ensure workforce services continue in the County. Chairman Thorpe asked for the board's support to escalate the matter to the appropriate authority, the Governor, in an attempt to resolve the conflict of interest. A measure stipulated in the current agreement.

Chairman Thorpe asked for a motion to escalate the resolution of the conflict of interest matter to the Governor. Mark Lashinske made a motion. Charisse Ward seconded the motion.

Discussion and clarification questions were held on the various options presented and if the first option was ever provided to the full board, as well as what the federal government role is on the matter, the status of the other local areas, the process for going to the Governor, what decertification exactly entails and how to involve the leadership of the other Title partners. Additionally, clarification was sought on who the County is, and the parties involved. A suggestion was brought forth on engaging Sandra Watson to get the matter to the Governor. Timelines were also inquired about, as well as why the city of phoenix was not being sought as a model. All questions and inquiries were addressed throughout the discussion. A one-pager was requested to be able to engage partners and other stakeholders.

Chairman Thorpe restated the motion and asked for those in favor. All present were in favor. On the phone in favor: Angie Ferguson, David Drennon. Motion carried.

Possible Action on the MCWDB initiating 501-C3 status

Chairman Thorpe, summarized discussions and research around a 501(c)3 structure and findings of it being a preferred best practice. Based on benefits shared, discussions over the last couple years, the agreement to move forward with the investigation of a 501, and the presentation by Lisa Rice, Chairman Thorpe encouraged the board to support developing a non-profit organization that would position the region to develop a more flexible and efficient workforce system and asked for a motion to develop a 501(c)3 for the Maricopa County workforce development area. Tom Jenkins made a motion. Charisse Ward seconded the motion.

Discussion and clarification questions were held on whether the funds the County already solicits, and leverages are being issued to the MCWDB to be placed into budgets. A request was made to see what kind of funds are currently being solicited by the county and the impact on WIOA populations served. An inquiry was also made on whether going a 501 route would solve the conflict of interest. The Chair of the Youth Committee added comments around career pathways and the need for additional and braided funding to be able to go in and explain those to youth on their terms. The discussion included additional inquiries on potential government funding streams that would go away as a result of a 501(c)3, and if other areas in Arizona were already 501(c)3's; a request was made to keep any possible challenges on the forefront to make sure the board makes really informed decisions moving forward. Another question was raised on timing and resolving issues being raised to the Governor first. All questions and inquiries were addressed throughout the discussion and clarification was provided on what the motion/vote entailed. A recommendation was made to move forward, as thoughts are that would go far in the eyes of the Governor. Next steps were touched upon briefly, including potentially establishing a committee to oversee the activity. Concerns/reservations were expressed regarding many significant moving pieces and everything happening at once. Chairman Thorpe acknowledged concerns and provided comment; discussion carried briefly on support of following a parallel path.

Chairman Thorpe restated the motion and asked for those in favor. In favor: Charisse Ward, David Drennon, Drew Thorpe, Elizabeth "E" Cole, Julie Stiak, Mark Lashinske, Mark Wagner, Marla Lazere, Neal Dauphin, Tina Drews, Tom Jenkins. On the phone in favor: Angie Ferguson, David Drennon. Opposed: Shawn Hutchinson. The motion carried.

Chairman Thorpe informed he would be appointing a committee to address the 501(c)3 and being laying out timelines and processes.

Quality Workforce Workgroup Target occupations Presentation and Action

Presentation was tabled for next month.

Title II Workforce System Funding Update

Board member and Title II representative, Elizabeth Cole shared a timeline and overview on the set-aside workforce funds Title II has and that the Board approved in August 2019, to provide shared costs into the system. Ms. Cole informed of challenges with Maricopa County legal and their interpretation as well as how other local areas were able to approve shared costs. As a result, \$95,000 were not able to be used within the system in Maricopa County.

Chairman Thorpe requested that staff reach out to legal and attend a board meeting to provide more information.

Action items review resulting from meeting & Board member announcements

Chairman Thorpe shared hope to bring a recommendation forward to the board at the next meeting.

Board Member Announcements:

- Marla Lazere shared on DES reorganization and informed representatives on the board will be changing.
- Mark Lashinske shared on a Gateway Runway to Success event and invited a couple of interested board members to attend.
- Elizabeth Cole shared on proclamations across the state, including Adult Education week (2/9-2/15). Ms. Cole publicly thanked Mr. Lashinske for attending the National Adult Honor Society Induction. Ms. Cole shared on interest of publicizing events around proclamations and events.

Call to the Public

A call for public comment was made. Brief comment was made by Tom Jenkins on reason for leaving the room during the meeting.

Adjourn Full Board Meeting

Chairman Thorpe, adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

**For additional information, contact MCWDB staff at: MCWDB@maricopa.gov*