



Oklahoma Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: September 25, 2026

Time: 11:00-12:00 p.m.

Location: Oklahoma Employment Security Commission
2401 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK.
John Roberts Commission Room

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Charles Gray.

Roll Call and Quorum Determination

Roll call was conducted.

Members recorded as present:

Chair Charles Gray | Trae Rahill | Chris Fusselman | Sterling Zearley | Stan McCabe
Designees: Tonja Norwood | Stephanie Roe

Members recorded as absent:

Dan Russell | Bret Hankin

A quorum was confirmed present.

Open Meetings Act Compliance

It was stated that the meeting had been properly noticed and posted in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act.

2. WIOA Waiver Resubmission

Summary: The Executive Committee considered the resubmission of the WIOA waiver to the U.S. Department of Labor. The waiver had originally been submitted with the State Plan in April. Following discussions with the Department, the state continued working with federal staff to address performance data and other requested elements. The waiver would allow the Governor's Council, as the State Board, to take on administrative responsibilities for local boards, including contracting with service providers and overseeing those contracts. The Committee approved resubmission.

Discussion Summary: Members discussed the steps remaining before resubmission, including posting the waiver for a 30-day public comment period and reviewing feedback before submitting it to the Department. They supported continuing engagement with local

workforce boards, elected officials, and other partners so local perspectives could inform the process and help address service needs.

Motion:

A motion was made to approve [the merger of the Southern and South Central Workforce areas](#) by Chris Fusselman.

Second:

Second was made by Stan McCabe.

Vote:

Vote conducted by roll call.

Individual votes are: 5

Abstained: 0

Outcome:

Motion Approved

3. Southern and South Central Workforce Area Merger

Summary: The Executive Committee considered and approved the merger of the Southern and South Central Workforce Areas. The South Central Workforce Board had requested the merger because funding limitations were making it increasingly difficult to operate as a local board and provide services in the counties it serves. Combining the areas was expected to support service delivery for individuals and employers.

Discussion Summary: Members emphasized the importance of maintaining services for job seekers and businesses and connecting workforce efforts with local economic development priorities. The merger was discussed as a step in the state's broader transition and an opportunity to apply lessons from the changing structure while keeping local needs in view.

Motion:

A motion was made to approve the resubmission of the WIOA waiver by Chris Fusselman.

Second:

Second was made by Stan McCabe.

Vote:

Vote conducted by roll call.

Individual votes are: 5

Abstained: 0

Outcome:

Motion Approved

3. Draft GCWED Bylaws

Summary: The Executive Committee reviewed and approved the revised draft bylaws. The discussion focused on updating the Council's governing framework to reflect its current responsibilities, support effective service to businesses and job seekers, and establish clear expectations for Council and committee engagement.

Discussion Summary: Members discussed strengthening Council accountability for program performance, grants, and service outcomes, and improving coordination among workforce, education, economic development, and other partners. They emphasized that local communities should help identify workforce needs and priorities, while the Council supports consistent access to services and resources statewide. Members also discussed using the Council's full official name in appropriate contexts to avoid confusion with legal counsel and noted that the bylaws may need further updates as the state's transition and federal approval process continue.

Motion:

A motion was made to approve the revised GCWED Bylaws by Chris Fusselman.

Second:

Second was made by Stan McCabe.

Vote:

Vote conducted by roll call.

Individual votes are: 5

Abstained: 0

Outcome:

Motion Approved

Summary of Executive Committee Actions

The Executive Committee formally approved and advanced the following items to the Governor's Council:

1. Resubmission of the WIOA waiver to the U.S. Department of Labor
2. Merger of the Southern and South Central Workforce Areas
3. Revised Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development Bylaws

5. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn at 11:45. Before adjournment, appreciation was expressed to members and attendees for attending the 11:00 a.m. meeting at Oklahoma Employment Security Commission.

Motion:

A motion was made to adjourn by Trae Rahill.

Second:

Second was made by Sterling Zearley.

Meeting adjourned.