

Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Date: January 19, 2024

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Place: Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City, 900 N. Portland Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73107 - Student Center, Third Floor, North & South Conference Rooms.

Call to Order/Welcome

The following council members were in attendance: Chair Chuck Gray, Cliff Stewart, David Reid, Dee Hays, Jason Thomas, Jim Curry, Melinda Fruendt, Nicco Ciccone, Stan Booker, Stan McCabe, Stephanie Vickers Regan, Steven Shepelwich, Terry Adams, Trae Rahill, Jeanie Webb, Christopher Fusselman, Tariq Sattar, and Brent Haken. Also present was General Counsel Andrew Chilson, along with other OESC employees and members of the public. Chair Chuck Gray called the meeting to order and determined there was a quorum. He welcomed the group and introduced the new Governor's Council Appointee Members.

They are the following:

- Carolyn Back – new Exec. Director of NE Workforce Board
- David Reid – President of Vox Printing
- Jack Sherry – Owner of Jack Sherry Real Estate & Investments
- Jeanie Webb – President of Rose State College
- Nico Ciccone – Director of Regulatory & Political Affairs

Chair Gray then reviewed the agenda.

Approval of October 27, 2023, Minutes

Members of the council approved the October 27, 2023, minutes, with Jimmy Curry motioning to approve and Steven Shepelwich, seconding the motion. All council members voting aye, no opposed. No further discussion.

Discussion & Vote for Recommendations for Board Certification(s) – this is a requirement done every (2) years, including for Green Country, which was on a different (2) year cycle. Steven Shepelwich, motioned for the approval, and Jimmy Curry seconding the motion. All council members voting aye, no opposed. Further discussion by Trae Rahill stated/clarified that this vote is strictly for “provisional” certification. - Goal was/is to conduct provisional approval (conditional certification) for 180 days to avoid disruption of service, with intent of taking to Executive Committee meeting sometime in February 2024 for the 180 days approval. Melinda Fruendt pointed out that the agenda did not state “provisional”, therefore there was a recommendation on how to approve. Brent Haken asked for a friendly amendment and suggested the motion. Jimmy Curry moved the motion to approve, and Stan McCabe seconded the motion, with Brent Haken accepting the motion. All voting aye, no opposed. No further discussion.

Discussion & Vote to Approve the Oklahoma WIOA PY24 thru PY27 State Plan – presentation of state plan for approval will be taken to the Executive Committee meeting sometime in February 2024 for approval of

submittal. At the April 26, 2024, GCWED meeting, the plan will be presented for formal approval. A question was asked re: the labor force participation rate statistics in the state plan and the data being pulled from 2019. Answer: the reason is to provide a more complete picture for the “big bucket”, as it is necessary to pull data for a longer length of time. However, it is encouraged to the council members to submit items they have questions, or need to double check the data, to please do so before submitting to the portal to DOL. Chair asked for a motion that moves to proceed for preparation and finalization of the state plan with an executive committee approval to move it forward to meet DOL March deadline for submission. Stan McCabe moved the motion, and Jeannie Webb seconding the motion, with all voting aye, no opposed. No further discussion.

Discussion & Vote to approve policy informing/establishing publicly OESC’s Authority to administer the WIOA programs including policy and procedure. – this allows OESC as the agency to administer the program to DOL, standing in accordance with the Workforce Act, signed by Governor Stitt, on August 10, 2023. Chair Gray motion for a vote, Stan McCabe move the motion and David Reid seconding the motion, with all voting aye, no opposed. No further discussion.

Workforce Delivery System Partner Presentation Panel – panel consisted of the following members (referred to as the 9 Core Partners):

- WIOA Core Partner:
 - Trae Rahill, Executive Director of Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (Title I & III)
 - Melinda Fruendt, Executive Director Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (Title IV)
 - Brent Haken, State Director of Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education (Title II)
- Local Workforce Development Boards:
 - Ashley Sellers, Central Workforce Board
 - Christi Porter, Green Country Workforce Board
 - Kerry Manning, Southern Workforce Board
 - Trina Southard, South Central Workforce Board
 - Rebecca Shuyler, Western Workforce Board
 - Carolyn Back, Northeastern Workforce Board
- Chair Gray brought to members’ attention the “High Performing Teams Outcomes” slide (crafted by the Nat’l Governor’s Assoc) which is what the workforce board is founded on, emphasizing the importance of coordination across workforce entities. (Refer to slide via link provided at the end of meeting minutes.)
- Trae Rahill stated that Oklahoma spends over 1.2B dollars on workforce every year, with stakeholders, boards, commissions, and oversight groups meant to work together to drive workforce. Our job is to make pathways more visible and easier to connect with workforce, provide public facing resources that businesses and individuals can access. The workforce boards across our state spend an enormous amount of time and energy to corral resources to bring to bare the people that they service. Trae (OESC), Melinda (DRS), and Brent (CareerTech) represents the (3) state agencies that are among the (9) “core partners”. We receive the WIOA funds from the Feds and administers those programs to the state. A lot of the programs administered goes through workforce boards to touch people in your towns. It is the core partners’ belief that as the (9) core partners driving workforce, the council members should know how we are doing, how to use us, and how to interact with us. Our plan is to activate you, the council members in our work, as there are a lot of things, we need help on in order to accomplish our goals.

- Trae then asked the (9) core partners (names and title notated above) to come to the front of the room to introduce themselves and the area(s) they represent, do informal panel presentations, and take questions.
 - Letha Bauter (Federal Programs Manager w/CareerTech) – represented Brent Haken with CareerTech)
- WIOA – those are dedicated federal funds that comes to each state to drive workforce “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.
 - There are (4) titles that goes to every state. They are: (the 3 state agencies making up 4 of the 9 core partners)
 - Title I & III – owned by Oklahoma Employment Security Commission
 - Title II – owned by Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education
 - Title IV - owned by Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services
 - The other (5) partners are: (the remaining 5 core partners)
 - Central Workforce Board
 - Green Country Workforce Board
 - Southern Workforce Board
 - South Central Workforce Board
 - Western Workforce Board
 - Northeastern Workforce Board
- The one pager(s) in the packet is meant to be “high level” informational to give you familiarity with the areas served. (Refer to link provided at the end of meeting minutes for the one pager(s))
- Other state agencies also have a hand in workforce as they have critical input in people going to work.
- The purpose of the 9 core partners here at the meeting today, is to provide info to you so that when you go back to your towns you know who to invite to the table based on area needs and where you are.
- Chair Gray stated if you wanted to look at a whole portfolio of our last alumni celebration (those that are selected, get up to tell their story). In addition, there are also the businesses champions that each local workforce board selected, please reach out and we will provide copies to you. - Chair Gray encourages you to take a look and see for yourselves the true outcomes of what you do as board members to develop the policies and plans to support the local boards.
 - It is important for you to know that just like the GCWED, the local workforce board development areas have a governing workforce board, consisting of 51% made up of businesses. There is education, tribal partners, and other partners standing at the table with a goal of being able to listen what you have as business individuals want, need, specifically what you need now, and what you may need later so they are able to work on a hotline of workforce.
- Questions from council members during the 9 core partners presentations:
 - What is the difference between a “CLEO” and a “LEO”?
 - Answer:
 - LEO: stands for “Local Elected Officials”, counties participate on a local elected board of officials. There are (9) commissioners in each county and they elect (1) on the board, which is referred to as CLEO.
 - CLEO: stands for “Chief Local Elected Official”, they are the grant recipients of the workforce funds.

- The funds comes from DOL, down to the Governor, then to the designated state entity (OESC for Oklahoma), from there, the funds goes to the local boards and the local elected officials have the fiscal responsibilities to appoint who is the physical agent, they also appoints all of the workforce members in the business sectors.
 - How often do you get to communicate to each other, being that you are from various areas of the state. What are best practices, things that we can do better (challenges), and coordinating entities?
 - Answer:
 - Coordinating: The 6 directors communicate on a daily basis. The 5 area partners reaches out to the state agencies (Title I-IV) regularly as needs/questions arises.
 - Title I-IV meets monthly, starting from last March 2022.
 - Best Practices: The IPG dollars, as it impacts the partnership grants and allows us to utilize for projects in our areas.
 - Challenges: Money – **all funds received is tied to specific eligibility requirements** “money is a talent”. Investments in workforce development poses the biggest challenge. – We must be very strategic in how the money is spent. Since grants are tiered, you don’t want to overspend the 1st year of the grant and not having enough money to make it to October (when the next big pot of money comes), thereby leaving only a small population you are able to serve. We must work together to try to find creative ways to ensure things gets done as we navigate the structured specific eligibility requirements dictated by State and Federal governance.
 - How do you communicate to employers the services being offered and connect job seekers to employers?
 - Answer:
 - We receive business service funds that helps employees on our staff “business service reps” to go out and make contact with businesses, explain our services, help with work base learning (on job training or work experience). On every one of the (1) pager, there are a number of services the business services gave to our community. Title IV (DRS), have business services teams from the state agencies who works with various business services. For corroboration, adult, and education services programs in our local community service on their boards, and send representatives to each of their board meetings. As for Title III (OESC), we employ the majority of the staff the sits in the 27 offices across the state. They are embedded in the communities, doing business services work on the front line and doing case managements for people coming into the offices looking for employment resources.
 - What is the interface between the Workforce Commission, this council, and the core partners? Also, how do you see this evolving?
 - Answer:
 - The Workforce Commission is new, with only (2) meetings thus far, plans are still being flushed out. At their last meeting, Trae

emphasized the (9) core partners stand ready to help/assist in any way. While the workforce commission are working to creating something new, but they also want to be cognizant is in understanding what is already here and what's already working so that they can add to that foundation. The Lt. Governor Matt Pinnell is very supportive and kind (as the other Cabinet Secretaries) in wanting to understand what the core partners do.

- Trae gave council members a handout that explains what a person can get access to if they were to be at a local office. The reason this important is at times in the past, it has not been easy to access these places. Now that we are working closely with our local partners, we are able to be more accessible. For instance, we have built and will soon launch a new website that will house all workforce materials and inventory services to provide customers a form of self-service. Our plan is that no matter where you are, you can identify the county you are in and hyperlink to a local board, allowing you to know about job matching resources. The old website is referred to as "OKC Job Match", but the new website will have a different name. The name has not been identified yet but the temporary name is "Incapsulate".
- Karen Davidson, Deputy Director of the Southern Workforce Board, extended an invitation to council members to come to a local workforce development board meeting to understand what is being done at the local level.
 - The Oklahoma Works website has all the meetings posted on its site.
- Letha Bauter extended an invitation to council members to attend one of the 2 (OKC & Tulsa) stakeholder engagement meetings CareerTech is hosting.
 - Perkins – helps fund career technology centers which provides funding for K-12s vocational programs, higher post-secondary programs, and career technology. There will be an opportunity to speak about the direction career technology and purpose funding, which is another federal funding with-in our state. – Info is on their website.

For full presentation of all PPT slides, please go to link for the January 19, 2024, Governor's Council meeting:
<http://Oklahoma.gov/workforce>

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Governor's Council will be on April 26, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma, 900 N. Portland Ave., Oklahoma City, OK.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Rose Peterson*