

Southeastern Arizona Workforce Connection LWIB Meeting Minutes

DATE/TIME Thursday, February 26, 2015 – Meeting Called to Order 10:05am

LOCATION: Arizona Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.
1000 Arizona 80
Benson, AZ 85602

Members Present

Vada Phelps
Ron Curtis
Emery Silvester
Doris Tolbert
Ken Cecil
Amanda Baillie
Kathleen Bullock
Mike Crockett
Peggy Feenan
Joe Larson
George Self
Cindy Stratton
Mary Tieman

Absent

Jack Bauer
Richard Besselman
Matt Bollinger
Jason Bowling
Gail Emrick
Bob Kirk
Evonne Martin
Susan Morss
J.R. Ramirez
Cherla Ramsey
Ryan Rapier

Staff Present

Michelle Huff
Ana Polakowski
Vickie Simmons

Meeting Called to Order at 10:05am by Ron Curtis, President

Roll Call for Quorum – Roll Call Taken by Ana Polakowski – Quorum Present

Call to the Public and Conflict of Interest Ron Curtis, President

Guest Present: **Mary Boegemann – Vocational Rehabilitation Services**
Paul Franckowiak – Dept. of Education
Cricket – ResCare Workforce Services
Jorge Rivera – ResCare Workforce Services
Sylvia Hurtado – Employment Administration
Tom Colombo – DES Employment and Rehabilitation Services

A. Action – Approve / Disapprove Agenda

Motion to Approve: Cindy Stratton
Seconded: Amanda Baillie
Approved: Unanimously

B. Action – Approve / Disapprove November Minutes

Motion to Approve: Ken Cecil
Seconded: Peggy Feenan
Approved: Unanimously

C. Board Member Update

Mary Tieman was approved to serve on the Board of Directors. Sally Rieger's letter of resignation was accepted by the Board of Directors.

D. Presentation on WIA vs. WIOA Differences

Vickie Simmons spoke on the changes to expect with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Release of the WIOA regulations has been delayed until spring of this year. Through WIOA, the Department of Labor hopes to revitalize the Workforce system by focusing on three hallmarks of excellence: That the needs of businesses and workers drive Workforce solutions, that One Stops provide excellent service, and that the Workforce system supports and plays an active role in regional economic development.

Minimum board membership requirements under WIOA will decrease from 31 to 19 members. Ms. Simmons further elaborated on board composition, discussing the categories from which labor representatives may be selected. In addition, the board must have, at least, three standing committees representing One Stop Services, Youth Services, and Individuals with Disabilities.

Local Board Functions have been increased from 8 to 13 under WIOA. These functions were outlined and compared to the previous law's requirements in Ms. Simmons' presentation. All Workforce programs will also now be on the same performance accountability measures. Particularly highlighted were the changes to the Youth Provision which now requires 75% of expenditures to be allocated to out-of-school programs, with 25% given to in-school programs, and which extended the age range of youth qualifying for Workforce services.

Lastly, Ms. Simmons addressed the steps Arizona Workforce Connection is taking to implement WIOA.

E. Presentation on State Implementation of WIOA

Tom Colombo spoke on the WIOA implementation process in Arizona. The State has taken a team approach to implementing WIOA, working closely with local areas to ensure the best possible transition, for instance, through biweekly

conference calls and establishment of task forces. Mr. Colombo shared a timetable of key dates and activities relating to WIOA implementation. Reviewing the task forces designed for the implementation process, he again stressed that the task forces have members from all sectors at both the state and local level. The 8 Task Forces are Governance, Performance Accountability, Fiscal, Regionalism, Policy, Labor Market Analysis, Staff Development, and Business Outreach.

F. Financial Report: Expenditures for November 2014 – January 2015.

Kenneth Cecil reported that the finance committee reviewed the financial statements for November 2014 to January 2015 and found no discrepancies. He announced that the red and green report for SE AZ Workforce shows that we have exceeded in 10 categories and met in 8.

G. Year End Audit Report

Vada Phelps reported on the Year End Audit for June 30, 2014. No findings were reported for Southeast Arizona Workforce Connection.

H. Employment and Training Report

Vickie Simmons presented on her written report. She announced that a Youth Career Counselor was hired in December through the Youth Career Connect Grant. Two rapid responses were undertaken in Wilcox and Bisbee after the closing of Alco Stores. Workforce continues to hold regular job fairs in each of their locations. Alaskan seafood companies, Peter Pan Seafoods, Inc. and Trident Seafoods, have expressed their continued interest in participating in job fairs in Cochise County. The Healthcare Sector Strategy Partnership will be launched in June, and the Criminal Justice System Partnership had its first meeting in January. The Eastern Arizona Courier has published a series of articles about Workforce and WIOA, one of which was included in the board packets. Ms. Simmons also added that Workforce is looking into alternative training providers after Horizon Healthcare and American Career Training closed this year.

I. Executive Directors Report – Vada Phelps

Vada Phelps remarked that a list of the Task Forces was included in the board packets, as well as, the WIOA Implementation Planning Team Agenda. She also distributed a copy of the Arizona Workforce Employment Report. Vada announced that the University of Arizona, in partnership with Workforce agencies, has again applied to be designated as an advanced manufacturing region

in order to qualify for the Advanced Manufacturing Grant. This is the second time the University of Arizona has tried for this grant.

J. President's Report

Ron Curtis spoke about the many economic development opportunities in Cochise County and in Arizona. To illustrate, he cited the new hospital and the donation of the old hospital to Cochise College for their healthcare program. He also discussed the aviation sector as a developing field and expanding trade with Mexico.

K. Committee Updates

Board Members will meet after the board meeting to develop committee structure and mission statements.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm

Notes respectfully recorded by: Ana Polakowski

*Equal Opportunity Employer/Program
Auxiliary Aids and Services are Available Upon Request to Individuals with Disabilities
Funded by WIA federal dollars serving Adults, Youth, and Dislocated Workers.*