

**ALABAMA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA
MEETING MINUTES
February 11, 2015
AIDT / Howard Training Center
Montgomery, Alabama**

A meeting of the Alabama Workforce Investment Area (AWIA) Local Board convened on February 11, 2015 at the Howard Training Center located at AIDT in Montgomery, Alabama.

Members Present: (13)

Tim Alford	Jim Byard, Jr.	Frank Coiro	Allen Harris
Bill Lamar	Jim McClellan	Kib McKibbens	Linda Monaco
Marty Parker	Anne Payne	Amelia Pearson	Mike Reynolds
Steve Turkoski			

Members Represented: (12)

Tommy Bice	by: Collie Wells	Cary Boswell	by: James Myrick
Nancy Buckner	by: Faye Nelson	Ed Castile	by: Gary Weaver
Mark Heinrich	by: Roger Fortner	Phillip Kelley	by: Richard Treadaway
Steven Lafreniere	by: So Juan Crenshaw	Tim McCartney	by: Bill Greene
Susan McKim	by: Trellis Smith	Graham Sisson, Jr.	by: Marlene Word
Fitzgerald Washington	by: Bob Brantley	Philip Cleveland (non-voting)	by: Collie Wells

Members Absent: (20)

Patricia Adams	Ronald Boles	Daniel Boyd	Joseph Brown
Brandon Cardwell	James Ford	Burt Hankins	Tim Harrison
Sharon Keith	Lawrence Lavender	Bev Leigh	Grace Lo
Neal Morrison	Tim Parker	Larry Puckett	Stinson Slawson
Melody Stewart	Mark Weaver	Bruce Willingham	Carolyn Sutley (non-voting)

Guests: (22)

Steve Walkley, ADECA/WDD	Chrissie Boyd, ADECA/WDD
Jan Dame, ADECA/WDD	Mickey Hutto, ADECA/WDD
Dennis Hopper, ADECA/WDD	Kristen Sexton, ADECA/WDD
Melody Koorangi, ADECA/WDD	Tammy Wilkinson, ADECA/WDD
Phee Friend, ADECA/WDD	Kevin Mohajerin, ADECA/WDD
Patricia Hill, ADECA/WDD	Ken Hollingsworth, ADECA/WDD
Ruby Beezley – Alabama Career Center System	
Kathy Evans – Alabama Career Center System	
Carol Penn – Department of Human Resources	
David Walters – Department of Education (Adult Education)	
Stephen Smith – Alabama Department of Labor	
Curtis Glisson – Department of Rehabilitation Services	

Jerry Morris – Montgomery Job Corps Center
Mary Allbritton – Alabama AFL/CIO
Bren Riley – Alabama AFL/CIO
Alesia Allen – Department of Youth Services

Board Chair Anne Payne called the meeting to order at 10:03 am (CST) and stated that a quorum had been established. She welcomed everyone and introduced two board members recently appointed by the Governor: Mr. Steven Lafreniere, Executive Director of the Department of Youth Services, who was being represented by Dr. So Juan Crenshaw; and Mr. Fitzgerald Washington, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Labor, who was being represented by Mr. Bob Brantley.

Other guests included Mr. Bren Riley, the new President of the AFL-CIO who was accompanied by Ms. Mary Allbritten a frequent representative for the previous AFL-CIO President and former board member who has retired.

Chairman Payne announced her retirement from the Alabama Workforce Investment (AWIA) Board and stated what a pleasure it had been to serve on this board as Chair. She also stated that with the transition from the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) this was a perfect time to transition to new leadership. She asked for nominations from the members for a new Board Chair.

MOTION: Mr. Mike Reynolds made a motion to nominate Mr. Marty Parker (the current Vice Chair) as Board Chair of the Alabama Workforce Investment Area Board. Mr. Bill Lamar seconded the motion. Dr. Steve Turkoski made a motion to close the nominations.
MOTION APPROVED

MOTION APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE to elect Mr. Marty Parker as Board Chair

Newly elected Board Chair Marty Parker called on Mr. Jim Byard, Jr., Director of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA), to come forward for a special presentation. Director Byard, representing Governor Robert Bentley, presented retiring Board Chair Anne Payne with a Certificate of Appreciation for her many years of service to the State of Alabama and the Workforce System.

The next order of business was to approve the minutes from the previous AWIA Local Board meeting held on May 21, 2014.

MOTION: Mr. Mike Reynolds made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2014 AWIA Board meeting as submitted. Mr. Bill Lamar seconded the motion.
MOTION APPROVED

Mr. Dennis Hopper, Supervisor of Workforce Boards / Rapid Response for ADECA's Workforce Development Division, presented highlights of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014. The Act was signed into law on July 22, 2014 with an effective date of July 1, 2015. WIOA replaces WIA, the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, and amends the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Wagner-Peyser Act, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

WIOA brings together, in strategic coordination, the core programs of Federal investment in skill development:

- Employment and training services for adults, dislocated workers, and youth and Wagner-Peyser employment services administered by the Department of Labor;
- Adult education and literacy programs and Vocational Rehabilitation state grant programs that assist individuals with disabilities in obtaining employment administered by the Department of Education.

Highlights of WIOA Reforms –

- Requires States to Strategically Align Workforce Development Programs
 - Develop and submit a four-year strategy in the form of a single unified strategic plan (including core partners) for preparing an educated and skilled workforce and meeting workforce needs of employers.
 - Key partners can include Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Perkins career and technical education programs.
- Promotes Accountability and Transparency
- Fosters Regional Collaboration
- Improves the American Job Center System (Career Centers in Alabama)
- Improves Services to Employers and Promotes Work-Based Training
- Provides Access to High Quality Training
- Enhances Workforce Services for the Unemployed and Other Job Seekers
- Improves Services to Individuals with Disabilities
- Makes Key Investments in Serving Disconnected Youth and Other Vulnerable Populations
- Enhances the Job Corps Program
- Reinforces Connections with Registered Apprenticeship
- Streamlines and Strengthens the Strategic Roles of Workforce Development Boards
 - Membership is required to be 51% business representatives.
 - Youth Councils are no longer required on local workforce boards, but strongly suggested.

For more information go to www.doleta.gov/WIOA.

Mr. Mickey Hutto, Supervisor of the Alabama Workforce Investment Area (AWIA), presented updates for Program Year 2014 on AWIA Programs and Performance. In the first six months of the program year (July – December 2014) over 5000 Adults, Dislocated Workers, or Youth were served. Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) or scholarships were awarded to 3500 individuals with 200 more receiving On-the-Job Training contracts. The fifteen youth providers around the 65-county area have served over 900 youth. Mr. Hutto explained that AWIA performance for six months under WIA has been excellent with all nine goals met or exceeded with a grade of "A".

The board members were also provided with a list of the top twenty training curriculums in the 65-county local area as determined by the numbers enrolled in the curriculum. The top five were: Truck Driver; Registered Nurse; Licensed Practical Nurse; Certified Nursing Assistant and Patient Care; and Welding. Additional curriculums in the top twenty included Computer Information Systems, Industrial Maintenance, Automotive Technology, Machine Shop Technology, and Culinary Arts. Due to the recent increase in the construction industry in Alabama, additional discussions between AWIA and Community Colleges are needed to develop training classes for Construction Trades to meet the needs of these businesses.

The next agenda item was a discussion of the AWIA Youth Program Request for Proposal (RFP) released today (February 11, 2015). Dr. Steve Turkoski, AWIA Youth Council Chair, reviewed the solicitation for proposals for innovative programs to assist out-of-school youth and in-school youth, with significant barriers to employment such as a disability, by providing a broad array of activities designed for educational and occupational skills training. WIOA eligible youth will be served. Responses to the RFP should be received at ADECA / Workforce Development Division before 5:00 pm (CDT) on March 20, 2015.

Mr. James Myrick represented Commissioner Cary Boswell from the Department of Rehabilitation Services and re-emphasized their strong partnership with the Career Center System in Alabama. One item they are addressing is the requirement to spend 15% of funds on transition age students who are transitioning from school to work. There is approximately \$8.2 million in funding which can only be spent on these Pre-Employment Transition Services, or PETS. Mr. Curtis Glisson from the Blind and Deaf Division, also commented that with the increasing improvements in technology and the new legislation, a team needed to be formed to analyze accessibility at the Career Centers.

Mr. David Walters, Vice Chancellor of Adult Education for the Department of Postsecondary Education, stated that there are 450,000 working age adults, 18 – 64 years of age, without a high school diploma or GED. The goal is to integrate education and training to meet the employers demand for soft skills / employability skills training along with work skills. Programs have been reviewed in other states and current programs have been reviewed to determine new methods to meet the employer's requests.

The US Department of Education is requiring that Adult Education submit a transitional plan (transitioning to WIOA) by April 1, 2015. This will provide a starting framework for their portion of the WIOA State Unified Plan. Under WIOA, local workforce boards are required to review and approve the Adult Education program applications once they have received responses to their bid request.

Mr. Bob Brantley, represented Commissioner Fitzgerald Washington of the Alabama Department of Labor and explained an initiative currently under way; performing live job banks at large market television stations. Career Center staff manned the phones answering all questions concerning jobs and employment. The Department has also reactivated a Planning and Evaluation Section led by Stephen Smith to coordinate the department's response for the WIOA State Unified Plan. Staff training is ongoing for all career center staff on Resume Preparation and Interview Training. Discussions have been held with the Unemployment Compensation Division to get Unemployment Insurance claimants registered for jobs before registering for unemployment payments.

Mr. Mickey Hutto, Supervisor of the Alabama Workforce Investment Area, reiterated comments made by other partners, that work has already begun between partners on transitioning to WIOA. In Alabama co-locating was accomplished under WIA so this will not be an issue under WIOA.

Chairman Marty Parker encouraged board members to become involved, especially with youth programs. He is personally involved with the Career Tech Advisory Council for his home county which involves the local school boards and administrations.

Other Business –

Youth Council Meeting – April 29, 2015 – ADECA, Center for Commerce, Room 342, 9:30 a.m. (CDT)
AWIA Board Meeting – May 13, 2015 (Tentative) – Embassy Suites, Montgomery, AL, 10:00 a.m. (CDT)

There being no further business brought before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m. (CST).

Respectfully submitted,


_____, 4/13/15
Mr. Steve Walkley, Executive Secretary Date

Approved:


_____, 5/13/15
Mr. Marty Parker, Board Chair Date
Alabama Workforce Investment Area Local Board
Dr. Steve Turkoski, Interim Board Chair