

Central Workforce Development Board

Minutes of May 12, 2021

Conducted by Zoom Meeting

Chairman T.R. Dudley called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

CWDB members in attendance were T.R. Dudley, Julie Littrell, Betty Jo Sydenstricker, Kathy Groves, Peter Callan, Dewey Thompson, Elizabeth Perkins, David Miller, Jennifer Taylor, Jacob Crismon, Brad Dorris, Matt Hurley, Erica Ward, and Patrick Kelly.

CWDB members absent were Denise Boeckmann, Mark Maasen, Curtis Koelling, Sharon Gibson, Sue Kmet, Tamara Tateosian, Ray Crouch, and Deanne Stubblefield

Caucus members in attendance were Gary Jungermann.

CWDB staff in attendance were Amy Sublett, Donna Smith, Carly Siedlick, Korin Ell, Kevin Stadler, Winona Cotner, and Lisa Elrod.

Others in attendance were Trish Rogers.

Approval of Agenda

T.R. Dudley introduced the consent agenda, which is a new process for the board, and listed the items included for approval as part of the agenda. He asked if there were any questions regarding the agenda; there were none.

T.R. Dudley entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Motion made by Brad Dorris, seconded by Peter Callan. Discussion was entertained – there was none. All in favor, none opposed, the agenda was approved as presented.

Introduction of Erica Ward

T.R. Dudley introduced new board member Erica Ward. Erica is employed by White River Marine Group, Tracker Marine as the human resource manager.

2019 Audit Update

Donna Smith reported that CWDB is still in the process of preparing information for the audit to be completed. There has been a slight delay due to the auditor requesting additional balance verification before they continue with the audit. It is hoped that the delay will be no more than a couple of months.

Directors Report

Amy Sublett reported on the annual agreement that CWDB has in place with OWD to receive funding.

This year there are significant changes to the contract, including a performance based contract with performance numbers CWDB is required to meet. Performance requirements include goals for the number of people to register at job centers, numbers enrolled in training, and those receiving WIOA services.

Workforce regions across the state must increase the volume of the people served. If regions exceed the goals there are opportunities to receive additional discretionary funding.

Amy Sublett reflected on the past year and the effect that Covid-19 had. Effective May 17, 2021 the job centers will be operating without Covid restrictions. The Governor announced that the federal stimulus UI payments will end the week of June 12, 2021. The board hopes this will encourage individuals to enter employment or seeking training to gain employment.

Amy Sublett and T.R. Dudley attended a Job Centers for the Future summit recently. This initiative will change the delivery process of workforce services; there is a push to move away from brick and mortar facilities and use mobile units and teams that can enter communities to provide services. This does not mean that job centers will be closed, but moving forward there will be more of a hybrid approach.

T.R. Dudley reported on the summit. Vision, culture, and performance were key discussion points; the culture of the nature of job centers must be fixed first. Performance must be viewed by where we are now and where we want to be. Data and process will guide policies. We must be citizen focused. There is a push to have "pop-up" services in food banks and other locations.

T.R reported on a call that he and Amy Sublett were on recently with Senator Blunt and other workforce regions. We need to prepare for receiving stimulus funding and infrastructure jobs.

Digital literacy and community engagement are crucial focus points for the board. The board needs to recruit industry partners to assist with sector strategies.

Amy Sublett reported on the following:

The American Jobs Act, the infrastructure bill pending in congress; there may be workforce funding included in that.

CWDB performance levels have improved and the board is now hitting every performance measure.

Sundi Jo Graham has done a great job on the CWDB website and social media. She is expanding to doing information podcasts relating to workforce development, education, and related subjects.

Board Member Presentation

Julie Littrell provided a presentation on Brewer Science and her position there as the Senior Director Human Resource Employee Success.

Board and Committee Reports

The bylaws committee met on April 26, 2021 to review the bylaws and prepare a draft revision. The draft was sent to the board prior to the May 12 meeting for review.

The proposed changes to the bylaws were presented individually and discussed.

David Miller proposed a revision to the Executive Committee paragraph pertaining to personnel issues. The proposed revision will be submitted to the Bylaws Committee and the full board for approval.

A draft with revisions will be sent prior to the June 16 meeting, with a vote being taken at that meeting to approve the bylaws.

Board Meeting Schedule

The schedule of board meetings was discussed. Lisa Elrod will send a survey to the board to gather opinions on the meeting schedule.

Regional Workforce Discussion

Jennifer Taylor presented Job Center Connect as the new phase of Job Centers of the Future. Job Centers of the Future was the planning phase; Job Center Connect is the implementation phase.

T.R. Dudley opened the floor to discussion on other regional workforce issues.

Chairman's Report

T.R. Dudley commented on a workshop with the Delta Regional Authority dealing with workforce issues in rural communities that he will participate in; he has attended many workshops on new funding being rolled out into the economy to see how the workforce board can connect with the new funding.

Dr. Leathers approached him recently and spoke about what a phenomenal job Amy Sublett has done. T. R. Dudley extended his thanks to Amy Sublett for the job she has done as well as the staff, COPIC, and the board.

Amy Sublett expressed her thanks and thanked CWDB and partner staff.

T.R. Dudley entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Dewey Thompson, seconded by David Miller. The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.