



**Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)
One-Stop Advisory Council (OSAC)
Meeting Minutes
August 5, 2021**

1. Welcome and Call to Order (11:33 am)

Tisha Cannizzo welcomed attendees, called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

2. Workforce Center Operations (11:39 am)

George Marko, with the Workforce Alliance, shared that there has been an influx of traffic at the Workforce Centers related to the re-launch of the My Reemployment Plan Program. Phone and KANSASWORKS Chat queries related to this program have also been up: 1800 customers, 550 via phone. In order to better serve these customers, the Centers have dedicated a phone line specifically to the My Reemployment Plan Program.

The Centers are still encouraging appointments, but also taking walk-ins. They have implemented various orientation options to cut down on wait times. They are looking to increase participation in workshops; reservations have been plentiful, but actual turnout has been low. Zoom sessions of workshops are holding relatively steady; Marko requested input and suggestions from the partners. Regarding, Business Services at the Centers, Marko explained that businesses are hurting for employees; the Business Team posted over 900 jobs in June. Additionally, in-person job fairs have returned. The Annual Get Hired Job Fair has 68 employers already registered in-person. In the past, the job fair has attracted between 1000 and 1500 job seekers. Lastly, the Centers hosted 10 WorkKeys sessions in June with 40 testers.

3. Workforce Center Employer Services (11:46 am)

A change in the agenda occurred, and item six from the agenda was addressed here. All additional items were moved down a number on the agenda.

Mary Mann, Business Services Supervisor with the Workforce Alliance, provided an overview of the services available to employers throughout Local Area IV including job seeker recruitment, promoting employer openings, recruitment events and facility usage, and training for the workforce. Mann stressed that the services are all employer driven and partnership oriented; all services are free of charge (save facility usage if not used for recruitment activities). She also emphasized that while the Centers can assist with recruitment, it is not a placement agency. The Centers can provide a centralized location to accept applications on behalf of employers and apprenticeship sponsors and also offers a suite of screening tools. Mann wrapped up with a live demonstration of the Employer Tab on workforce-ks.com.

4. WIOA One-Stop Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (12:08 pm)

Chad Pettera, with the Workforce Alliance, informed the partners that the final MOU is out and needs to be completed. MOUs from Butler CC, Cowley CC, DCF, SER Kansas, SER National, and WSU Tech have been received. The MOU process should be wrapped up by the end of August. Pettera is working on the new budget format and will have it ready for

the partners next month. He reminded everyone that the new budget must be reconciled quarterly.

5. My ReEmployment Plan Program (12:09 pm)

Sarah DeLuna, with the Kansas Department of Commerce, provided an overview of the My Reemployment Plan Program. The program has been ongoing since before the pandemic; however, more recently, the Centers had to implement group orientation sessions, rather than see people individually, because of the influx of customers. Starting June 23rd, notices went out to individuals who had received three consecutive weeks of unemployment benefits informing them that in order to continue receiving benefits, they had to complete the My Reemployment Plan. The Plan consists of two steps: creating and posting a resume on **KANSASWORKS** and completing the job search plan form. The Kansas Commerce website is a comprehensive way to assist customers with the process and includes a demonstration video to complete the tasks required for the program. Further information can be found at: <https://www.kansascommerce.gov/program/workforce-services/my-reemployment/>

6. One Workforce Grant (12:19 pm)

Mary Anne Szczepanski, with the Workforce Alliance, began the discussion of this 4-year, 9.9-million-dollar grant. She explained the grant was designed to assist with training in Advanced Manufacturing and IT/Computer Science occupations. It is also an H1B grant which are given to fund programs that lessen dependence on foreign workers. The grant provides for employer-led training in the form of on-the-job training (OJT) reimbursement for new hires (up to 50% training cost not to exceed \$6000 total). Classroom training is employer-driven in that the grant basically provides scholarships for individuals which include guaranteed interviews at businesses who are hiring in the field of training. They are still currently looking for employers to commit to interviews after training. Training is limited to specific occupations, not employers. Classroom training provided through WSU and WSU Tech unless an employer determines a different training provider would be more appropriate.

Denise Houston, with the Workforce Alliance, discussed the eligibility requirements for the grant. Participants must live or work in the 10-county labor shed surrounding Wichita (Butler, Cowley, Harper, Harvey, Kingman, Marion, McPherson, Reno, Sedgwick, or Sumner), must be 17 years of age or older and not attending High School. The Workforce Centers must have scholarships available in order for classroom training to commence. The “Next Steps” page detailing the required documents and activities to be submitted and completed before eligibility is available in the packet.

Additional information about referral qualifications and funding availability can be found at: <https://workforce-ks.com/programs/One-Workforce/>

7. Advisory Council Partner Updates (12:34 pm)

- a. Flint Hills Job Corps: Started virtual enrollment on Tuesday. Students will do two weeks at home, then two weeks in quarantine at Job Corps, then free to move about the Job Corps facility. This will be done on a cycle.
- b. SER: Sarah Gordado’s replacement has been hired; her name is Sherri Stevens and is still in training. SER is in negotiations with the Department of Labor for a new project year and is working on year end reports.

8. Consent Agenda (12:37 pm)

The consent agenda was tabled due to lack of quorum. It will be presented at the next meeting.

9. Announcements (12:37pm)

Cannizzo reminded partners about the flyers in the packet. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 7, 2021 via Zoom

10. Adjourn (12:38 pm)



Council Members

Carolyn Benitez, SER Corporation
Pete Bodyk, DCF Vocational Rehabilitation
Sarah DeLuna for Erica Ramos, KS Dept. of Commerce
Deb Weve, Flint Hills Job Corps

Staff/Guests

Tisha Cannizzo
Amanda Duncan
Denise Houston
Mary Mann
George Marko
Chad Pettera
Janet Sutton
Mary Anne Szczepanski
John Ybarra, KS. Dept. of Commerce