

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Wednesday, March 5, 2025, 11:00 a.m.
Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District
Highway 62-65-412 North, Harrison, Arkansas

Agenda

Call to Order – Introduce Guests Bo Phillips

Business Services and Staff Report.....Patty Methvin

Committee Reports

Youth Committee Report..... Emilee Tucker

Disability Committee Report.....Jennifer Ragsdale

One-Stop Operator Committee Report..... Cherie Conner

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Announcements/Other Business

Mark your calendars for these upcoming meeting dates:

- NW Workforce Development Board Meeting Wednesday, June 4, 2025
- NW Workforce Development Board Meeting Wednesday, September 3, 2025
- NW Workforce Development Board Meeting Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Northwest Disability Committee

Meeting Notes

The Northwest Disability Committee met on January 16, 2025. 11 committee members were in attendance.

The committee continued the discussion about having a Resource Fair for employers. The goal of the Resource Fair will be to share information about each of our Partner Programs with employers to better inform them of the many resources we provide.

It was suggested that we look at July or September to have the Resource Fair.

Additional suggestions:

- Include the Mobile Units
- Possible sites include North Arkansas College and the Fayetteville Library
- Include Etiquette training for people with disabilities
- Time frame – 11:00 to 1:00 or 10:00 to 12:00 (the second option would not include lunch)
- Have incentives for employers to attend
- Each Partner gives a 5-minute presentation
- Create a QR code for each partner – or one code for all partners
- Include a virtual option

WIOA Budget Summary
All figures as of 01/31/2025

Fund	Award	Total Expenses	Balance	Monthly Average*	Next Award	Allotment Program	Grant Received
Adult 1024	340,905	340,905	-	45,934	**	PY 2024	Yes
Adult 2024	142,306	75,831	66,475	45,934	581,557	FY 2025	Yes
DLW 1024	324,606	252,453	72,153	26,462	403,305	PY 2024 / FY 2025	Yes
Youth 2024	654,729	140,238	514,491	28,005	TBD	PY 2025	No
HCY 2023	32,392	30,334	2,058	-	TBD	PY 2024	No
Totals	1,494,938	839,760	655,178	146,334	984,862		

*Previous 3 months used for Monthly Average (Nov '24 - Jan '25).

**PY 2024 is already in use, see next line item for Fund Adult 2024.



Policy Name	Northwest Supportive Services Referral Procedure
Effective Date	March 5, 2025
Date Approved by the Board	March 5, 2025

The purpose of this procedure memo is to outline the process for referring participants to supportive services in accordance with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) regulations, specifically § 680.900, and policies set by the Northwest Arkansas Workforce Development Board.

Supportive Services Referral Procedure

1. Purpose and Scope

Supportive services are intended to help participants engage in approved WIOA activities when no other resources are available. These services are defined by WIOA sections 3(59), 134(d)(2), and 134(d)(3) as necessary for participation in training or employment activities. (WIOA sec. 134(c)(2)(A)(ix))

2. Initial Assessment and Resource Coordination

- a. Participant Verification: Career Advisors must conduct an interview with the participant to identify unmet needs and confirm that the supportive service is essential for participation in approved WIOA activities.

- b. Partner and Resource Cross-Referencing: Before approving supportive services, Career Advisors will verify the availability of other community resources by contacting relevant partners and community organizations. Verification can be conducted via phone calls or emails, with all communication documented in case notes.

- c. Financial Assessment: A financial needs assessment must be completed to confirm the participant's eligibility for supportive services.

3. Referral Process

- a. Referring to Community Resources:

- Career Advisors will refer participants to partner programs or community organizations that may provide the needed services.
- Documentation of partner contacts, whether by phone or email, must be recorded in the participant's case file. This ensures compliance with WIOA's requirement for resource coordination. (WIOA sec. 134(d)(2))

- b. No Formal Written Referral Requirement: To minimize administrative burden, a formal written referral is not required. Instead, documented phone calls or emails verifying the availability or unavailability of partner resources will suffice.

4. Case Note Documentation

All verification efforts, including participant interviews, resource availability checks, and financial assessments, must be documented in case notes. This documentation ensures transparency and compliance with WIOA regulations and will support audits or program reviews. (§ 680.900)

5. Coordination and Monitoring

a. Ongoing Monitoring: Career Advisors will continue to monitor the participant's progress and service needs, ensuring that supportive services remain necessary and appropriate.

b. Community Resource Updates: The NWA WDB will regularly update its list of community resources to ensure accurate referrals and service coordination.

Date

John "Bo" Phillips, Board Chair

National Association of Workforce Boards
Forum 2025 Conference
March 29 – April 1, 2023
Washington D.C.

Northwest Arkansas Workforce Development Board member who will represent the Local Board at the National Association of Workforce Board Forum 2025 Conference in Washington, D.C. March 29 through April 1, 2025, is John 'Bo' Phillips. Joe Willis, James Moss and Patty Methvin will also attend.

The current maximum Federal Room rate is \$275.00 per night plus tax. The room rate is \$351.00 per night plus tax at the Washington Hilton Hotel, the conference location.

Local Workforce Development Board approval is required to exceed the federal lodging per diem rate.

One Stop Operator Report
October 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

Success Story: Matthew Bently – A Desire to Serve
by Cherie Conner – North Arkansas College - Adult Education

Matthew Bently enrolled in North Arkansas College Adult Education as a GED student at our Jasper Center in December 2023. While attending classes Matthew was working as a jailer in the Newton County Jail. His goal was to move to Florida and become a police officer offer there. Matthew worked with his instructor, Chris Adams, and Career Coach Erin Tabor, to complete a WAGE (Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy) certification. WAGE I is an essential skills certification which encompasses crucial soft skills needed for the workplace, technology literacy, and financial literacy. After completing this certificate, in an effort receive additional training to prepare him for a longstanding law enforcement career, Erin created a WAGE II curriculum which encompassed Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security. This certificate included information from the Office of Criminal Detention Facilities and Minimum Standards for Adult Criminal Detention Facilities regarding safety and welfare of prisoners, detainee rights and disciplinary procedures, and industry trends in Law Enforcement.



Matthew Bently, GED and WAGE I & II completer

In December 2024, Matthew became the first North Arkansas College Adult Education student to earn a WAGE II industry specific certification and was the first student in the state of Arkansas to complete a WAGE II in Law Enforcement. Matthew is currently residing in Georgia and is working as a jailer; one step closer to his goal of becoming a police officer.

Sarann Arwood's Journey: From GED Student to Aspiring Educator
by Katie Causey – WIOA Title 1B



Sarann Arwood, GED completer and future educator

When Sarann Arwood joined the WIOA program in December 2022, she was just 18, living at home, and working toward her GED. She knew she needed a supportive environment to build her skills and find meaningful employment. WIOA provided that opportunity, placing her in a Work Experience (WEX) role as an assistant preschool teacher at Academy Kids Learning Center in Eureka Springs in February 2023.

Balancing work and school wasn't always easy, but Sarann never gave up. She faced challenges along the way, yet her determination carried her through. In November 2024, she proudly earned her GED. Her hard work didn't go unnoticed—Academy Kids hired her permanently and entrusted her with more responsibilities. Now, she's setting her sights on becoming a full-time lead teacher while

continuing her education at North Arkansas College's Berryville campus.

Sarann's story is a testament to perseverance and the power of opportunity. With the right support, she not only achieved her goals but also built a foundation for a career she loves.

Conner Boehme: Overcoming Challenges to Build a Career in Automotive Service **by Rose Sparrow – WIOA Title 1B**

Conner Boehme's journey through the WIOA program reflects resilience, growth, and determination. At 18, he enrolled as an out-of-school youth (OSY) with the goal of earning his GED. Although he initially struggled and felt discouraged, he remained committed, attending classes regularly with support from WIOA and adult education instructors. His perseverance paid off when he earned his GED on July 25, 2022.

After earning his GED, Conner faced challenges in deciding on a career path. He explored several options, ultimately choosing automotive mechanics, inspired by his father's profession. His first attempt at a work experience wasn't a good fit, and after some personality conflicts, he decided to quit the work experience at Unique Creations by Billy. As a result, Conner was exited from the Title 1B OSY program as of April 5, 2023, the last day he participated in work experience or received services through WIOA.

Despite this, ARS continued to work with Conner, and by August 15, 2023, he was accepted into Northwest Technical Institute's (NWTI) Automotive Service program, with tuition funded by ARS. Conner remained dedicated, attending classes regularly, completing his coursework, and graduating on June 20, 2024.



Coner Boehme, GED completer, NWTI Automotive Service graduate, ASE certified.

After some time searching for stable employment, Conner's persistence paid off when he accepted a full-time position as an Automotive Service Technician at Walmart in Elm Springs, AR, on November 24, 2024, earning \$17 per hour. Conner's story is a testament to the importance of perseverance, continuous support, and the role workforce development programs play in helping young adults succeed in their careers.

Chris Gragg: A New Beginning Through Work and Faith by Chris Kellem – WIOA Title 1B

Chris Gragg's journey is one of perseverance, redemption, and transformation. For most of his adult life, he struggled with addiction, cycling in and out of the justice system. In 2023, he found the strength to break free from addiction through John 3:16 Ministries. However, despite his newfound sobriety, his criminal record and ongoing drug court requirements made it difficult to secure stable employment.



Chris Gragg at The River Village Resort near Norfolk, AR.

Determined to rebuild his life, Chris took on cash jobs clearing land for The River Village, a new resort business in Norfolk. Seeing his work ethic and dedication, the owners referred him to WIOA in Mountain Home for a work experience opportunity. The match was perfect—Chris excelled in his role, and The River Village became more than just a job; it became a place of purpose and stability.

For six months, WIOA provided wages while Chris gained hands-on experience in grounds maintenance. Throughout this time, he remained

committed to his sobriety, found fulfillment in his work, and even began counseling other individuals battling addiction through his church. His hard work and dedication did not go unnoticed. As his WIOA work experience concluded on January 23, 2025, The River Village made the decision to hire him full-time starting April 1, 2025, at \$18.00 per hour.

Chris's story is a testament to the power of second chances, faith, and the support of workforce development programs in transforming lives.

Cutting Through Challenges: Emmanuel Castaneda's Path to Success – Submitted by Jennifer Ragsdale – Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

Emmanuel Castaneda, a first-time client of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS), aspired to become a barber. However, an early onset diagnosis of carpal tunnel syndrome in his right wrist posed a challenge to his career path. To assess his ability to sustain work in this field and determine necessary accommodation, Emmanuel participated in the AROAD assessment.

Based on the results, ARS provided him with a specialized set of shears designed to reduce wrist strain and discomfort while cutting hair. With ARS's support, Emmanuel successfully completed his training at DeSigner Barber & Stylist School.

Emmanuel's long-term goal is to open his own barbershop, but for now, he is focused on gaining hands-on experience working in a professional setting. Today, he is a Licensed Barber, actively building his career in the industry. Grateful for ARS's assistance, Emmanuel is excited about his future and the opportunities ahead.



Emmanuel gives his specialized shears a thumbs up.

Advancing Workforce Partnerships: Highlights from the November 2024 WIOA Partner Meeting

The Arkansas Division of Workforce Services hosted the annual WIOA Partner Meeting from November 6–8, 2024, at the Embassy Suites in Little Rock. The event gathered workforce professionals, educators, employers, and key stakeholders to collaborate on enhancing workforce development efforts across the state.

The meeting opened with an overview of Arkansas's economic progress, featuring insights from the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and ACT representatives on the importance of Work Ready Communities and credentialing. Attendees engaged in discussions on strengthening partnerships and aligning workforce initiatives with industry demands.

On the second day, participants explored strategies for expanding Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPx) and improving WIOA service delivery. Lindsay Irvin provided a detailed analysis of WIOA policies, while Ismaila Maidadi led a session on system advancements. Additional workshops addressed the integration of mental health resources, supportive services, and innovative technologies such as virtual reality in workforce training.

The final day focused on the future of workforce development, including the role of artificial intelligence in job training and service delivery. Attendees participated in interactive discussions on best practices, ensuring that Arkansas's workforce system remains responsive to evolving labor market needs.

The 2024 WIOA Partner Meeting reinforced the state's commitment to collaboration and continuous improvement, equipping workforce professionals with the tools and knowledge necessary to enhance service delivery and drive positive employment outcomes for Arkansans.

Strengthening Workforce Development: Insights from the November 2024 Case Management Training

In November 2024, the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services convened a Case Management Training session from the 13th to the 15th at the Arkansas Municipal League in North Little Rock. This event was designed to enhance the competencies of workforce development professionals across the state.

The inaugural day commenced with welcoming remarks from Cody Waits, Executive Director of Arkansas Workforce Connections, and Renee Dycus, Executive Director of the Southwest Arkansas Planning and Development District. The agenda encompassed comprehensive overviews of various Workforce Development Areas, an update on data validation procedures, and an insightful discourse on the significance of emotional intelligence in case management.

The second day delved into the intricacies of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth program, elucidating eligibility criteria and the spectrum of 14 program services available. Dr. Claudia Griffin, a Policy Specialist with Arkansas Workforce Connections, provided an in-depth analysis of eligibility determinations and requisite documentation. Additionally, the session addressed the nuances of co-enrollment strategies, measurable skills gain, and the pivotal role of teamwork in achieving organizational success.

Attendees were also profoundly impacted by the testimony of Dinero Cook, a former inmate from Little Rock, AR, who shared his journey of redemption and reintegration. Cook recounted his experiences with the justice system, the challenges of reentering society, and the critical role that workforce development programs played in his transformation. His story served as a compelling reminder of the real-world impact case managers can have on individuals striving for a fresh start.



Back row, Joe Willis, Melba Miller, Michelle Ryan, Katie Causey, Rose Sparrow, and James Moss; front row, Patty Methvin, Janie Wheeler, Susan Sangren, and Nadine Sewak.

The final day was dedicated to the theme "The Power of Perseverance," emphasizing the imperative of mental health and self-care within the workplace. Yolanda McCallum, a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, led a compelling session on prioritizing mental well-being. The training culminated with discussions on supportive services, discretionary grants, and the art of crafting effective case notes.

This training highlighted the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services' commitment to equipping its professionals with the requisite knowledge and skills to adeptly navigate the multifaceted challenges inherent in workforce development. By fostering a culture of continuous learning and collaboration, the division aims to optimize service delivery and outcomes for the communities it serves.

Core Partner Numbers

Title 1

Core 4 NWAEDD

(Services Include - In-School Youth, Out-of-School Youth, Adults and Dislocated Workers)

Location	2nd Quarter Participants		Year to Date Participants	
	PY 23	PY 24	PY 23	PY 24
Fayetteville	22	17	31	26
Harrison	28	31	38	40
Total	50	48	69	66

Title 2

Core 4 Adult Education Northwest District

(Services Include - English Language Learners, U.S. Civics preparation, Adult Basic and Secondary Education, Workplace Education, Family Literacy, Integrated Education and Training)

Location	2nd Quarter Reportable Individuals		2nd Quarter Participants		Year to Date Reportable Individuals		Year to Date Participants	
	PY 23	PY 24	PY 23	PY 24	PY 23	PY 24	PY 23	PY 24
Arkansas State University at Mountain Home	81	88	59	67	112	128	72	91
Fayetteville Public Schools	216	211	186	174	253	264	196	200
North Arkansas College	289	269	234	229	391	367	288	289
Northwest Arkansas Community College	856	928	602	710	1204	1301	738	851
Northwest Technical Institute	734	694	539	512	929	957	757	595
Ozark Literacy Council	137	135	80	78	171	220	86	93
Total	2,313	2,325	1,700	1,770	3,060	3,237	2,137	2,119

Title 3

Core 4 Division of Workforce Services

(Services Include - Job Service, TANF Clients, Unemployment Insurance)

Location	2nd Quarter Customers		Year to Date Customers	
	PY 23	PY24	PY 23	PY 24
Fayetteville	2,551	2,133	5,898	4,656
Harrison	1,855	1,082	3,003	2,068
Total	4,406	3,215	8,901	6,724

Title 4**Core 4 Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Northwest**

(DISTRICT 1- Services Include - Case Review, Career & Technical Training and Education, transition from school to work or post-secondary education, on-the-job training, ancillary support services, and employee performance issues because of a disability in the workplace)

Location	2nd Quarter Applicants		2nd Quarter # Closed		Year to Date Applicants		Year to Date # Closed		Current Active Clients Served	
	PY 23	PY 24	PY 23	PY 24	PY 23	PY 24	PY 23	PY 24	PY 23	PY 24
Fayetteville	174	200	276	279	346	490	582	470	473	723
Harrison	26	27	2	33	55	70	64	45	57	167
Total	200	227	278	312	401	560	646	515	530	890

Title 4**Core 4 Services for the Blind**

(DISTRICT 1- Services Include - Case Review, Career & Technical Training and Education, transition from school to work or postsecondary education, on-the-job training, ancillary support services, employee performance issues because of a disability in the workplace)

Location	2nd Quarter Referrals		Year to Date Total Referrals		Year to Date Total Served	
	PY 23	PY 24	PY 23	PY 24	PY 23	PY 24
Benton County	9	10	24	19	67	83
Baxter, Boone, Carroll, Madison, Marion, Newton, and Searcy Counties	9	10	27	28	43	57
Washington County	10	7	24	19	61	49
Total	28	27	75	66	170	189

Eligible Training Provider Approved List

March 2025

Program Name	Provider Name	Local Review Date
<u>HVAC and Refrigeration Maintenance</u>	Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Dec 16, 2024
<u>Truck & Bus Driver/Commercial Vehicle Operator & Instructor</u>	MID-AMERICA TRUCK DRIVING SCHOOL INC. (MATDS) - Springdale	Dec 06, 2024
<u>Class A CDL Program</u>	160 Driving Academy - Northwest	Dec 06, 2024
<u>(CFOT) Certified Fiber Optics Technician</u>	Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Dec 03, 2024
<u>(CFOS/S) CERTIFIED FIBER OPTICS SPLICING SPECIALIST</u>	Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Dec 03, 2024
<u>CERTIFIED FIBER OPTICS TECHNICIAN Program</u>	Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Dec 03, 2024
<u>NCCER Core, Introduction to Basic Construction Skills</u>	The Academy - NWA	Dec 02, 2024

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Minutes of Meeting December 4, 2024
818 Highway 62-65-412 North, Harrison, Arkansas

A meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Workforce Development Board (LWDB) was held Wednesday, December 4, 2024, in person, via conference call, and via Zoom.

Board members present in person and via Zoom meeting were:

MR. AARON JOHNSON, ARKANSAS DIVISION OF WORKFORCE SERVICES
MS. CHERIE CONNER, NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE ADULT EDUCATION
MS. DIANA JOHNSON, NWACC
MR. EDDIE BARTLETT, MITISERVE
MS. EMILEE TUCKER, O.U.R. EDUCATIONAL CO-OP
MR. HUGH SMITH, SMITH AND TAYLOR TAX
MR. BO PHILLIPS, COX-RAPID SCALE, HARRISON
MR. JASON PATIENCE, WABASH
MS. JENNIFER RAGSDALE, ARKANSAS REHABILITATION SERVICES
MS. KARLEA NEWBERRY, SIGNATURE BANK OF ARKANSAS
MR. KELLEY SHARP, UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FAYETTEVILLE
MR. KEVIN ESTES, DHS SERVICES FOR THE BLIND
MR. RICKY TOMPKINS, ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGES
MR. ROGER POTTER, A QUALITY ENTERPRISES
MS. SAMMIE CRIBBS ROBERSON, NORTH ARKANSAS MEDICAL CENTER
MS. SANDY STOUT, HARPS FOOD
MS. YOLANDA WILLIAMS, APEC

Board members absent and excused were:

MR. CHAD VINCENT, UNITED STEELWORKERS
MS. CHERYL DAVENPORT, ADVANCED MARINE PERFORMANCE
MR. DAVID BELL, DAVID BELL, LLC.
MS. SONYA EDWARDS, JONES PHYSICAL THERAPY
MS. VICKI JONES, MODERN FENCE
MS. CHRISSIE LARCHEZ, HOPE COTTAGES
MR. MATT RUSSELL, JACK WILLIAMS VETERAN RESOURCE CENTER
MS. TRISH VILLINES, VILLINES ELECTRIC
MR. WILSON MARSEILLES, HARRISON REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Others present or on Zoom were:

Ms. Patty Methvin, NWAEDD
Mr. Joe Willis, NWAEDD
Ms. Chelsey Weaver, NWAEDD
Mr. James Moss, NWAEDD
Mr. Nicholas Ryburn, Adult Education
Ms. April Turner, NWAEDD
Ms. Amy Roberts, North Arkansas College Adult Education
Mr. Tom Ginn, AEDC
Ms. Katie Causey, NWAEDD
Ms. Shana King, NWAEDD

Mr. David Bell, NWAEDD
Mr. Jeremy Ragland, NWAEDD
Ms. Michelle Ryan, NWAEDD
Ms. Chris Kellem, NWAEDD
Mr. Ben Aldama, NWACC
Mr. Rodney Ellis, Springdale School
Ms. Amanda Simon, NWAEDD
Ms. Joyce Akidi, ADWS
Ms. Tracy Watson, ADWS
Mr. Tom Pittman, ADWS

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m. by BOARD CHAIR MR. BO PHILLIPS. MR. PHILLIPS welcomed guests.

MS. PATTY METHVIN presented the quarterly staff report. She provided an overview of the monitoring process and mentioned that the final determination for the 2018 monitoring has not yet been received. The 2018 monitoring was appealed by NWAEDD to both ADWS and DOL. Ms. METHVIN shared that they have received what seems to be a positive ruling from DOL and are awaiting a response from ADWS. Northwest has also received the initial response for the 2023 monitoring and has responded, awaiting the final determination. No further issues are expected.

MS. METHVIN met several times with the Northwest Workforce Board Youth Committee, which hosted a Youth Summit on October 25th.

MS. METHVIN and MR. JOE WILLIS and other NWAEDD staff also met with MR. EDDIE THOMAS, MS. ANGELA COOK, MR. CODY WAITS, AND MS. MARICA MORRE from ADWS to tour the Harrison Workforce Center.

Additionally, MS. METHVIN reported attending the One-Stop Partner meetings in Harrison and Bentonville, the Statewide Business Services Team meetings, and the I-49 Corridor Workforce Summit in Bentonville. She also met with the Disability Committee, One-Stop Committee, and Youth Committee.

MS. METHVIN AND MR. JAMES MOSS met with Miles Crawford of DPI several times to discuss a potential On-the-Job Training (OJT) partnership. They also met with South Delta PDD from Mississippi to explore successful OJT program partnerships involving regional workforce boards, staffing partners, and employers.

MS. METHVIN attended the ADWS Partner meeting in Little Rock, the North Arkansas College's Strategic Planning Session and the DWS Career Advisor Training in Little Rock. She also met with Whitney Rogers from the Mountain Home School District to discuss the workforce program.

MS. EMILEE TUCKER presented the Youth Committee report. She shared that the Youth Summit on October 25th at North Arkansas College had 33 attendees, fewer than expected. The committee is evaluating whether to continue the event in the future.

MS. JENNIFER RAGLAND presented the Disability Committee report. The committee is serving as an informational hub for disability resources and providing expertise to other organizations. They plan to invite more partners to join and aim to host a resource fair by next summer. The Disability Committee will hold an in-person meeting on January 9th.

MS. CHERIE CONNER gave the One-Stop Operator Committee report. The One-Stop Operator Committee met September 18, and September 26th. More details will be provided by MR. JAMES MOSS in the One-Stop Operator report.

MR. JASON PATIENCE made a motion to approve the committee's reports. MS. CHERIE CONNER seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 1 – Updated Workforce Budget

MS. METHVIN noted that Northwest had received Youth funds, but Adult and Dislocated Worker funds are still pending, with expectations for receipt in the next few weeks. Northwest plans to increase participant numbers once funds are received. However, delays in both expected funding amounts and receipt of funds remain an issue. Additionally, Northwest applied for a disaster grant for the recent tornadoes, but ADWS missed the application deadline, preventing the grant from being awarded. A motion was made by MR. EDDIE BARTLETT and seconded by MR. KEVIN ESTES to approve the Updated Workforce Budget. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 2 – Annual Report

MS. METHVIN presented the Annual Report. MS. CHERIE CONNER noted that there was an incomplete sentence on page 9. MS. CONNER suggested that the sentence read “Non-High School graduates are served” A motion was made by MR. SHARP to approve the Annual Report with the amendments and seconded by MS. KARLEAH NEWBERRY to approve the Updated Board Budget. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 3 – Title 1 Program Provider

MS. METHVIN explained that in the CEO Agreement the CEO's have authorized the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc., to act as grant subrecipient and fiscal agent on their behalf. A motion was made by MR. SHARP and seconded by MR. BARTLETT that NWAEDD be designated as the Title 1 program provider for the Northwest area as well as other grants as appropriate. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 4 – One-Stop Operator Report

MR. JAMES MOSS presented the One-Stop Operator report. MS. CHERIE CONNER made a motion and MR. BARTLETT SECONDED the motion to approve the One Stop Operator report. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 6 – Eligible Training Provider Programs

MS. METHVIN referred to the ETP list on the agenda. A motion was made by MR. BARTLETT and seconded by MR. PATIENCE to approve the December Eligible Trainings. MR. KELLEY SHARP, MR. RICKY TOMPKINS, MS. DIANA JOHNSON AND MS. CHERIE CONNER abstained from the vote. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 7 – Minutes of the September 4, 2024, Northwest Workforce Board meeting. A motion was made by MR. ESTES and seconded by MR. AARON JOHNSON to approve September 4, 2024, minutes. The motion passed.

MS. METHVIN reminded the board that the next board meeting will be held on March 5, 2025. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

John “Bo” Phillips

Date