



WORKFORCE ARIZONA COUNCIL BOARD MEETING (Q3)

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom (public link):

https://azcommerce.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4SsuM6EzTqObDhO-aqzVTg

Council Members use an invitation-only webinar Zoom Link for participation

Minutes

Members Present

Dawn Grove - Karsten Manufacturing
Audrey Bohanan - Adelante Healthcare
Jeff Fleetham - Arizona Registrar of Contractors
Randall Garrison - FinTek Industries
Mark Gaspers - Boeing
Supervisor Bill Gates - Maricopa County Board of Supervisors
Allison Gilbreath - Arizona Chamber of Commerce
Sheryl Hart - Arizona Department of Education
Alex Horvath - Tucson Medical Center
Will James - Centene Corporation
Dennis Anthony - Arizona Apprenticeship Advisory
Gretchen Kitchel - SRP
Larry Lucero - Tucson Electric Power
David Martin - Arizona Chapter, Associated General Contractors
Karen Molina – Raytheon
Todd Graver - Freeport McMoRan

Brian Rice - Hensley Beverage
Jonathan Schmitt - ASU
John Walters - Liberty Mutual
Thomas Winkel - Arizona Coalition for Military Families
Michael Wisheart - Arizona Department of Economic Security

Members Absent

Susan Anable - Cox Communications
Tom Jenkins - Advanced Business Services
Greg Anderson - Summit Healthcare Committee
Mayor Jen Miles - City of Kingman
Stephen Macias - Pivot Manufacturing
Joanne Osborne - Arizona House of Representatives
Drew Thorpe - APS
Sandra Watson - Arizona Commerce Authority

I. **Call to Order - 2:05 p.m.**

II. **Roll Call**

III. **Welcome**

Chair Dawn Grove welcomed everyone and shared two recent workforce program success stories. In Yuma, a business delivered a letter to the operations director of ARIZONA@WORK praising the level of professionalism and service while assisting with their multiple hiring needs, including holding 104 interviews. In Southeastern Arizona, a single mother reported about the excellent service by

ARIZONA@WORK. With their assistance, she reached her goal to complete an RN program with very little debt, and she explained that their efforts allowed her to focus on her children and her studies.

IV. Chair's Report

Chair Grove reported on the economic success of Arizona and the continued growth within the Manufacturing industry. She also announced that the National Association of State Workforce Board Chairs and National Association of State Liaisons of Workforce Development will be holding their Fall Workforce Symposium in Arizona from September 29, 2021 to October 1, 2021. She concluded her remarks stating that Arizona is very well positioned for the future.

V. Call to the Public

Nidia Herrera, representing the Arizona Workforce Association announced that they are moving forward to finalize their strategic plan and want to continue their collaboration and partnership with the goals of the council.

VI. Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 25, 2021

David Martin moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Larry Lucero; motion was adopted unanimously.

VII. Director's Update

Kolu Wilson, Workforce Administrator, first thanked the members of the council for their service and mentioned that a package was sent to each of the Council Members thanking them for their time and dedication to the Council.

Kolu explained that the last quarter has been busy and the National Governors Association - Fall Workforce Symposium will be a great opportunity to highlight the successes of Arizona. She stated that Arizona was one of six states selected for a \$100,000 grant by the National Governors Association - Workforce Innovation Network and summarized the work completed in collaboration with the contractor, MSSBTA. As a benefit of participation in that grant, Arizona will also be provided no-cost technical assistance through Educational Data Systems Inc. (EDSI) which will be underway in the next quarter.

VIII. Council Endorsed Projects Update

Kolu Wilson provided a report on the council endorsed projects including the Arizona Advanced Technology Network, Arizona Career Readiness Credential Maryvale Workforce Initiative, and the Roadmap to Veterans Employment. She provided updates on each of the projects. The Arizona Advanced Technology Network continues to prosper with 52 aligned courses and nine aligned assets including the Drive48 facility. The Arizona Career Readiness Program reached a milestone in August surpassing 9000 individuals enrolled. The Maryvale Workforce Initiative has re-engaged its members recently following the COVID-19 pause. The Roadmap to Veterans Employment has recently updated its cooperative agreement and is embarking on new projects.

Tom Colombo, Deputy Assistant Director, Division of Employment & Rehabilitation Services, reported on the Arizona Management System project. He explained the successful services that were rolled out during the pandemic. He also spoke of goals to increase services post-pandemic, including projects such as the #EmployArizona campaign, Return to Work vouchers, Education Incentives, and Child Care for Returning Workers.

Representative Joanne Osborne asked for more information about #EmployArizona. Tom explained that it was a social media campaign to support Return to Work efforts for one month, and that the website continues to help direct people to workforce services. Sheryl Hart mentioned that the Department of Education staff is fully supporting the efforts for those needing a high school equivalency diploma that have reached their services through this outreach effort.

IX. State Plan Modifications

A. State Plan Strategies

Ashley Wilhelm explained that the State Plan Modifications are completed every two years of the four-year plan. The State Plan modification is currently underway. Ashley reviewed the Council's strategies and implementation efforts as a reminder of the direction the Council and their Committees are moving in. Each Committee has reviewed the strategies during their meetings during this quarter. Implementation efforts have been identified to show the work that is completed and underway for each strategy.

B. Labor Market and Economic Conditions Presentation and Discussion

Doug Walls, LMI Director, Office of Economic Opportunity, reported on a variety of labor market and economic information that will be included in the state plan modifications. He included information regarding the largest recent changes due to COVID-19 and its impact during the months between February 2020 and July 2020. Despite the severity of its impact, Arizona's impact was less than other parts of the country and Arizona has recovered 94% of job losses as of July 2021. Arizona's labor supply has now grown by nearly 50,000 above the pre-pandemic numbers, a contrast to the national labor force figures. The data showed that in-demand industries were more resilient and have had a stronger recovery.

X. Committee Reports

A. Strategic Communications Committee

1. Digital Communication Strategies - Update

a. EmployArizona Campaign

Committee Chair Bill Gates reviewed the committee's work on implementing the State Plan Strategies and the development of the State Plan Summary and Guide to Arizona's Workforce System. He also summarized the presentations provided to the committee on social media best practices and the Back to Work #EmployArizona campaigns. Bill concluded with the plan to hold the council's next Annual Council Convening in December 2021. Chair Grove asked for council members to volunteer for the award committee for the upcoming convening. Mayor Jen Miles and David Martin volunteered to review the award nominations.

B. Performance Excellence Committee

1. Local Board Recertification - Discussion and Vote

Committee Chair David Martin reviewed the committee's work on implementing the State Plan Strategies, the Certification and Continuous Improvement of One-Stop Centers, the Council Policy Alignment, Effective Local Boards, Local Board Recertifications, and Local Plan Reviews. Ashley Wilhelm added that the Nineteen Tribal Nations board is working with DES to complete their recertification requirements. Chair Martin explained that the Committee reviewed the outstanding recertification process for the local boards and is recommending that the Council recertify the City of Phoenix, Pima County, Santa Cruz County, and Yavapai local boards.

David Martin moved to approve the recertification of the City of Phoenix, Pima County, Santa Cruz County, and Yavapai County. Randy Garrison seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

C. Measuring Effectiveness Committee

1. Technology Plan - Update

Ashley Wilhelm summarized the committee's work on implementing the State Plan Strategies, and went on to review the Technology Plan updates, including the NGA WIN grant key findings, the top 10 pain points, and the top 10 requirements of any changes to the technology system.

2. Employer Measures - Discussion

Ashley Wilhem reviewed the proposed employer measures being considered by the Committee and explained that the Quality Workforce Committee will review the proposed measures and provide insight to the Measuring Effectiveness Committee to consider when making their final recommendation to the Council.

D. Quality Workforce Committee

1. Workforce Committee Update

a. Training Providers & Training Program Eligibility - Discussion (1) Defining Standards for Eligible Training Provider List

Committee Chair Mark Gaspers summarized the committee's work on implementing the State Plan Strategies, and went on to review Defining Quality Credentials and Quality Credentials in Career Technical Education (CTE). Representative Joanne Osborne asked about data regarding new industries in demand post-pandemic, specifically nursing. With some discussion, Mark explained that the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) tries to reflect current labor market information. Kolu Wilson added that out of 68 CTE programs, nursing is 17th on the list. Sheryl Hart stated that the state's Adult Education program has Integrated Programs that lead to credentials in healthcare. Council Chair Grove pointed out the need to be mindful and to watch out for potential migration away from healthcare, and asked that this committee review the healthcare industry needs during the pandemic recovery.

XI. Council Member Remarks

Council Chair Dawn Grove spoke about the value of the work the council is doing, that she is concluding her sixth year of service on the council, and that she will not be renewing her council service at the conclusion of this term, due to another calling of public service to run for elected office.

XII. Upcoming Council Meetings

- November 30, 2021 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Quarter 4)

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.