



SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Minutes

Omni Hotel & Resort
2727 West Club Drive
Tucson, Arizona 85742

Zoom Online Virtual Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/2048227879?pwd=NG51ZTgrK29wRkVhRWN6UXF1UzgwUT09>

Meeting ID: 204 822 7879

Passcode: 1Tzf0K

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

1:00 PM

Members Present

Ron Curtis
Kathleen Bullock
Wick Lewis
Jason Bowling
Sam Curtis
Tony Boone
Jelensky Irons
Brad Dale
Elizabeth Kinder
Martha Lujan
Amanda Baillie (*Ex Officio*)

Members Absent

Doris Tolbert
Merritt Essig
Evonne Cummins
Edward Dummitt
Mark Gallego
Jack Bauer
Jacob Williams
Matt Bolinger

Guests Present

Mary Ann Lawrence
Jim Mize
Coye Trujillo
Augie Munoz

Staff Present

Vada Phelps
Vickie Simmons
Michelle Huff
Lori Baron
Eric Grisham
Bobbie Reed
Breona Mouton
Robert Archer

A. Call to Order

President Ron Curtis called to order the regular meeting of the ARIZONA@WORK Local Workforce Board at 1:27 PM on June 16, 2021 in person as well as on Zoom online website. He stated if anyone had a conflict of interest on an item, please refrain from voting on that item.

B. Roll Call

Lori Baron conducted roll call. The names of present and absent members, as well as guests and staff, are listed above. Quorum was established.

“If such a conflict does arise, I will declare that conflict before the board and refrain from discussing and voting on matters in which I have conflict.”

C. Action Item: To Approve June 16, 2021 Agenda

Motion to Approve: Wick Lewis

Seconded: Tony Boone

Approved: Unanimously

D. Action Item: To Approve March 18, 2020 Minutes

Motion to Approve: Wick Lewis

Seconded: Tony Boone

Approved: Unanimously

E. Financial Report: 2021 Budget and Expenditures

Wick Lewis stated we are on track. All is good. There is great detail in the report.

F. One-Stop Operator Report

Presented by Jim Mize. In addition to his written report, he shared finding workers has been difficult. The whole area has a housing shortage and lacks high speed internet. It should be easier to find employees in July when the supplemented unemployment goes away. No questions were posed.

G. Core Partner Reports

- One-Stop Employment and Training report presented by Vickie Simmons.
 - On June 25 there will be a Job Fair at Bisbee Unified School District. On July 9 they have scheduled a Job Fair at the Sierra Vista Mall
 - They had 35 Registered Nurses graduate in May. Also, 5 Police Academy graduates, an EMT, 2 Medical Assistants, a CNA, 1 for Cyber Security and 4 GEDs.
 - Huachuca Shuttle donated a vehicle to a person in need.
 - There are 3 enrolled in welding now.
 - She is seeing more traffic now that job searching is required for unemployment and the additional \$300 will be going away. Some are paying bonuses as incentives to return to work.
 - Vada stated that this is where the rubber meets the road. Trained people will become employed tax payers.
 - Vickie shared a success story of a homeless woman who became a nursing student and is now accepted into a neuroscience program. The student stated that the AZ@Work Interviewing class was extremely helpful.

- Rehabilitation Services report presented by Elizabeth Kinder.

- She is excited to get back to a normal work environment. She is concentrating on preparing students for work. Reconnecting with the community (post Covid) and she is seeing increased referrals.
- Job retention training is still a virtual workshop.
- Employment Services report presented by Jelensky Irons.
 - She shared that the number of people they are serving is increasing as expected.
 - She introduced Augie Munoz and Coye Trujillo who are collaborating with Eric Grisham in Face Book Live and a Pod Cast.
- Adult Education report presented by Brad Dale.
 - In addition to his written report, he shared that there are 181 participants with 12 or more hours. Thirteen are non-English speakers and are getting certificates. Instructional hours have gone up since his report was written to 14,429 hours.
 - Enrollment is steadily rising. The number had dropped but retention has risen. GED via online has increased.
 - He has a monthly meeting with Jim Mize.
 - There is an online program called Chips & Chat.
 - They have a \$50,000 grant for laptops and hot spots to extend services online.
 - Face to face will start in the fall. They will start learning math as field specific (ie. Pharmacy Tech and CNA).
 - There will be staff training in ACRC.
 - Diesel Mechanic course is looking for an instructor. Cochise County is adding a Coding class. Bright Star could be good for on the job training.

H. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Vada Phelps, shared that unemployment is not as bad in our Counties as it is in others. Therefore, we will be losing allocation, due to the formula that is 1/3 based on unemployment.

We need to upskill US citizens. We have a great partnership with Pima County and are partners in a H1B grant, our allocation is \$1.5 million dollars. We cannot recruit yet because we are waiting for the requirements.

I. President's Report

Board President, Ron Curtis expressed his appreciation to the Board and the ARIZONA@WORK staff.

There has been a dynamic shift in the work place. Employers have discovered they do not need employees brought on by the pandemic (i.e. self-checkout). Defense contractors are working remotely. The work force is still changing and we are still learning. Employees need soft skills and need to be adaptable. Our Retreat will put our minds to work. We will help employers and employees connect.

He thanked the quorum.

J. Next Board Meeting

September 16, 2021

Eastern Arizona College – 615 North Stadium Avenue, Thatcher, AZ 85552

K. Adjourn

President Ron Curtis adjourned the meeting at 2:25 PM.

ARIZONA@WORK is an Equal Opportunity employer/program.

Funded by WIOA federal dollars serving Adults, Youth, and Dislocated Workers

Report Submitted by: *Lori Baron*