

Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development
WORKFORCE SYSTEMS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting

Date: June 9, 2017
Time: 2:00 P.M.
Place: Oklahoma State University – Oklahoma City

Members Present: John Hawkins-co-chair, Ken Doke, Nathaniel Harding, Valerie Thompson
Telephone: Donnalla Miller
Staff: Erin Risley-Baird, Mike Widell, Jeane Burruss, Linda Emrich.

Welcome

Co-chair John Hawkins opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. The agenda was reviewed.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Nathaniel Harding to approve the April 24, 2017 meeting minutes. John Hawkins seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

Policy Discussion

Erin Risley-Baird explained that the Office of Workforce Development has hired a consultant to help with the writing of policies because there are several new policies that need to be released in the next few weeks by July 1. She stated that we are streamlining the policy development process effective July 1. Erin also said that there may need to be another WSOC meeting on June 16 and/or June 23 in order to approve policy prior to July 1. She stated that all of our partners have been and are involved with the development of these policies – Board Certification policy, Center Certification policy and MOU policy. The MOU policy will also be incorporating a new tool kit into it that DOL just released. The WSOC will receive the policies for recommendation for approval in a timely manner for review prior to the meeting.

Discussion of the Southwest and Northwestern Areas Consolidation

Erin said that in the WSOC meeting packets there is a Letter of Intent to C.J. Rose, CLEO for Northwestern Workforce Development Board, from Tim Bingham, CLEO for Southwest Workforce Development Board, requesting that the two WDBs consolidate into one area. Also included is a signed LEO Consortium Agreement from the Northwestern Workforce Development Area. These documents support the consolidation of the two areas. The Southwest documentation has all of the signatures needed, and after review by General Counsel, we have all of the signatures needed by the Northwestern Area to agree to the re-designation of the area. There will be eight (8) counties in the Southwest Area joining with 17 counties in the Northwestern Area, making a total of 25 counties. These two areas are part of the Western Region as designated by the Governor. According to WIOA regulations (679280), because these two areas are in one region, the state has additional requirements to support the re-designation. If the WSOC approves the policy on behalf of the Governor's Council, then next we will be providing technical assistance as well as financial assistance for these two areas to consolidate under the regional umbrella.

Erin added that within the documentation it outlines the benefits of the consolidation to both areas. The Letter of Intent indicated that they share common resources such as agriculture, energy, aviation, and demand occupations. The new consolidated area would be consistent with local labor market areas, have a common economic development area, and have the federal and non-federal resources, including appropriate education and training institutions to administer WIOA activities. Erin added that they will get additional funding for helping with the transition. Erin said that both areas have been patient with the process and commends them for the decision they made to pull these two areas together.

Ken Doke made a motion to approve the consolidation of the Southwest and Northwestern Areas. The motion was seconded by Nathaniel Harding. No further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:16 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Linda Emrich*