

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

Date: April 8, 2016
Time: 2:00 P.M.
Place: Oklahoma State University-OKC, 900 N. Portland, Oklahoma City, OK

Attendees:

Richard McPherson, Co-chair; John Hawkins, Co-chair; and Valerie Thompson. Eddie Foreman, ex-officio.

Guests:

Mike Widell, Jeane Burruss and Linda Emrich.

Welcome

Co-chair Richard McPherson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and reviewed the agenda.

Governor's Council Update

John Hawkins and Jeane Burruss reported the following:

- At the last Council meeting in January, the bylaws were tabled for approval until the next meeting because the Council didn't have enough time to review the new bylaws. The new bylaws were crafted by the Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee and reviewed by Legal Counsel.
- According to the new bylaws, the Workforce System Oversight Committee will continue to operate under the same name and purpose. This is the only committee that will handle compliance matters and will report out at the Governor's Council meetings. There will be no Executive Committee as the WSOC will serve as the GC Executive Committee. There are three other standing advisory committees: Youth Program, Healthcare Workforce, and Career Pathways. The committees will make it a lot easier to get the work done.
- The Planning Regions have been designated - there are four for the state - and will go into effect July 1. This will require regions to work together as teams to put together regional strategies, to build their economies and their workforce efforts. This will save on administrative costs having more funds left for clients.
- Since the Planning Regions are new to us and the structure is different than what we are used to, there will be some training sessions for the locals, local elected officials, boards, etc. The first session will be on April 19, the day before the Workforce Partners Conference and hosted by OAWDB at the Cox Convention Center. A consultant will be there to explain to the local elected officials and the board chairs what their roles and responsibilities are. You can go to OklahomaWorks.gov to learn how to register. The next session will be held on May 19 at OSU-OKC. The facilitator for this session will be Rick Maher of Maher & Maher. It is possible that we will be able to video tape the sessions or have it run on the OSU TV station for those who cannot attend.
- The next Governor's Council meeting will be April 29, 2016 at OSU-OKC.

Modified Local Area Application for Initial Designation– Central and East Central Areas

The Modified Local Area Application for the merging of the Central area and the East Central area has been received. Jeane Burruss reported that all of the documents have been reviewed and all requirements have been met. John Hawkins said that the current populations for the two areas are Central - 1.2 million, and East Central – 151,000. After looking at the commuting patterns, he said that it just makes sense for them to combine areas and to save on costs. It will be a whole new board and a new executive director will need to be hired. This will need to be voted on and a recommendation sent to the Governor’s Council for a vote.

John Hawkins made a motion for the Modified Local Area Application for Initial Designation for the Central and East Central local areas to merge into one area be approved and the recommendation be forwarded to the full Governor’s Council for a vote. Valerie Thompson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Policy Process Discussion

John Hawkins stated that the Policy Process was developed in an effort to create a quick turn-around for approval of official policy for the Workforce Development System. The role of the Workforce System Oversight Committee is to approve policies that will be released to the entities that will be responsible for adhering to their guidance. This relates specifically to Category 2 policies which are policies developed by the Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development in consultation with subject matter expert workgroups as determined necessary.

The Office of Workforce Development will send all Category 2 policies to the Workforce System Oversight Committee (WSOC) for review and comment prior to general release. The WSOC will have three (3) business days to review and submit comments to the Office of Workforce Development. After comments have been resolved or three business days have passed with no comments, the policy shall be released as final policy to the Local Workforce Development Boards.

Jeane Burruss added that there is an appeal process in place if a majority of Local Workforce Development Boards disagree with any Category 2 policy. They may submit a request in writing for a policy review within thirty (30) calendar days of issuance of the policy.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:25 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Linda Emrich*