

**Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development
Executive Committee**

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 10, 2020
Time: 1:30 P.M.
Place: Virtual Zoom Meeting
Attendees: Michelle Choquette, Chuck Gray, Katie Altshuler, Steven Shepelwich,
and Teresa Huggins
Staff: Don Morris, Sarah Ashmore, and Linda Emrich

Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions

Michelle Choquette, chair, called the Executive Committee to order.

Approval of Minutes of 9/6/19

A motion was made by Chuck Gray to approve the minutes of February 21, 2020. A second was made by Katie Altshuler. No further discussion. Executive Committee members voting aye: Choquette, Gray, Altshuler, Shepelwich, and Huggins. Voting no: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Workforce Update

Don Morris, Executive Director, Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development, gave the following update:

- After multiple communications and clarification, the LevelUp OK program has been approved by Secretary Mazzei for consideration by the Governor. As a reminder we have requested \$3 million to provide anyone who has applied for Unemployment Insurance the opportunity to have free on-line training. This program is especially designed to help people upskill or reskill in multiple areas including computer careers, aerospace and advanced manufacturing. This idea will help people and industry simultaneously.
- Oklahoma was one of fourteen states to be awarded the Youth Apprenticeship Readiness Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. With this grant we will be working with the Oklahoma Manufacturers Alliance, CareerTech and the Oklahoma Construction and Building Trades Council to increase training and work opportunities for Oklahoma youth through apprenticeship expansion. Both the U.S. Dept. of Labor and the Federal Dept. of Education have highlighted work-based learning as the number one way to build careers for the people we serve.
- Workforce Centers – We continue to work with OESC to serve as many people as we can while balancing the safety needs of staff and the public. OESC is taking care of quite a few people through the live events, however they are pulling staff from the centers to make that happen. Many of the centers are where UI and Wagner-Peyser staff are not present and are opting to work virtually.

- CareerTech and Higher Ed have asked the State Board to apply for the FY 2020 Education Stabilization Fund – Reimagine Workforce Preparation (ESF-RWP) Grant. This Grant seeks to assist Oklahomans through five strategies. Only 8 to 9 states will be awarded based on the “most affected by COVID” which may rule us out. Katie Altshuler asked how much time and effort is needed to put this together? Don replied that Higher Ed and CareerTech will be the ones putting together the grant application and they will manage it if approved, thus taking work off of OOWD employees.
- Assumption of the TET Grant from OESC. This grant was awarded three years ago for \$8 million specific to dislocated workers in the Oil and Gas Industry. Originally, the dollars needed to be spent by September 30, 2020. Working with OESC, we have agreed to become a sub-grantee of the remaining \$5.3million. With this agreement, we should be able to extend the grant for 12 more months. Previously the DOL authorized the funds to be applied to additional industries but we now have DOL approval to apply the funds to any and all Dislocated Workers versus industry specific.
- There are several dollars coming our way to respond to COVID and get people back to work. This is a big burden on Susannah and OOWD financial staff and they are much appreciated. It is our sincere hope and belief that we can help a high percentage of people not just get back to work but be better off than they were prior to the pandemic.
- In our efforts to be a more outcome-based workforce system the July 31st Governor’s Council meeting will feature a brief update from our research and performance analyst Natalie Daugherty. When we first decided that the Council and public should be more aware of the outcomes of our services, I committed to the CLEO’s that we will show them the numbers prior to the Council seeing them so that they can answer any questions, etc. This is also an effort to make sure the CLEO’s are connected to the performance and how their area and the state compares to negotiated targets. Most of the meetings have grown to involve the Director and Board chair, which is even better.

Revision of Governor’s Council Bylaws – Discussion and Possible Vote

Sarah Ashmore explained that since last year, they’ve been looking at restructuring the committees of the Governor’s Council. Instead of having several standing committees, it’s being recommended to have ad hoc committees formed to work on projects and initiatives of the Council that correspond with the Council’s Strategic Plan and the WIOA State Plan. This will decrease an overlap or duplication of efforts and make the Council more nimble, flexible and responsive to needs with more tangible outcomes.

In order to still comply with all of the requirements of WIOA to carry out our duties, it’s recommended that there will be three standing committees:

1. Executive Committee
2. Workforce System Oversight Committee (WSOC)
3. Healthcare Workforce Committee (this is in Oklahoma statute)

Sarah added that the WSOC structure would change slightly. According to the current bylaws, the co-chairs of the committee include one business representative and one public, which was the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (OESC), a Core Partner, Title III. Other Core Partners were not on the committee. Therefore, the OESC co-chair would be voting on Title I policies while other Core Partners were not able to. Generally speaking, the WSOC has oversight of the whole Workforce System. Under the new proposed structure, all Core Partners would be members of the committee, but non-voting and not allowed to be a co-chair. They would be able to give input and insight into proposed policies and offer valuable feedback.

Also added to the bylaws was a removal policy if a member failed to continue to hold the qualifications that were the basis for the initial appointment, failed to represent the Council in a manner deemed appropriate by the Council or failed to comply with state and federal laws, ethics rules, or conflicts of interest policies.

After discussion, a motion by Teresa Huggins was made to approve the bylaws, seconded by Steve Shepelwich. No further discussion. A roll call for a vote was taken. Executive Committee members voting aye: Choquette, Gray, Altshuler, Shepelwich, and Huggins. Voting no: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: None. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

None.

Old Business

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:18 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Linda Emrich*