

MINUTES

Little Rock Workforce Development Board
Full Board Meeting – Room 150 LRWFC & Zoom
February 28, 2025 @ 12:00pm

PRESENT

Members Present: Eddie Davis, Bryan Day, Abby Holsclaw, Martie North, Sharon Cantrell, Kristi Barr, Earnest Merritt, Larry Schleicher, Brian Provencher, Darlene Owens, Kimberly Oliver, Christie Ison, Shannon Frieri, Will French (proxy for David Stephens), Jherrithan Duke (proxy for Edie Stewart)

LRWDB Staff: W.J. Monagle, Tanisha Lawson, Shannon Rast

LRWDB Attorney: Mary Scott Polk Timmis

Equus Workforce Solutions: Rani Cooksey

Guests: Antwan Phillips (LR City Board)

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/WELCOMES: Eddie Davis called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm. A roll call was issued, and it was determined that a quorum was present with 13 members. Three additional board members arrived late (Martie North, Will French (proxy for David Stephens) and Darlene Owens). That brought the board members count present to 15 members. The audience was welcomed and reminded that the meeting was being recorded for assistance in preparing the minutes.

RATIFY ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The LRWDB ratified the Executive Committee appointment of Rani Cooksey as EEO Officer.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes from August 15, 2024 were reviewed and approved. A Motion was made to approve the minutes by Christie Ison and seconded by Bryan Day.

RESOLVED: Board members unanimously were in favor of approval of the August 2024 Minutes.

CHAIR AND COMMITTEE REPORT:

Chairman Eddie Davis gave an introduction for Antwan Phillips from the Little Rock City Board. Mr. Phillips explained that he is an attorney at Wright, Lindsey & Jennings, his various duties working with the city, and sitting on the board. He spoke about workforce issues in our city and what is being done to make it better. Director Monagle gave an overview of the different partners that are housed in the One-Stop Center.

One-Stop Partners Advisory Committee – Earnest Merritt stated due to inclement weather, the last meeting was cancelled. He announced that Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) were moving into the building today and tomorrow.

Youth Services Committee – Chairman Eddie Davis stated that there is still a need to fill the Chairperson position for the Youth Services Committee. He asked the board members to consider individuals that they know who may be interested in filling the position.

Persons with Disabilities Committee – no updates (Darlene Owens was moving into the building)

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services – no updates

WIOA SERVICE PROVIDER/ONE STOP OPERATOR'S REPORT:

Mrs. Rani Cooksey, Project Director, reported on Equus Workforce Solutions PY24 goals update on what was accomplished since the last board meeting. She asked attendees to refer to the report attached to the meeting packet. Adult/Dislocated Worker enrollments are 32/60, Youth enrollments are 15/30, and Foster/Homeless Youth enrollments are at 5/10. Mrs. Cooksey stated that the measures set for Youth Occupational Skills Training are at 6/4 and Adult Occupational Skills Training are at 22/30. She spoke about the Center-wide Training that was held with ARS on February 11th. The training gave the partners in the facility an understanding of the variety of training and career preparation programs that are being offered for individuals with disabilities.

Project Director Cooksey spoke about the Rock City Re-entry Pathway Home 3 program. There are 283 participants enrolled (231 follow-up, 52 discharged). She reported that 86 completed Forklift training, 52 completed Heavy Equipment Operator, 24 completed Warehouse Inventory and Logistics, and 72 completed Future Fit classes. They currently have 37 participants in Work Experience Training. She shared the participant's success story of Ronald Franklin (WIOA Adult).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT: Director Monagle went over the financial statements that were provided in the members' packet. He answered questions that were asked and then the board voted on whether to approve the financial statements.

- Approval of the PY24 LRWDB, Equus, and RCRG Pathway Home 3 Financial statements (Action Item). **RESOLVED:** A Motion was made to approve the PY24 LRWDB, Equus, and RCRG Pathway Home 3 Financial statements by Christie Ison and seconded by Darlene Owens, the LRWDB unanimously approved.

He provided a synopsis of the Executive Director's report (see attached report for details).

ADJOURNMENT: Upon a motion made and duly seconded, unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting of the LRWDB was adjourned at 1:04 pm.

Approved by:

LRWDB Chair

Date