

## **MINUTES**

Little Rock Workforce Development Board  
Executive Committee – Room 150 LRWFC & Zoom  
March 27, 2025 @ 12:00pm

## **PRESENT**

**Members Present:** Eddie Davis, Earnest Merritt, Darlene Owens, Kristi Barr, Kathy Fulks

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

**LRWDB Attorney:** Randall Bynum

**Equus Workforce Solutions:** Rani Cooksey

**Guests:** Thomas Pittman (AWC), Ronnie Kroepfl (AWC)

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/WELCOMES:** Chairman Eddie Davis called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm and roll call was issued. It was determined that a quorum was present with 5 members. The audience was welcomed and reminded that the meeting was being recorded for assistance in preparing the minutes.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes from January 23, 2025 were reviewed and approved. A Motion was made to approve the minutes by Kathy Fulks and seconded by Kristi Barr.

**RESOLVED:** Executive Committee unanimously were in favor of approving the January minutes.

## **CHAIR AND COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Executive Director Monagle gave updates from the Ad Hoc Compliance Committee in place of Bryan Day due to his absence. He spoke about the PY19 WIOA Audit being resolved and the final determination of the PY20 WIOA Audit. The committee is still working to resolve the outstanding findings for the PY21 WIOA Audit. The PY22 WIOA Audit has not been received from the state as of this date.

One-Stop Partners Advisory Committee - Mr. Earnest Merritt spoke about updates at the LRWFC Partners Advisory Committee meeting. He was unable to attend but he received a synopsis from Mrs. Dollie Fountain on the topics. They spoke about the restructuring of the safety teams for the workforce center, emergency response planning, and the new digital check-in log at the entrance of the facility.

Youth Services Committee – no updates

Services to People with Disabilities Committee – Mrs. Darlene Owens spoke about the 8 councilors that are now housed at the workforce center, work that some of them are doing in the local high schools, and the current open positions within the organization.

## **WIOA SERVICE PROVIDER/ONE STOP OPERATOR'S REPORT:**

Mrs. Rani Cooksey, Project Director, reported on Equus Workforce Solutions February 2025 goals and what was accomplished since the last meeting. She asked attendees to refer to the report attached to the meeting packet. Adult/Dislocated Worker enrollments are 48/60, Youth enrollments are 34/30, and

Foster/Homeless Youth enrollments are at 19/10. Mrs. Cooksey stated that the measures set for Youth Occupational Skills Training are at 10/4 and Adult Occupational Skills Training are at 37/30. She spoke about a fun employee morale event that Equus created called Spirit Week at the Workforce. It starts April 7<sup>th</sup> through April 11<sup>th</sup>. Each day of that week dictates a fun thing staff at the center could do if they chose to participate. Also, the workforce center will hold a Meet & Greet for the agencies within the workforce center. It will be held on April 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am through 10:00 am. It will give each agency a platform to showcase the different services they have to offer participants. She reminded the board about the Centerwide Training: Active Shooter that will be held on April 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am – 11:00 am.

Project Director Cooksey spoke about the Rock City Re-entry Pathway Home 3 program. There are 283 participants enrolled (218 follow-up, 65 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 Demontre Scott (WIOA Youth program).

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:**

Executive Director WJ Monagle provided a synopsis of the Executive Director's report (see attached report for details). He spoke about the annual audits that Forvis Mazars have yet to complete and asked the board if they wanted him to submit an RFP for our auditing services. The board stance for now was to give Forvis Mazars another chance to complete the outstanding audits.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The next full LRWDB meeting will be on April 24, 2025

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 pm.

Approved by:

---

LRWDB Chair

Date