

## MINUTES

Little Rock Workforce Development Board  
Executive Committee – Room 150 LRWFC & Zoom  
January 23, 2025 @ 12:00pm

### PRESENT

**Members Present:** Eddie Davis, Earnest Merritt, Roland Haynes (proxy for Darlene Owens), Kristi Barr, Shannon Frieri (proxy for Kathy Fulks)

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

**LRWDB Attorney:** Mary Scott Timmis

**Equus Workforce Solutions:** Rani Cooksey

**Guests:** Kimberly Oliver (LR Job Corps), Andrea Wynne (LR Job Corps), Thomas Pittman (AWC), Brian Rodgers (AR DCOM DWS)

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/WELCOMES:** Eddie Davis called the meeting to order at 12:03 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 September 26, 2024 were reviewed and approved. A Motion was made to approve the minutes by Earnest Merritt and seconded by Kristi Barr. **RESOLVED:** Executive Committee unanimously were in favor to approval the September 2024 Minutes.

### **CHAIR AND COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Executive Director Monagle gave the updates from the Ad Hoc Compliance Committee in place of member Bryan Day due to his absence. He spoke about the meeting that was held between LRWDB staff and Little Rock's City Finance Director and staff. We have been working diligently with the city's finance administrator to resolve any concerns they may have regards to remaining as their fiscal agent. Bryan Day gave the committee a memorandum to finalize a few points, review, and send to the Mayor. Director Monagle stated that the work is being done and to expect an update soon.

Executive Director Monagle gave a brief explanation to why there was a need for the committee to vote on a new EEO Officer. The Executive Committee then voted to fill that position. A Motion was made by Earnest Merritt and seconded by Kristi Barr to appoint Rani Cooksey as the new EEO Officer.

**RESOLVED:** Executive Committee unanimously were in favor of Rani Cooksey as the new EEO Officer.

One-Stop Partners Advisory Committee - Mr. Earnest Merritt spoke about updates on the LRWFC Partners Advisory Committee meeting. He spoke about all the different partners that have moved in the building with about 180 employees. A copy of the minutes from that meeting was included.

Youth Services Committee – no updates

Services to People with Disabilities Committee – no updates

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

Mrs. Rani Cooksey, Project Director, reported on Equus Workforce Solutions December 2024 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 27/60, 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 is at 4/4 and Adult Occupational Skills Training is at 20/30. She spoke about the Workforce Center's Meet & Greet for the eligible training providers that will be held on January 30<sup>th</sup>. It will give the providers an opportunity to become familiar with the different agency and what they offer within the workforce center.

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 Rajhan Gantt (Pathway Home 3).

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:**

Executive Director WJ Monagle provided a synopsis of the Executive Director's report (see attached report for details). He stated that the Arkansas Community Organizations are providing free tax preparation services to the community from January 21<sup>st</sup> thru April 15<sup>th</sup>. They will be providing these services only on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday every week.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The next full LRWDB meeting will be on February 27, 2025

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Approved by:

<p><i>Kacey Sh</i>          _____          LRWDB Chair</p>	<p>SECRETARY TREASURER          FOR EDDIE DAVIS, CHAIR</p>	<p><i>312-7125</i>          _____          Date</p>
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## **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 11<sup>th</sup>. 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:


SECRETARY
TREASURER
4/24/25

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LRWDB Chair
FOR EDDIE DAVIS, Chair
Date

## 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:

Katya J. SECRETARY TREASURER 05/22/2025  
LRWDB Chair FOR EDDIE DAVIS, CHAIR Date

## **MINUTES**

Little Rock Workforce Development Board  
Full Board Meeting – Room 150 LRWFC & Zoom  
April 24, 2025 @ 12:00pm

### **PRESENT**

**Members Present:** Eddie Davis, Abby Holsclaw, Martie North, Sharon Cantrell, Kristi Barr, Rachel Ball (proxy for Earnest Merritt), Brian Provencher, Darlene Owens, Christie Ison, Will French (proxy for David Stephens), Kathy Fulks, Jonathan Graham

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

**LRWDB Attorney:** Randall Bynum

**Equus Workforce Solutions:** Rani Cooksey

**Guests:** Angelica Holmes (UA-PTC Project Coordinator), Tom Pittman (AWC), Ronnie Kroepfl

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/WELCOMES:** Eddie Davis called the meeting to order at 12:18 pm. A roll call was issued, and it was determined that a quorum was present with 12 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 Executive Committee voted to ratify WJ Monagle (Executive Director) retaining the authority to submit a RFP for Audit Services, if Forvis does not deliver on their contractual duties. A Motion was made to approve retaining the authority to WJ Monagle by Christie Ison and seconded by Kathy Fulks. **RESOLVED:** Board members unanimously were in favor of approval of retaining authority.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes from February 27, 2025 were reviewed and approved. A Motion was made to approve the minutes by Kathy Fulks and seconded by Christie Ison. **RESOLVED:** Board members unanimously were in favor of approval of the February 2025 Minutes.

### **CHAIR AND COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Chairman Eddie Davis introduced Mrs. Angelica Holmes, UA-PTC Project Coordinator. Mrs. Holmes explained that she is going around the state to spread the word about Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Cohort that is starting this fall, and applications were now open. Goldman Sachs Foundation is looking for business owners that are looking to grow and expand, especially in rural areas. She gave a synopsis of the program and offered some flyers with more detail about the cohort. She stated if anyone was interested, please reach out to her. Director Monagle asked Mrs. Holmes to send the information to him and he would send it out to the board members.

One-Stop Partners Advisory Committee – Rachel Ball (proxy for Earnest Merritt) stated that on April 8<sup>th</sup> the Little Rock Police Department held an active shooter training at the center. A fire drill was held, and it was successful.

Youth Services Committee – Darleen Owens has offered to be the Youth Services Committee chair.

Persons with Disabilities Committee – no updates

Performance, Compliance & Resolution - Executive Director Monagle let the board know that we are continually working to resolve any disallowed costs that were identified in other monitoring reports, that have not been closed, or a final determination was received.

**WIOA SERVICE PROVIDER/ONE STOP OPERATOR’S REPORT:**

Mrs. Rani Cooksey, Project Director, reported on Equus Workforce Solutions PY24 goals and 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 51/60, Youth enrollments are 36/30, and Foster/Homeless Youth enrollments are at 20/10. 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 stated that there are more things coming soon and they are listed on the Equus Calendar included in the member’s packet.

Project Director Cooksey spoke about the submittal of Rock City Re-entry Pathway Home 6 grant application. She stated that Rock City Re-entry Pathway Home 3 program has 283 participants enrolled (283 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 have 37 participants in Work Experience Training. She shared the participant’s success story of Lisette Hernandez (WIOA Adult).

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:** Director Monagle spoke about the recent tornadoes and storms that did damage in Arkansas. He noted that FEMA declined to declare Arkansas a disaster area. The LRWDB is hoping that the storms that hit Arkansas around April 1<sup>st</sup> will help FEMA to reconsider declaring Arkansas a disaster area. He told the board members that he received a letter of non-compliance from the state that had to do with the board certification process. He let the board know that all required documentation has now been submitted to the state.

Director Monagle provided a synopsis of the Executive Director’s report (see attached report for details). He went over the remaining balances of the PY24 LRWDB, Equus, and RCRG Pathway Home 3 financial statements that were provided in the members’ packet. He spoke about the need to shift up to \$20,000.00 from the reserve funds to be negotiated with Equus to cover expenditures for direct participant related training costs only. He answered questions that were asked and then the board voted on whether to approve the movement of funds.

- Approval of up to \$20,000.00 increase to Equus for training related costs only (Action Item).  
**RESOLVED:** A Motion was made to approve up to \$20,000.00 by Will French (proxy for David Stephens) and seconded by Kathy Fulks, the LRWDB unanimously approved.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Upon a motion made by Kathy Fulks and duly seconded by Sharon Cantrell, the LRWDB unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting of the LRWDB was adjourned at 1:02 pm.

Approved by:

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*Kathy Fulks*, SECRETARY TREASURER      06/26/25  
LRWDB Chair      FOR EDDIE DAVIS, CHAIR      Date

## **MINUTES**

Little Rock Workforce Development Board  
Executive Committee – Room 150 LRWFC & Zoom  
May 22, 2025 @ 12:00pm

### **PRESENT**

**Members Present:** Bryan Day, Dollie Fountain (proxy for 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:** Lynn Hamilton (Equus), Clara Taylor (ARS)

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/WELCOMES:** Kathy Fulks called the meeting to order at 12:08 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 March 27, 2025, were reviewed and approved. A Motion was made to approve the minutes by Bryan Day and seconded by Kristi Barr.

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

### **CHAIR AND COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Executive Director Monagle gave an update on FORVIS Mazars PY23 & PY24 Audits. The City of Little Rock finance staff has finished validating our financials and Forvis is in the process of completing PY23 Audit. Once that audit is completed, they will begin on the PY24 Audit.

Performance, Compliance & Resolution - Bryan Day gave updates from the Ad Hoc Compliance Committee. He spoke about the resolution of the DWS LRWDB PY20 Audit. The City of Little Rock issued a check to the state for LRWDB's PY20 Disallowed Cost. The Compliance Committee and the mayor's staff will continue working together to resolve outstanding findings from PY21 & PY22 WIOA Audits.

Kathy Fulks asked the committee if there were additional nominations for officer positions before the vote was held. There were no additional member nominations. Eddie Davis was nominated for Chair, Christie Ison was nominated for Vice-chair, and Darlene Owens was nominated for Secretary/Treasurer. A Motion was made by Bryan Day and seconded by Kristi Barr to accept the nominations of officers as presented. **RESOLVED:** Executive Committee unanimously were in favor of accepting the nominations for officers as presented.

Kathy Fulks (member of the RFP Review Panel) stated that the LRWDB received one submission (Equus Workforce Solutions) to bid for the LRWFC WIOA Services & One-Stop Operator provider. The RFP Review Panel reviewed the submission and sent Lynn Hamilton (Equus Regional Director)

some questions. Lynn Hamilton spoke about the responses to the questions. A Motion was made by Bryan Day and seconded by Darlene Ownes to recommend Equus's submission to the full board for a Sole Source Procurement contract (PY25 07.01.25 – 06.30.26) to the board. **RESOLVED:** Executive Committee unanimously were in favor of recommending Equus submission to the board for a Sole Source Procurement contract.

One-Stop Partners Advisory Committee – WJ spoke about Earnest Merritt's retirement party that is scheduled to be held on May 30, 2025.

Youth Services Committee – no updates

Services to People with Disabilities Committee – Mrs. Darlene Owens spoke about ACE Program graduation & job placement. She gave details on Project Search featuring Arkansas Children Hospital & UAMS, and Job Pop-up on N. Bowman on May 30, 2025.

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

Mrs. Rani Cooksey, Project Director, reported on Equus Workforce Solutions April 2025 goals. She asked attendees to refer to the report attached to the meeting packet. Adult/Dislocated Worker enrollments are 53/60, Youth enrollments are 38/30, and Foster/Homeless Youth enrollments are at 20/10. 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. Center-wide Cross Trainings are 10/6 and Business Service Surveys 16/12.

Project Director Cooksey spoke about Rock City Re-entry Pathway Home 3 Performance Measures: Re-Entry Q2 - 54/55, Re-Entry Q4 - 20/45, Medium Earnings - \$7,120.00, MSG – 99/65, Credentials – 96/60, Recidivism – 2/16. She was enthusiastic to share the participant's success story of Mr. Cook (WIOA Adult).

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:**

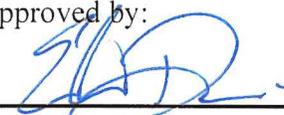
Executive Director WJ Monagle provided a synopsis of the Executive Director's report (see attached report for details).

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The next full LRWDB meeting will be on June 26, 2025

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 pm.

Approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
LRWDB-Chair

7/31/25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **MINUTES**

Little Rock Workforce Development Board  
Full Board Meeting – Room 150 LRWFC & Zoom  
June 26, 2025 @ 12:00pm

### **PRESENT**

**Members Present:** Eddie Davis, Marcous Jewett (proxy for Kristi Barr), Abby Holsclaw, Dollie Fountain, Darlene Owens, M. Shay Stout (proxy for Christie Ison), Will French (proxy for David Stephens), Kathy Fulks, Jonathan Graham, Shannon Frieri, Edie Stewart

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

**LRWDB Attorney:** Mary Scott Polk-Timmis

**Equus Workforce Solutions:** Rani Cooksey

**Guests:** Debra Banks (Arkansas Baptist College Adult Ed), Tom Pittman (AWC)

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/WELCOMES:** Eddie Davis called the meeting to order at 12:20 pm. A roll call was issued, and it was determined that a quorum was present with 11 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 decided to postpone the ratification of the LRWDB Officers vote and voting to grant Equus Workforce Solutions a Sole Source Procurement contract in favor of discussing during the LRWDB Chair report.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes from April 24, 2025, were reviewed and approved. A Motion was made to approve the minutes by Abby Holsclaw and seconded by Kathy Fulks. **RESOLVED:** Board members unanimously were in favor of approval of the April 2025 Minutes.

### **CHAIR AND COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Chairman Eddie Davis spoke about the two action items that were on the agenda. He stated that it was time to vote for officers on the board. He asked if any additional members would like to be nominated for an officer position. There were no additional member nominations.

- LRWDB Officers Nominating Committee - Eddie Davis was nominated for Chair, Christie Ison was nominated for Vice-Chair, and Darlene Owens was nominated for Secretary/Treasurer. (Action Item) **RESOLVED:** A Motion was made by Will French (proxy for David Stephens) and seconded by Edie Stewart to accept the nominations of officers as they were presented, the LRWDB unanimously approved.
- WIOA Title I & OSO RFP Review Panel – The panel discussed and reviewed the Equus Workforce Solutions RFP submission and Cost-Analysis for the WIOA Title I and OSO Provider

(Action Item). **RESOLVED:** A Motion was made by Kathy Fulks and seconded by Darlene Owens to accept Equus's submission for a Sole Source Procurement contract (PY25 07.01.25 – 06.30.26), the LRWDB unanimously approved.

One-Stop Partners Advisory Committee – no updates

Youth Services Committee – Darleen Owens spoke about specific vendors that they have in place to provide clothing to the participants for job interviews.

Persons with Disabilities Committee – no updates

Performance, Compliance & Resolution – Eddie Davis informed the board know that LRWDB staff is continually working with the City of Little Rock and the state of Arkansas to resolve any outstanding findings from PY21 & PY22 WIOA Audits that were identified in other monitoring reports.

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

Mrs. Rani Cooksey, Project Director, reported on Equus Workforce Solutions May 2025 goals. She asked attendees to refer to the report attached to the meeting packet. Adult/Dislocated Worker enrollments are 59/60, Youth enrollments are 42/30, and Foster/Homeless Youth enrollments are at 20/10. Mrs. Cooksey stated that the measures set for Youth Occupational Skills Training are at 10/4 and Adult Occupational Skills Training are at 38/30. Center-wide Cross Trainings are 10/6 and Business Service Surveys 16/12.

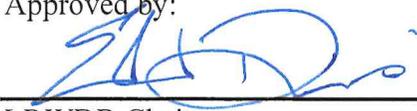
Project Director Cooksey spoke about the WIOA Recruitment Fair that will be held on July 8, 2025. She shared the participant's success story of Mr. Gilbert Jesse (Pathway Home 3).

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:** Director Monagle provided a synopsis of the Executive Director's report (see attached report for details). He spoke about working with Carl Danley (AWC) to review and modify the LRWFC IFA/MOU. An agreement was reached on the allotted space and now he is working towards getting the signatures needed by 7/1/25 to start the new program year.

Director Monagle went over the LRWDB PY25 Budget in detail and answered any questions that the board members had regarding the line items. After the discussion was completed, the budget was voted on by the members. (Action Item) **RESOLVED:** A Motion was made to approve the LRWDB PY25 Budget by Kathy Fulks and seconded by Will French, the LRWDB unanimously approved.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Upon a motion made by Kathy Fulks and duly seconded by Dollie Fountain, the LRWDB unanimously adjourned the meeting. The meeting of the LRWDB was adjourned at 1:08 pm.

Approved by:



LRWDB Chair

8/28/25

Date

## **MINUTES**

Little Rock Workforce Development Board  
Executive Committee – Room 150 LRWFC & Zoom  
July 31, 2025 @ 12:00pm

### **PRESENT**

**Members Present:** Eddie Davis, Bryan Day, Dollie Fountain, Christie Ison, Rolanda Haynes (proxy for Darlene Owens), Kathy Fulks

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

**LRWDB Attorney:** Randall Bynum

**Equus Workforce Solutions:** Rani Cooksey

**Guests:** Courtney Darrow (Equus), Tom Pittman (AWC)

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/WELCOMES:** Eddie Davis called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm and roll call was issued. It was determined that a quorum was present with 6 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 May 22, 2025, were reviewed and approved. A Motion was made to approve the minutes by Christie Ison and seconded by Dollie Fountain. **RESOLVED:** Executive Committee unanimously were in favor of approving the May minutes.

### **CHAIR AND COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Chair Eddie Davis stated that we have a full agenda today and it would start with Bryan Day.

Performance, Compliance & Resolution - Bryan Day gave updates from the Ad Hoc Compliance Committee. He spoke about the resolution of the AWC LRWDB PY21 & PY22 Audit. He stated that there may be a small amount of disallowed costs for PY22 Audit that needs to be paid to the state. Executive Director Monagle stated that Forvis auditors are wrapping up the 2023 Audit and will begin the 2024 Audit.

One-Stop Partners Advisory Committee – Mrs. Dollie Fountain stated that there was not a meeting held for July 2025. She spoke about her work as a Regional Outreach Manager which consist of going out to the community to share information on all the services that are offered in the Little Rock Workforce Center. Also, the mobile unit has been going out in the community. She stated that due to the work that has been done, there appears to be an uptick of visitors coming into the center for services.

Youth Services Committee – Chair Eddie Davis stated that a person is still needed to chair the Youth Services Committee. Executive Director Monagle stated that we have some board members with LR Job Corps and Goodwill Industries of Little Rock that may be willing to serve.

Services to People with Disabilities Committee – Mrs. Roland Haynes (proxy for Darlene Owens) spoke about ARS having designated spots where they check in from time to time to make sure that they have accurate information of the services that are available and the eligibility requirements. Also, Workforce Connect website was discussed which assist individuals with disability to reach out for assistance.

**WIOA SERVICE PROVIDER/ONE STOP OPERATOR’S REPORT:**

Mrs. Rani Cooksey, Project Director, reported on Equus Workforce Solutions June 2025 goals. She asked attendees to refer to the report attached to the meeting packet. Adult/Dislocated Worker enrollments are 60/60, Youth enrollments are 43/30, and Foster/Homeless Youth enrollments are at 21/10. Mrs. Cooksey stated that the measures set for Youth Occupational Skills Training are at 10/4 and Adult Occupational Skills Training are at 32/30 (correction made from previous month). Center-wide Cross Trainings are 14/6 and Business Service Surveys 16/12.

Project Director Cooksey spoke about Rock City Re-entry Pathway Home 3 Performance Measures: Re-Entry Q2 - 58/55, Re-Entry Q4 - 27/45, Medium Earnings - \$6,955.00, MSG – 99/65, Credentials – 96/60, Recidivism – 2/16. She was excited to share the participant’s success story of Mr. Wynton Ruth (WIOA Out-of-school Youth).

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:**

Executive Director Monagle announced that we have been awarded the \$4M Pathway Home 6 grant from the DOL. He spoke about the great job Courtney Darrow and team did for Pathway Home 3 grant. He announced the LRWDB certification has been approved as of 07.01.24 thru 06.30.26. A synopsis of the Executive Director’s report (see attached report for details) was given.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The next full LRWDB meeting will be on August 28, 2025

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 pm.

Approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
LRWDB Chair

9/25/25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **MINUTES**

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

### **PRESENT**

**Members Present:** Eddie Davis, Sharon Cantrell, Kristi Barr, Shannon Frieri, Dollie Fountain, Kathy Fulks, Abby Holsclaw, Christie Ison, Larry Schleicher, Darlene Owens, Edie Stewart

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

**LRWDB Attorney:** Randall Bynum

**Equus Workforce Solutions:** Rani Cooksey

**Guests:** Becky Parkerson (PTI Learning & Performance), Tom Pittman (AWC), Latsha Mays (ARS), Courtney Darrow (Equus), Brittney Fernandez (Equus)

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/WELCOMES:** Eddie Davis called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm. A roll call was issued, and it was determined that a quorum was not reached with 10 members. An additional board member arrived several minutes later. That brought the board members present to 11 members and a quorum. The audience was welcomed and reminded that the meeting was being recorded for assistance in preparing the minutes. At a few minutes past 1pm, Vice Chair Christie Ison facilitated the remainder of the meeting.

### **RATIFY ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

There were no actions taken by the Executive Committee to ratify.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes from June 26, 2025, were reviewed and approved. A Motion was made to approve the minutes by Abby Holsclaw and seconded by Kathy Fulks. **RESOLVED:** Board members unanimously approved the June 2025 Minutes.

### **CHAIR AND COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Chairman Eddie Davis stated that there are some action items that needed to be reviewed and discussed. There were several policies which required amendment per the instructions received from the State Monitoring and Compliance Unit following its visit in June 2025. The board discussed the changes and voted on each policy.

- Approval of LRWDB Policy Amendments (Action Item)
  - Supportive Services Policy – Amend to include Research and Referral procedures to exclude availability of other funding options
  - Occupational Skills Training/ITA Policy – Amend to include Research and Referral procedures to better coordinate availability of other funding options.
  - LRWDB Bylaws – Process for active board participation

**RESOLVED:** Upon a motion by Christie Ison duly seconded by Kathy Fulks, The LRWDB unanimously approved the policy and bylaws amendments as presented.

- Approval of Equus Workforce Solutions SOP's which coincide with LRWDB Complaints/Grievance Procedures (Action Item)
  - Reasonable Accommodation Policy
  - Nondiscrimination Policy – Amended

**RESOLVED:** Upon a motion by Kathy Fulks duly seconded by Edie Stewart, The LRWDB unanimously approved.

- Approval of the LRWDB PY25 Budget – Added the Pathway Home 6 grant (Action Item).  
**RESOLVED:** A Motion was made to approve the LRWDB PY25 Budget – as amended to reflect the Pathway Home 6 grant – by Christie Ison and seconded by Kathy Fulks, the LRWDB unanimously approved.

Performance, Compliance & Resolution – Director Monagle discussed the status of the PY23 LRWDB Audit. He stated that there seems to be communication going on between the City of Little Rock and FORVIS auditors and we're not always being kept in the loop. Due to that, he recently found out that they are not as far along in the audit process as first thought. The PY23 LRWDB Audit will be sent to the peer review shortly and then they can begin the PY24 LRWDB Audit.

One-Stop Partners Advisory Committee – Mrs. Dollie Fountain spoke about the different events that she has been attending in her new role as the Regional Outreach Manager. She has been discussing with potential customers/participants the services that are offered in the Little Rock Workforce Center (LRWFC).

Youth Services Committee – Director Monagle notified the board that Mrs. Dollie Fountain has brought to his attention (provided resumes) two people they may be candidates for the Youth Services Committee Chair. He spoke about the qualifying attributes that the candidates must have to be considered for the position.

Persons with Disabilities Committee – no updates

~Rock City Re-entry Pathway Home 3 video premiered~

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

Mrs. Rani Cooksey, Project Director, reported on Equus Workforce Solutions June 2025 goals. She asked attendees to refer to the report attached to the meeting packet. Adult/Dislocated Worker enrollments are 60/60, Youth enrollments are 43/30, Foster/Homeless Youth enrollments are at 21/10, and Youth Work Experience is at 30/10. Mrs. Cooksey stated that the measures set for Youth Occupational Skills Training are at 10/4 and Adult Occupational Skills Training are at 32/30. Center-wide Cross Trainings are 14/6 and Business Service Surveys 16/12.

Project Director Cooksey spoke about the 9 out of 15 performance measure goals achieved for WIOA. The areas that were being achieved were Adult Q2 & Q4 employment rate, Youth Q2 employment rate, Adult Median Earnings, DLW MSG, Youth MSG, Adult Credential, DLW Credential, and Youth Credential. Also discussed and celebrated, were the Rock City Re-entry Pathway Home 3 performance measures and accomplishments. She spoke about the monthly High School Tours that Equus will be

hosting soon. She shared the participant's success story of Mr. Wynton Ruth (WIOA Out-of-School Youth).

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:** Director Monagle provided a synopsis of the Executive Director's report (see attached report for details). He spoke about the LRWFC IFA/MOU agreement needing to be completed and in place by November 2<sup>nd</sup>. He announced that the LRWDB was awarded the \$4M Pathway Home 6 grant from the DOL.

Director Monagle discussed the PY25 LRWDB, Equus, and RCRG Pathway Home 3 & 6 Financial statements. Since it had just approved the modified PY25 Budget reflecting the PH6 Grant addition, Vice Chair Christie Ison asked if the board should table the vote on the financial report. After a short discussion, it was advised (by Randall Bynum – Attorney) that a vote was not needed to meet the requirement of informing the board of its financial position.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Upon a motion made by Kathy Fulks and duly seconded by Dollie Fountain, the LRWDB unanimously adjourned the meeting. The meeting of the LRWDB was adjourned at 1:26 pm.

Approved by:

*Eddie Davis for Eddie Davis* *10/23/2025*  
LRWDB Chair Date