

MINUTES  
REGULAR QUARTERLY MEETING  
ARKANSAS WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD  
OCTOBER 10, 2000

Chairman Bill Fisher called to order a regular quarterly meeting of the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 10, at the Jacksonville Community Center, Jacksonville. Members present included Marguerite Abowitz, Florine Tousant Bingham, Candis Collins, Charles Cunningham, Joe Dillard, Lisa Ferrell, Don Finley, Bill Fisher, Garland Hankins for Steve Franks, James Hendren, Randy Hopper, Alan Hughes, Kurt Knickrehm, Steve Lux, Gloria Lynn, Jodie Mahony, Karen McFarren, Helen Moore, Trevor Myers, Jim Blakley for Barbara Pardue, James Putlak, Ed Rolle, Frank Scroggins, Jim Smith, Jack Smurl, Bill Sutton, Joe Warren, David Weick, Campbell Wilkerson, Sharon Williams, John Wyvill, and about 50 public representatives. Members unable to attend included Chuck Cramer, Robert Drechsler, Larry Featherstone, Lu Hardin, Calvin Johnson, Kathy Matlock, Butch Pike, Vicki Rampley, and Barbara Wood.

Chairman Fisher welcomed and introduced each of the new board members including Judge Frank Scroggins, David Weick, and Steve Lux. Vicki Rampley was unable to attend. Chairman Fisher also recognized Jane English, Director of the Arkansas Manufacturers Association, and Michelle Driscoll, DOL-Dallas.

Action Item 1 - Minutes: Chairman Fisher said that the minutes for the September 12 Executive Committee meeting were included in the agenda packet. Dr. Beene stated that a clarification was needed on page three under Method of Administration. The bolded sentence would now read: "Motion was made by Mr. Alan Hughes, seconded by Mrs. Karen McFarren, and carried unanimously to adopt the memoranda and policy statements as presented in the agenda packet to be included in the MOA manual, which will be approved at a later date. They also approved in the same motion a Universal Access Statement as included in the agenda packet." **The minutes of the September 12 Executive Committee meeting were approved with this clarification on motion made by Mr. Bill Sutton, seconded by Ms. Sharon Williams, and carried unanimously.**

Quarterly Report: Dr. Beene gave a Power Point presentation, which covered the events of the last quarter. She mentioned relations with the U.S. Department of Labor, the Agency Partners, the Governor, the Legislature, the Public, as well as business and industry. Some of the major topics included a SkillsNet demonstration held for Board members, status of the WIA Tracking and Reporting System, interviews on the television show, *Arkansas Now*, and tours of out-of-state One-Stop Centers. She also mentioned the Job Spectacular and Foundation for the Mid-South projects. She confirmed that a letter to the state legislators was sent out and another letter was drafted to send to the local Chambers of Commerce by the State Chamber Director. She listed speaking events and meetings with local officials and boards. She gave an update on the local area plans and described the events for the next quarter, including the *Blueprint for the Future* and a legislative budget hearing.

Ratification Item 2 - Funding of Three Local Areas: This item was included in the July 31 Executive Committee teleconference minutes. **90-day funding for three local areas (Southwest, Northeast, and Western) was ratified on motion made by Mayor Joe Dillard, seconded by Dr. James Hendren, and carried unanimously.**

Ratification Item 3 – Biennial Budget: This item was included in the August 15 Executive Committee Minutes. **The Biennial Budget for 2001 – 2003 was ratified on motion made by Mr. Campbell Wilkerson, seconded by Mrs. Karen McFarren, and carried unanimously.**

Ratification Item 4 – Local Performance Standards for PY2000, PY2001, and PY2002: The Local Performance Standards for PY2000 were approved at the August 15 Executive Committee meeting, and the standards for PY2001 and PY2002 were approved at the September 12 Executive Committee meeting. Dr. Hendren stated that the U.S. Department of Labor recognized the possibility of a downturn in the economy and would respond accordingly. **The Local Performance Standards for PY2000, PY2001, and PY2002 were ratified on motion made by Ms. Florine Bingham, seconded by Mr. Trevor Myers, and carried unanimously.** (The Local Performance Standards for PY2000 are carried as attachment to the permanent copy of these minutes. The Local Performance Standards for PY2001 and PY2002 are carried as an attachment to the permanent copy of the September 12 Executive Committee minutes.)

Ratification Item 5 – Transitional Approval for Ten Local Area Plans: This item was included in the September 12 Executive Committee minutes. **Transitional approval through December 31 for Ten Local Area Plans was ratified on motion made by Mr. Steve Lux, seconded by Mr. Don Finley, and carried unanimously.**

Ratification Item 6 – Plan for First Draft of Blueprint Document: This item was included in the September 12 Executive Committee minutes. Dr. Beene stated that the purpose of the document was to update on the current resources available and to share the vision and goals of the Board. Chairman Fisher clarified that the \$15,000 fee was a one-time fee for this publication only. He also said that later in the meeting group sessions would be utilized to gather more information about the priorities of the Board to be included in this document. **The plan for first draft of the Blueprint Document was ratified on motion made by Ms. Marguerite Abowitz, seconded by Mr. Kurt Knickrehm, and carried unanimously.**

Ratification Item 7 – Method of Administration for Nondiscrimination in WIA Programs and Universal Access Statement: This item was included in the September 12 Executive Committee minutes. **The MOA memoranda and policy statements as well as the Universal Access Statement were ratified on motion made by Mr. Bill Sutton, seconded by Ms. Helen Moore, and carried unanimously.**

Ratification Item 8 – Letter to the State Legislators: This item was included in the September 12 Executive Committee minutes and Dr. Beene stated that it was mailed to legislators on October 5, 2000. Dr. Beene said the letter would be mailed to State Board members as well. **The preparation and dissemination of a letter was ratified on motion made by Mr. Campbell Wilkerson, seconded by Ms. Gloria Lynn, and carried unanimously.**

Ratification Item 9 – Work With State Chamber: This item was included in the September 12 Executive Committee minutes. Dr. Beene mentioned that a letter had been drafted. **Work with the State Chamber was ratified on motion by Mrs. Karen McFarren, seconded by Mr. Joe Warren, and carried unanimously.**

Ratification Item 10 – Future Contract with Outreach Provider: This item was included in the September 12 Executive Committee minutes and Chairman Fisher stated that Dr. Beene has begun the contract process. The results would be presented at the November Executive Committee meeting. **The future contract was ratified on motion made by Representative Lisa Ferrell, seconded by Mr. Bill Sutton, and carried unanimously.**

Action Item – Local Plan Review Committee: Chairman Fisher announced that the Local Plan Review Committee and Board Staff members had been reviewing the Comprehensive Five-Year Local Plans of five local areas, North Central, Northeast, Southeast, Eastern, and Little Rock. These plans were assigned to members of the Committee for review. Each member was polled individually and each recommended approval of the local areas' plans. Paul Murray, Deputy Director of the Board Staff, stated that the staff had no reservations about approving these plans and thanked the staffs of the State and Local Boards. Chairman Fisher thanked the Local Plan Review Committee for their efforts and time as well as Joe Warren, Chair. **Motion was made by Mr. Campbell Wilkerson, seconded by Mr. Don Finley, and carried with Sharon Williams abstaining to approve five Comprehensive Five-Year Local Plans (North Central, Northeast, Southeast, Eastern, and Little Rock) for full funding.**

Campbell Wilkerson asked for an update on the other five area plans. Dr. Beene stated that the staffs of the local areas and the State Board are working very diligently on the plans. She said the five plans are due in the Board's office on October 31 and will then be sent to the Local Plan Review Committee for review. A meeting is scheduled for the first week in December to discuss the plans and the Executive Committee will consider them for approval at their December meeting.

Update on AWIS System: Clarence Durand, Deputy Director of the Department of Information Services, gave an update on the AWIS Data Collection System. He stated that the system was operational on October 2. He also said that on October 13 the system will be capable of taking in data. Mr. Durand commended the Employment Security Department and the Board for the vision of this application. He apologized for any difficulty the development of the system may have caused to the Board in the past. He said he would be giving Dr. Beene reports from the data entered by November 3 for a report to the Executive Committee on November 14.

Group Session: Ron Copeland, Facilitator, led the Board in a two hour group session which focused on the Board's major goals. He stated the Board would be the policy makers and the public would be involved as a second group. The information gathered from the group session would be utilized into the *Blueprint for the Future* that was going to be published. Chairman Fisher said the information will be summarized by the staff, mailed to the Board, and reviewed at the November Executive Committee meeting.

Senator Jodie Mahony said he is concerned about the One-Stop Centers. Chairman Fisher asked Dr. Beene to update the Board on the status of the work with the One-Stop Centers. She said one of the major concerns is that there seems to be disconnect between the vision and the message that is communicated to the One-Stop centers by Agency Directors. She said the Career Opportunities Partnership Cabinet (COPC) was asked to write a joint statement to be communicated to the One-Stop centers. Paul Murray, Deputy Director, stated that the Board staff is leading a team approach to visit all ten certified One-Stop Centers in the state between October 17 and November 17. This will allow the staff of the Board to take the message from the Agency Directors to the Centers and the certification document in order to verify the operation of the Centers. In discussing the benefits of the out-of state one-stop visits, Chairman Fisher asked that the staff prepare a synopsis of the visits for information purposes.

Announcements: Dr. Beene said that Arkansas Rehabilitative Services was just awarded a successful grant for a program titled "Ticket to Ride." This program will supply transportation to disabled people and those who need accessible transportation. A total of almost \$1.4 million was awarded for the next five years. Dr. Beene congratulated Director John Wyvill on this program, which would be offered in the Delta region. Dr. Beene also announced that the Governor was going to sign a proclamation for Registered Apprenticeship Awareness Month on October 12. Chairman Fisher said that the November Executive Committee meeting will be at the Arkansas Activities Association building and the next quarterly meeting will be January 9 at the Jacksonville Community Center again.

Adjournment: **The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. on motion made by Senator Jodie Mahony, seconded by Ms. Gloria Lynn, and carried unanimously.**

Bill Fisher, Chair

Dr. Linda Beene, Executive Director

Minutes Recorded by Christina Miller  
Staff of Workforce Investment Board