

Arkansas
Workforce Investment Board
July 13, 1999
Minutes

The Arkansas Workforce Investment Board (WIB) met Tuesday, July 13, 1999, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman William Fisher.

Chairman Fisher introduced and welcomed Governor Mike Huckabee. Governor Huckabee welcomed and encouraged the participation of each member to the Workforce Investment Board. Governor Huckabee stated that there were three basic things that would have to come from this board as it gets under way: 1) share resources; 2) streamline the process and 3) shape the future for Arkansas' economy. He stated that the task before them is not to preserve any government program but to preserve the people who are being served by the programs.

The following members were present:

Marguerite L. Abowitz
Al Ashcraft
Candis Collins
Charles F. Cunningham
Joe Dillard
Robert J. Drechsler
Larry D. Featherstone
Don G. Finley
William B. Fisher
Steve Franks
Lu Hardin
Mike Huckabee
Diana T. Hueter
Alan Hughes
Phillip Jackson
Russell R. Kennedy
Kurt Knickrehm
Gloria J. Lynn
Jodie Mahony
Kathleen J. Matlock
Karen L. McFarren
Helen L. Moore
Barbara Pardue
Butch L. Pike
James A Putlak
Ed Rolle
Patricia F. Sinnott
Jim Smith
Jack T. Smurl
Bill W. Sutton

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The following members were present: (continued)

Florine Tousant-Bingham
Joe Warren
Campbell Wilkerson
Sharon L. Williams
John Wyvill

The following members were not present:

Lisa C. Ferrell
James K. Hendren
Randy Hopper
Chris R. Long
Trevor Myers
Barbara Wood

Chairman Fisher announced that a pictorial directory will be prepared containing biographical sketches along with a picture of each board member. The directory will be compiled and distributed within the next few weeks.

Ms. Jan Partain, Arkansas Department of Economic Development, reviewed the contents of the resource books prepared for each board member.

Chairman Fisher entertained a motion to confirm Dr. Linda Beene as the WIB Executive Director via appointment by the Governor. Dr. Beene is currently on staff at the University of Central Arkansas. The motion was made by Representative Jodie Mahony and seconded by Mr. Alan Hughes. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Sharon Robinette, Arkansas Employment Security Department, presented a power point overview of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the WIB responsibilities.

Chairman Fisher introduced the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board Council Resolution Number 1999-1. This resolution will allow a stipend of up to \$100 for the WIB members for each meeting attended. Legislative members will receive \$89.00 a day plus .31 cents per mile provided they live beyond a 50 mile radius of the meeting (compliant with Arkansas state law). State agency directors are exempt from receiving a stipend. A motion was made by Ms. Barbara Pardue to approve the stipend of \$100. The motion was seconded by Ms. Florine Tousant-Bingham and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Jo Ann Sory explained to the Board the procedure involved in receiving reimbursement of the meeting stipend.

The term ending dates were drawn by the board members and results were read as follows: (dates were drawn for those members not present)

June 1, 2000 (8)

Phillip Jackson, Jim Putlak, Sharon Williams, Candis Collins, Don Finley, Al Ashcraft, Campbell Wilkerson, Russell Kennedy

June 1, 2001 (8)

James Hendren, Randy Hopper, Trevor Myers, Chris Long, Barbara Wood, Karen McFarren, Larry Featherstone, Bill Fisher

June 1, 2002 (8)

Diana Hueter, Joe Dillard, Alan Hughes, Bill Sutton, Patricia Sinnott, Florine Tousant-Bingham, Gloria Lynn, Butch Pike

June 1, 2003 (8)

Kathleen Matlock, Charles Cunningham, Marguerite Abowitz, Joe Warren, Helen Moore, Robert Drechsler, Jim Smith, Jack Smurl

Note: Legislators and state agency directors will serve for the time they are in office.

Chairman Fisher announced that Rebekah Lee will be the Governor's Liaison for the WIB.

Chairman Fisher reviewed the draft WIB by-laws. The Act provides that the Board elect an Executive Committee. The Chair asked consideration from the Board to allow him to appoint an interim Executive Committee for a 6-month period. This way the Board will have a better idea of who they would like to serve on the Executive Committee and in January a new committee would be elected.

Mr. Al Ashcraft asked for clarification of what is meant by category change. Chairman Fisher stated that for example, if someone was in business and they switch to labor, there would be a vacancy in business. Mr. Ashcraft proposed an amendment to Article I: Appointments, Section 2 – last portion to read: that the business category only retain their position on the Board until their term expired. The motion was seconded by Mr. Don Finley. After an in-depth discussion, it was determined that an ad-hoc by-laws committee review the law for any repercussions. The motion was withdrawn pending the committee's review and recommendation at the next meeting.

Article V: Committees – Section 2. A motion was made by Representative Mahony to amend Article V: Committees by striking the last full sentence in Section 2 and substituting the following: "The full board, by a two-thirds vote, may terminate the staff executive director." After a discussion the motion was seconded by Ms. Helen Moore. The motion passed with seventeen (yes) and fifteen (no).

A motion was made by Representative Mahony to adopt the by-laws with the exception to the proposed amendment of Article I: Appointments, Section 2, regarding category representation. This will be approved by a majority vote of the board at the next meeting instead of the two-thirds vote (all other

changes of the by-laws will require a two-thirds vote.) The motion was seconded and passed with twenty-four (yes) and five (no).

An information sheet was included in each packet. After the forms are collected revealing members' interest areas, the Chair, Vice-Chair and the Director will review the forms and appoint members to the following committees: Strategic Planning and Program and Performance Evaluation.

Chairman Fisher announced that he has selected Ms. Florine Tousant-Bingham as Vice-Chair of the Workforce Investment Board.

Mr. Ed Rolle reviewed the Workforce Investment Area designations. He stated that all service delivery areas (SDAs) have requested designation as Workforce Investment Areas. Two SDAs failed the population criteria, however, the performance criteria was met. These areas must be designated by September 30. The Executive Committee will review the requests, and after a public comment period, make a final recommendation to Governor Huckabee.

Ms. Robinette reported that a multi-agency state and local workgroup has developed a draft criteria for Chief Elected Officials' use in appointing local Workforce Investment Boards. The local WIBs must be appointed by January 15, 2000. Suggestions and recommendations will be taken at the next WIB meeting.

Dr. Linda Beene briefly addressed the WIB.

The Executive Committee will meet at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 10 and September 14 and at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, October 12. The next state WIB will meet at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, October 12.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Board Chairman

Executive Director