

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ARKANSAS WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
JULY 31, 2000

A special meeting of the Executive Committee, Arkansas Workforce Investment Board, was held by teleconference on July 31, 2000. Chairman Bill Fisher called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. Members able to participate included Joe Dillard, Robert Drechsler, Lisa Ferrell, Bill Fisher, Alan Hughes, Gloria Lynn, Jodie Mahony, Kathy Matlock, Karen McFarren, Helen Moore, Bill Sutton, and Campbell Wilkerson. Members unable to participate were Florine Tousant Bingham, Larry Featherstone, and Steve Franks. James Hendren, Chairman of the Program and Performance Committee, and four members of the public were also present.

Report on Local Area Performance Standards: Chairman Fisher declared a quorum and asked Dr. Hendren to give the report of the Local Area Performance Standards. Dr. Hendren stated that the Program and Performance Evaluation Committee looked at the performance levels suggested by the local boards, prepared responses by state staff, and subsequent local reaction. He said the Committee now needed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to take the next step. Dr. Hendren said many of the areas accepted the levels recommended by the State Board the second time around, but some areas requested numbers lower than what is required to meet the state level. Dr. Hendren suggested that the Executive Committee recommend to the Local Areas the performance levels his Committee agreed upon.

Mr. Dillard inquired about the federal levels and if they were higher than what the state set. Dr. Hendren stated that they were actually below what is required to get the entire state at an approvable level. Dr. Hendren also confirmed that the state level was reached through a weighted average of the ten local areas. The only way to keep the state average up if an area requested a lower level was to increase another area's level. It was pointed out that three of the six areas who requested lower levels for the first criteria also requested waivers. Dr. Hendren stated that the numbers agreed upon were based on a minimal (one to two percentage points) increase from the past levels that every area was asked to make. He stated there was a one to two percentage cushion for each criteria. Dr. Hendren said DOL would take into account a slump in the economy or other unforeseen possibilities if standards were not met.

Chairman Fisher announced a time pressure to get the negotiations complete in order to approve the local plans. He said the local areas should justify to the State Board why their area needs to lower the requested levels. Dr. Hendren explained that most of the criteria could be compared with JTPA. Dr. Beene agreed to send the Committee a list of the performance levels from 1996, 1997, and 1998. Also included would be the initial numbers supplied by the local boards, the state response, and the second response from the local boards for review before the next Executive Committee Meeting.

Report on Status of Local Plans: Chairman Fisher asked Dr. Beene to update the Committee on the Status of the local plans. She stated the Local Plan Review Committee met on July 24 and July 31 to discuss the plans and the three areas that were granted thirty-day funding instead of ninety-day. She said a motion was made by the Local Plan Review Committee to move all three

areas into the same ninety-day funding category as the other seven areas. **Motion was made by Kathy Matlock, seconded by Karen McFarren, and carried unanimously to fund the three areas (Southwest, Northeast, and Western) for ninety days.**

Dr. Beene explained that the five areas with governance restructuring had responded to the State Board with the restructuring requirements by July 28 and the staff had until August 11 to respond. She also said a theme developed among three areas to elect Western Arkansas Planning and Development District (WAPDD) as their administrative and fiscal agent. The reason WAPDD was able to do this was because they had not participated in the implementation of JTPA programs. The five areas without governance restructuring would receive their final letter from the staff by the close of business July 31.

Announcements: Dr. Beene announced that the pursuit of a visit to an out-of-state One-Stop was underway. The search was narrowed down to four states in the Southeast including Kentucky, South Carolina, Georgia, and Missouri. August 15 would be the next monthly Executive Committee meeting held at the Arkansas Activities Association in North Little Rock.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m. on motion made by Helen Moore, seconded by Joe Dillard, and carried unanimously.

Bill Fisher, Chair

Linda Beene, Executive Director

Minutes recorded by Christina Miller
Staff of Workforce Investment Board