

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ARKANSAS WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
August 10, 2000

A special meeting of the Executive Committee, Arkansas Workforce Investment Board, was held by teleconference August 10, 2000. Chairman Bill Fisher called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. Members participating were Florine Bingham, Joe Dillard, Robert Drechsler, Larry Featherstone, Bill Fisher, Steve Franks, Jodie Mahony, Kathy Matlock, Karen McFarren, Helen Moore, and Campbell Wilkerson. Members unable to participate were Lisa Ferrell, Alan Hughes, Gloria Lynn, and Bill Sutton.

Update on Negotiations of Performance Standards: Chairman Fisher asked Dr. Beene to bring the Committee up to date on the negotiations of performance standards with the local boards. She said she was pleased with how the negotiations have been going so far and the successes of this week. Dr. Beene and the staff met with six of the areas and those negotiations were completed. She said there was a positive reception from the areas and a general sense of team effort. Some areas had concerns but were willing to work toward achieving the state-level standards. Those concerns were often resolved by discussions on how the standards were calculated for WIA compared to JTPA.

Dr. Beene gave a description of each area's negotiation. West Central staff wrote a letter and faxed it to the staff stating they would accept the levels. Western staff emailed the Board staff and accepted the levels. Northwest staff met with Dr. Beene in Springdale and accepted the levels. Central Administrators came to the office and accepted the levels. Southwest had a couple concerns, specifically about performance measures nine and eleven. Dr. Beene suggested the Committee not take action on this area until the remaining four areas engaged in five negotiations with the staff. North Central staff had a teleconference and agreed to accept the levels after some general discussion.

Chairman Fisher reiterated that only one of the six areas that had engaged in meetings had concerns on two of the measures. Chairman Fisher suggested to the Committee that this teleconference meeting be an information session and the staff would continue to work with the other four areas on negotiations. The Committee agreed. Dr. Beene confirmed that the state standards were now firm and there was no other negotiating room with the Department of Labor. The Committee wanted to make it clear to the other four areas that they needed to have their negotiations complete by close of business on Monday, August 14. **This motion was made by Campbell Wilkerson, seconded by Helen Moore, and carried unanimously.**

Announcements: Chairman Fisher asked for announcements and Dr. Beene gave a recap on the status of the local plans. She said that out of the five areas that did not request waivers, all had received their final letter from the staff concerning plan quality. The areas were not given a deadline for their response but were encouraged to work as quickly as possible. The ball would now be in their court and the quicker they respond, the sooner the staff can approve their plan. Out of the five areas that did request waivers and required governance restructuring, the staff had issued responses to three areas (West Central, Western, and Southwest). The other two areas (Northwest and Central) would be issued the next day. Therefore, by the end of the day Friday all ten areas would have their responses from the staff issued to them. Chairman Fisher asked the staff to get a report from the five areas that did not require restructuring on their expected status of responses.

Mayor Dillard expressed appreciation to Dr. Beene and her staff particularly for meeting in the local area when possible. Chairman Fisher asked if any of the Committee members had received feedback from the local areas since Dr. Beene had met with them, and none had received feedback. **The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m. on motion made by Campbell Wilkerson, seconded by Joe Dillard, and carried unanimously.**