

MINUTES – MEETING OF THE
CAREER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

November 13, 2018
1:30 p.m.

The Career Education and Workforce Development Board was called to order by Chairman Hugh McDonald. The meeting was held at the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, 525 West Capitol Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas.

A record of member attendance is as follows:

PRESENT

Mr. Hugh McDonald, Chair
Dr. Adam Arroyos
Dr. Keith Vire
Dr. Jeff Standridge
Mr. Burton Weis
Mr. Steve Percival
Ms. Stacy Gunderman
Mr. Troy Keeping
Dr. Jerry Cash
Ms. Jenifer Price

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members

Dr. Charisse Childers, Ex-Officio Secretary
Ms. Ann Clemmer (Dr. Maria Markham)
Mr. Mike Mertens (Dr. Richard Abernathy)

ABSENT

Mr. Michael Garner
Ms. Gina Radke, Vice Chair
Mr. Scott Copas

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members

Mr. Mike Preston
Mr. Johnny Key
Mr. Daryl Bassett

Mr. Hugh McDonald, Chair, called the meeting to order.

ACTION ITEM 1 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2018

On a motion by Mr. Keeping and second by Dr. Vire, the Career Education and Workforce Development board unanimously approved the minutes of September 11, 2018.

ACTION ITEM 2 – SETTING OF 2019 BOARD MEETING DATES

Mr. McDonald stated that this year we have had the meetings on the second Tuesday of every other month. Mr. McDonald asked the members if this would work going forward for next year beginning in January. The following dates:

January 8, 2019
March 12, 2019
May 14, 2019
July 9, 2019
September 10, 2019
November 12, 2019

On a motion by Mr. Percival and second by Dr. Vire, the Career Education and Workforce Development board unanimously approved that the meeting dates for next year starting in January would be the second Tuesday of every other month.

ACTION ITEM 3 – APPROVAL OF ARS FIELD POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL FINAL VERSION

Mr. Alan McClain, Commissioner, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, stated that the board approved the initial, proposed updates at the September 11, 2018 meeting.

Mr. McClain stated that since the meeting, the proposed updates have been approved by the Governor's Office, advertised as part of the 30-day public comment period, and consolidated for presentation to the Legislative Council.

Mr. McClain asked Mr. Charles Lyford, Chief Counsel, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, to provide the board members with information pertaining to the public comments that were received during the 30-day public comment period.

Mr. McClain stated that it is the agency recommendation that the board approve the adoption of the final version of the updates to the Field Policy and Procedure Manual and approve for the agency to present the final version of the updates to the Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee of the Legislative Council in December of 2018.

Mr. Lyford provided the board members with the comments that were received during the 30-day public comment period along with the agencies response to those comments.

On a motion by Mr. Keeping and second by Dr. Cash, the Career Education and Workforce Development board unanimously approved the request for the agency to present the final version of the updates to the Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee of the Legislative Council for the revised Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Field Policies and Procedures Manual.

ACTION ITEM 4 – APPROVAL OF THE ARKANSAS APPRENTICESHIP COORDINATION STEERING COMMITTEE (AACSC) STATE PLAN AND CONSTRUCTION TRAINING PROGRAM

Dr. Charisse Childers, Director, Department of Career Education, stated that Ms. Karen Breshears of the Arkansas Apprenticeship Coordination Steering Committee is not in attendance today, she has had an emergency in her family.

Dr. Childers stated that the board members received a copy of the statue and a copy of both letters sent to Ms. Breashears. Also in the drop box was a copy of the plan as it was written by the Apprenticeship Coordination Steering Committee.

Dr. Childers stated that in Ms. Breshears' absence Mr. Randy Prather, Program Coordinator, Apprenticeship Training, is here to answer any questions pertaining to the process, the funding for the apprenticeship programs and the funding construction training trust, but would not be able to answer questions specific to the plan that was written by the Apprenticeship Coordination Steering Committee.

Dr. Childers stated that her recommendation to the board is, if the board members have read the plan and approve the plan, it is the recommendation of the agency to accept the plan. If not, take time to review the plan and have any discussion but the board may decide to table the item until the next board meeting for further discussion.

Mr. McDonald stated that he has read the plan and has some concerns about the following: lack of accountability for deliverables and a timeline for action to be taken; no proposal for how the AACSC plan and the Department of Workforce Services plan will work together for apprenticeships and who is ultimately accountable for Arkansas apprenticeships; and no proposal for how state funds and federal funds can be coordinated.

On a motion by Mr. Keeping and second by Mr. Percival, the Career Education and Workforce Development board unanimously rejected the Arkansas Apprenticeship Coordination Steering Committee State Plan and Construction Training Program.

ACTION ITEM 5 – NORTHWEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE PLAN TO MEET TECHNOLOGICAL AND TRAINING NEEDS IN ARKANSAS

Dr. Blake Robertson, President, Northwest Technical Institute, stated that, as required by A.C.A. 6-51-905, the Northwest Technical Institute has created a plan to work with local business, industry, and agriculture to meet technological and training needs in Arkansas.

Dr. Robertson provided the board members with additional information concerning the Northwest Technical Institute plan.

On a motion by Dr. Vire and second by Mr. Keeping, the Career Education and Workforce Development board unanimously approved to accept the policy presented by Northwest Technical Institute.

INFORMATION ITEM 6 – TRANSFER OF THE TEXARKANA SECONDARY TECHNICAL CENTER LEA TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS HOPE TEXARKANA (UAHT)

Mr. Cody Waits, Deputy Director, Office of Skills Development, stated that due to declining enrollment, lack of concurrent credit opportunities, and lack of industry certified credentials, an agreement has been made to transfer the secondary technical center from the Texarkana School District to the University of Arkansas Hope Texarkana. The effort to serve additional school districts currently without access to a secondary technical center, combined with increased opportunities for concurrent credit and a focus on industry driven programs of study, led to the decision to transfer the operations of the secondary technical center to UAHT.

INFORMATION ITEM 7 – ADULT EDUCATION STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Dr. Trena Miles, Deputy Director, Adult Education, stated that the Adult Education Division has finalized its 2017-2018 program year data.

Dr. Miles provided the board members with a summary of state data, information concerning local program performance, and a description of contributing factors.

INFORMATION ITEM 8 – UPDATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S PLAN FOR TRANSFORMING STATE GOVERNMENT

Dr. Childers stated that on October 3, 2018, Governor Asa Hutchinson disclosed his plan to reduce the number of Arkansas state agencies from 42 to 15. Board members were given the organizational charts that were available during the press conference.

Dr. Childers provided the board members with an update on the transition and how it will affect the Department of Career Education.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget Committee – None

Personnel Committee – None

OTHER BUSINESS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Childers stated that she was going to give some information to the board regarding Perkins V and, if agreeable with Mr. McDonald, will submit the Director's report at a later date.

Dr. Childers began by stating that the Carl D. Perkins Act (Perkins IV) was passed in 2006 and provides funding for career and technical education in Arkansas. The current update to Perkins IV is called the Strengthening Career and Technical Education in the 21st Century Act (Perkins V).

She stated that in April of 2019 the Arkansas Department of Career Education - Career and Technical Education Division will have prepared, and presented to the Governor, a transition plan that will move current Perkins IV into the new Perkins V plan. This transition plan will run from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. A four-year plan will then begin on July 1, 2020, which will include numerous state-wide meetings; engagement of groups, committees, and stakeholders from around the state; and input from career and technical education providers, teachers, and administrators to ensure that in Perkins V the priorities of Arkansas are fully assessed when it comes to career and technical education and where the federal dollars received from Perkins by the agency should be spent.

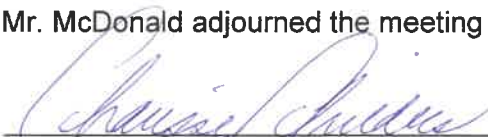
Dr. Childers stated that the transition plan will provide some of the building blocks, but Arkansas will continue to build on that when the final plan is submitted in April of 2020. The transition plan requires CEWD board approval. Arkansas has six months to write the plan, get board approval, get Governor Hutchinson's approval, and submit to the United States Department of Education (USDOE). If the USDOE's final determination is that agency board and state governor approvals are not required, the plan will still be brought before the CEWD board as an Information Item at the March 2019 meeting. At that time, work on the final plan will have already begun.

The Arkansas Perkins V State Team members attended a conference where many hours were dedicated to understanding Perkins V. An upcoming Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) meeting is being held to discuss how Perkins aligns with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and the Higher Education Act to ensure alignment from Kindergarten through 20, and beyond with workforce development. All criteria and factors that go into performance targets are being considered, along with how all the acts can complement each other.


Mr. McDonald stated that the next meeting would be January 8, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McDonald adjourned the meeting at 3:06 p.m.



Dr. Charisse Childers, Ex-Officio Secretary
Career Education and Workforce
Development Board



Mr. Hugh McDonald, Chair
Career Education and Workforce
Development Board