



## **WORKFORCE ARIZONA COUNCIL BOARD MEETING *Draft Minutes***

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom:

[https://azcommerce.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_n6di9mLLSISwJKwZECxygg](https://azcommerce.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_n6di9mLLSISwJKwZECxygg)

### **Members Present**

Dawn Grove - Karsten Manufacturing  
Audrey Bohanan - Adelante Healthcare  
Jeff Fleetham - Arizona Registrar of Contractors  
Randall Garrison - FinTek Industries  
Mark Gaspers - Boeing  
Supervisor Bill Gates - Maricopa County Board of Supervisors  
Allison Gilbreath - Arizona Chamber of Commerce  
Sheryl Hart - Arizona Department of Education  
Alex Horvath - Tucson Medical Center  
Will James - Centene Corporation  
Tom Jenkins - Advanced Business Services  
Gretchen Kitchel - SRP  
Larry Lucero - Tucson Electric Power  
David Martin - Arizona Chapter, Associated General Contractors  
Mayor Jen Miles - City of Kingman

Karen Molina – Raytheon  
Brian Rice - Hensley Beverage  
Jonathan Schmitt - ASU  
John Walters - Liberty Mutual  
Thomas Winkel - Arizona Coalition for Military Families  
Michael Wisehart - Arizona Department of Economic Security

### **Members Absent**

Susan Anable - Cox Communications  
Greg Anderson - Summit Healthcare  
Dennis Anthony - Arizona Apprenticeship Advisory Committee  
Todd Graver - Freeport McMoRan  
Stephen Macias - Pivot Manufacturing  
Joanne Osborne - Arizona House of Representatives  
Drew Thorpe - APS  
Sandra Watson - Arizona Commerce Authority

### **I. Call to Order**

Chair Dawn Grove called the Workforce Arizona Council meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

### **II. Roll Call**

Quorum was present after roll call.

### **III. Welcome**

Chair Dawn Grove welcomed all those in attendance at the virtual meeting.

### **IV. Chair's Report**

Chair Grove gave highlights of some success stories:

In the City of Cottonwood, the Chief of Police, Steve Gesell, praised NACOG's support in screening an outstanding cadre of candidates for the police training program.

The Phoenix metropolitan area has been named the #1 inbound destination for relocation.

The Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity has released a very positive economic outlook for the coming year and a half, including the anticipation of at least 325,000 new jobs, at least 5,000 manufacturing jobs above the pre-COVID level, and significant increases in the hospitality sector.

### **V. Call to the Public**

Teri Drew spoke on behalf of the Arizona Workforce Association to encourage continued collaboration with the Council.

### **VI. Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 1, 2020**

Bill Gates moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Gretchen Kitchel; motion was adopted unanimously.

### **VII. Director's Update**

Kolu Wilson, Workforce Administrator, introduced Lacy McMannis, Aaron Osmond, and Lindsay Hopkins of Amazon Web Services (AWS) who presented their program which will train at least 100 educators in Arizona by the end of the summer 2021 (focused on adult and high school students), who will then go on to train at least 5000 students across Arizona toward certification in Cloud Skills. Every industry has indicated a severe shortage of candidates for employment in Cloud Skills.

Kolu reported growth and development plans for the Council this year through strengthening meetings, public connection, and alignment with Title and academic partners. She also mentioned that about 75% of the Council membership will expire this year and encouraged those that are interested in continuing to serve on the Council to inform Ashley Wilhelm or Kolu.

Regarding Council endorsed projects, Kolu explained that the Arizona Advanced Technology Network has over 500 students enrolled, and is setting up a governing structure, establishing metrics, and moving to emphasize employer engagement as its next step. She reported that the Maryvale Workforce Initiative has been on hold due to COVID-19 and will restart soon. Her report continued with an explanation of the Arizona Management System, where Stacey Faulkner, WIOA Coordinator, explained that the Arizona Job Connection system has just launched a complete upgrade to improve data processing and data access. Kolu stated that the Roadmap to Veteran Employment and SkillBridge has an updated memorandum of understanding. Thomas Winkel, Director, Arizona Coalition for Military Families announced there is a new office on Luke AFB for the Transition Assistance Program to focus on employment efforts for the service members and their families. He also explained ARIZONA@WORK-City of Phoenix has initiated a new focus on military spouses. Kolu then outlined the current successes of the Arizona Career Readiness Program and explained the active local workforce areas participating, as well as those that are less active or not participating currently.

As part of her report, Kolu provided an overview of state agencies' roles and responsibilities as they relate to workforce development, consisting of the Workforce Arizona Council, the Office of Economic Opportunity, the Department of Economic Security, and the Department of Education.

Kolu introduced Brett Galley, the Arizona Commerce Authority's Director of Legislative Affairs. Brett reported that the state legislature is currently in session considering some 1708 bills and the state budget. On the federal level, Congress is considering COVID-19 assistance - Round 3 and CHIPS/EO funding.

As part of the Director's Update, Ashley Wilhelm outlined the 2021 Council priorities, which will be reviewed in depth in committee meetings, as well as accepting feedback from Title partners. There will be ten strategies and each committee will look to engage three to five activities in each strategy.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

### **A. Strategic Communications and Partnerships Committee**

Committee Chair, Supervisor Bill Gates, reported that the committee is working on implementing the state plan strategies, the ARIZONA@WORK brand policy, and digital communication strategies. Additionally, the committee is working to include in the State Plan Summary a tool called "A Guide to ARIZONA@WORK". The committee will also focus on the annual Council Convening.

### **B. Performance Excellence Committee**

Committee Chair, David Martin, reported that the committee is working on implementing the state plan strategies and the certification and continuous improvement of the One-Stop Centers. He also provided an update on the Maricopa County Local Workforce Area grievance, which has now been withdrawn. The committee recommends the recertification of the Maricopa County Local Workforce Board.

Thomas Winkel made a motion to recertify the Maricopa County Local Workforce Board; seconded by Alex Horvath. The motion was passed unanimously.

Committee Chair Martin invited Kolu Wilson to speak regarding effective local workforce boards moving forward. Kolu explained that the Council will work with DES to establish a monitoring plan, and that they will be educating county managers on their roles and responsibilities, as well as understanding the Workforce Arizona Council's policies and local workforce board members' rights and responsibilities.

### **C. Quality Workforce Committee**

Mark Gaspers, Committee Chair, reported that the committee is working on implementing the state plan strategies, validating training providers and program eligibility, and establishing Formula Allocation policies and procedures. He invited Kolu Wilson to explain Formula Allocation and the funding waiver request further. Clarifications were made by Stacey Faulkner of DES about the waiver process and Nidia Herrera, ARIZONA@WORK Yuma County on their waiver request.

David Martin made a motion to deny the funding waiver requests; seconded by Alex

Horvath. The motion was passed unanimously.

**D. Measuring Effectiveness Committee**

John Walters, Committee Chair, reported that the committee is working on implementing the state plan strategies, performance measures, a technology updates plan, and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) performance report.

Committee Chair Walters invited Council member, Director Michael Wisehart to report on technology plan development. Michael explained that modernization of technology infrastructure is desperately needed, that the unemployment insurance system is fragmented, and that identifying a funding stream is crucial to laying a foundation of this work.

**VIII. Council Member Remarks**

No comments were received.

**IX. Upcoming Council Meetings**

May 25, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. (Quarter 2)

September 8, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. (Quarter 3)

November 30, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. (Quarter 4)

**X. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.