

ALABAMA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
April 3, 2013
Marriott Legends Hotel
Prattville, Alabama

A meeting of the Alabama Workforce Investment (State) Board convened on April 3, 2013 at 10:06 am (CDT) at the Marriott Legends Hotel, Prattville, Alabama.

Members Present: (19)

Tim Alford	Mary Allbritten	Ronald Boles	Glenn Camp
John Carroll	Stan Chavis	George Clark	Frank Coiro
Terri Collins	Gregory Fitch	Frederick Hamilton	Susan Johnston
Sydney Raine	Ashley Ramsay-Naile	Mike Reynolds	Goodrich "Dus" Rogers
Wayne Silas	Sherry Vest	Cheryl Williams	

Members Represented: (9)

Cary Boswell	by: Jim Carden	Nancy Buckner	by: Debby Wood
Jim Byard, Jr.	by: Gina Smith	Mark Heinrich	by: Amy Brabham
Al Henley	by: Mary Allbritten	Judy Merritt	by: Kelli Creamer
Jeana Ross	by: Susan McKim	Tom Surtees	by: Bob Brantley
Tommy Bice	by: Philip Cleveland		

Members Absent: (29)

Patricia Adams	Brian Barr	Jeff Bayer	Governor Robert Bentley
Shane Boatright	Joseph Brown	Ed Castile	J. Ab Conner
A.J. Cooper	Wayne Daugherty	John Downs	Perry Hand
John Harper	Rep. Ed Henry	Bobby Humphrey	Elliot Maisel
Bartley McCorquodale	Sen. Shadrack McGill	Kib McKibbens	Ken McPherson, Jr.
Neal Morrison	Anne Payne	David Pearce	Quentin Riggins
Sen. Clay Scofield	Doug Sellers	Steve Sloan	Don Stisher
Dan Stracener			

Guests: (18)

Greg Canfield, AL Dept of Commerce	Jerry Morris, Montgomery Job Corps Center
Jim Harris, AL Dept of Rehabilitation Services	Brinda Barrett, AL Career Center System
Ruby Beezley, AL Career Center System	Kristen Sexton, ADECA/WDD
Kathy Evans, AL Career Center System	Sara Calhoun, ADECA/WDD
Jan Dame, ADECA/WDD	Bill Hornsby, ADECA/WDD
Lillian Patterson, ADECA/WDD	Steve Walkley, ADECA/WDD
Dennis Hopper, ADECA/WDD	Tammy Farmer, ADECA/WDD
Chrissie Boyd, ADECA/WDD	Ken Hollingsworth, ADECA/WDD
Mickey Hutto, ADECA/WDD	Melody Koorangi, ADECA/WDD

Dr. Tim Alford, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:06 am (CDT) and stated that a quorum was present.

Dr. Alford introduced guests present at the meeting including: Dr. Amy Brabham, Vice Chancellor, Department of Postsecondary Education; Mr. Greg Canfield, Commerce Secretary, Alabama Department of Commerce; and Dr. Philip Cleveland, Director, Office of Career Technical Education and Workforce Development, Department of Education. A newly appointed Board Member was introduced, Ms. Jeana Ross, Commissioner of the Department of Children's Affairs represented by Dr. Susan McKim.

Dr. Alford announced the U.S. Department of Labor approved the State Integrated Workforce Plan for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Wagner-Peyser on December 5, 2012. A copy was provided to the membership. Limited information has been provided on the impact of sequestration on WIA Program Year 2013. A 5% to 8% funding cut of approximately \$2 to \$4 million is likely. Program Year 2013 allocations have not yet been received from the Department of Labor. He also stated that the U.S. House of Representatives passed a Workforce Investment Act reauthorization bill called the Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Life Long Skills Act or SKILLS Act on March 15, 2013.

The next order of business was to approve the minutes from the previous meeting held on November 7, 2012.

**MOTION: Mr. Mike Reynolds made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted.
Dr. Frederick Hamilton seconded the motion.
MOTION APPROVED.**

Dr. Alford then called on Mr. Mike Reynolds, Chair of the State Workforce Organizational System Review Committee to present the recommendations of the Committee for Board action. These recommendations will be forwarded to the Governor. Mr. Reynolds stated that these recommendations had been discussed with the various agencies involved in workforce development.

Chairman Alford explained the first recommendation which addresses the situation within the Career Centers where employees work for different agencies doing the same job with different job titles and pay scales. The recommendation is for the agencies involved to review this situation and do whatever is possible, legal, and appropriate to correct this situation. Questions were raised on non-merit staff being moved into the state merit system. The goal was to actually have all the Career Center staff under the State Personnel System to improve the operating efficiency of the centers in matters concerning staffing, promotion, leave, retirement, etc.

Commissioner of Labor Tom Surtees has agreed to take the lead on these issues and will provide feedback on the recommendations from the Governor's office. He will keep the board membership informed of the progress.

Dr. Alford brought forth one other recommendation which had received extensive discussion. This issue involved making changes to the current structure of the three local workforce areas in Alabama. The Committee discussed this at length and is recommending that no changes be made at this time.

If WIA is reauthorized, local area size and designation can be revisited at that time. The current trends around the country indicate continued reductions in funding which has led to consolidation of local areas not expansion.

**MOTION: Mr. George Clark made a motion to approve the Committee Recommendations to be sent to the Governor's Office.
Mr. Glen Camp seconded the motion.
MOTION APPROVED**

It was noted that the Committee Recommendations would support the Governor's and others efforts where it is legal and possible.

NOTE – The following statement was added to the recommendation concerning the sharing of information and developing the capabilities to communicate across agencies – *“The Board also supports the Governor's initiative to consolidate Information Technology across state agencies where it is legal, appropriate, and feasible which will greatly enhance the sharing of information across workforce development entities.”*

Career and Technical Education and Workforce Development – Department of Postsecondary Education
Regional Workforce Council Successes
Dr. Amy Brabham, Vice Chancellor

Dr. Brabham opened her discussion with an overview of the Workforce Development Councils of Alabama, providing information on all 10 Regions including the current Chairs. Councils are business led and are volunteer staffed. Dr. Brabham also discussed success stories with all 10 Regions providing a brief story. She pointed out that they have used the connections between businesses, community colleges, higher education, and K-12, with a determination being made on what is needed on a local basis and then they apply for state grant funding to make a difference in those particular areas.

Office of Career Technical Education and Workforce Development – Department of Education
Alabama Career and Technical Education Initiatives
Dr. Philip Cleveland, Director

Dr. Cleveland discussed the Career Technical Education Plan 2020 which is the framework for making changes to K-12 education. These changes include a graduation rate goal of 90% by the year 2020; the current rate is 75%. The Alabama State Board of Education will have one diploma. Students will choose their pathways to their diploma, instead of taking an algebra class they make take applied math instead. In the past there was one Alabama High School Graduation Exam. Students may now meet that bench mark through industry recognized credentials. There will be workforce development components which are “Indicators for a Successful Alabama Graduate”. All students will now take the ACT exam in the 11th grade. They will also take the WorkKeys test as a 12th grader to determine work skills. Another new change will be the requirement for all 9th grade students to take a “Career Preparedness” course which includes career exploration, financial literacy, and basic computer skills. An additional goal is the better education of faculty towards educating students about workforce development opportunities.

Alabama Department of Commerce

Accelerate Alabama Report Economic Development Strategic Plan

Mr. Greg Canfield, Commerce Secretary

Secretary Canfield opened with a review of the development of Accelerate Alabama. In 2011 Governor Bentley created the Alabama Economic Development Alliance which brought together the traditional economic development entities plus education. The Alliance was charged to develop a common strategy and vision for economic development which resulted in "Accelerate Alabama" the five year plan for economic development in the state. Focus was placed on eleven targeted business sectors (growth sectors): Aerospace / Defense; Automotive; Agricultural Products / Food Production; Steel / Metal; Forestry Products; Chemicals; Biosciences; Information Technology; Enabling Technologies; Distribution / Logistics; and Corporate Operations. These eleven sectors, along with areas of focus for each, have been identified for the state of Alabama to focus its Recruitment (programs that focus on the attraction of new business and industry), Retention (programs that focus on the retention and expansion of existing business and industry) and Renewal (programs that focus on job creation through innovation, entrepreneurship, research and development, and commercialization) efforts over the next three years.

2012 highlights for the Department of Commerce included:

- over \$4 million awarded through the Alabama Innovation Fund covering fifteen (15) grants to the state's public colleges and universities to further research and economic development initiatives;
- the Alabama Innovation Conference;
- the relocation of AIDT into the Department of Commerce;
- and the re-branding of economic development in Alabama with a new website, Made in Alabama, www.madeinalabama.com . This will provide national media attention to Alabama.

Workforce Development Division - ADECA

The Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills (SKILLS) Act

Mr. Dennis Hopper, Supervisor, Workforce Boards

H.R. 803

Latest Title: SKILLS Act

Sponsor: Rep Foxx, Virginia [NC-5] (introduced 2/25/2013)

Cosponsors (23)

Related Bills: H.RES.113

Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills Act or SKILLS ACT. Amends the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) to revise requirements and reauthorize appropriations for: (1) WIA Title I, workforce investment systems for job training and employment services; and (2) WIA Title II, adult education and family literacy education programs.

Mr. Hopper stated the SKILLS Act passed the U.S. House on March 18, 2013. This bill eliminates and / or streamlines 35 workforce programs, gives the Governor more authority over both the state and local board membership, and expands decision making at the local level.

Other business -


The current Board membership and attendance history will be reviewed for compliance with WIA regulations and current Board By-laws. Suggestions and nominations for private sector members may be sent to Vice Chair, Ronnie Boles, rwboles@mcenco.com.

Board Chair Tim Alford announced he would be retiring from his position as Executive Director at Alabama Construction Recruitment Institute the end of June 2013, and therefore could no longer serve as Board Chair per WIA rules. He stated that it was time for the Board to begin a phase of in-depth planning to relate to the initiatives of the Alabama Economic Development Alliance and Accelerate Alabama or risk becoming irrelevant. A better partnership needs to be developed between the Board and economic development and Dr. Alford stated that a new Chair should lead that charge.

The next board meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 22, 2013.

There being no further business brought forward, the meeting was adjourned at 11:38 pm (CDT).

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Steve Walkley, Executive Secretary

Date 6/19/13

Approved:



Dr. Tim Alford, Chair
Alabama Workforce Investment Board

Date 6-25-13