

MEETING SUMMARY

LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON
WORKFORCE EDUCATION EXCELLENCE

Monday, November 13, 2017

1:30 P.M.

OSC, State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas

Senator Jane English, the Senate Co-Chair of the Legislative Task Force on Workforce Education Excellence, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON WORKFORCE EDUCATION EXCELLENCE IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Jane English, Senate Co-Chair; Senator Alan Clark; Senator Lance Eads; Senator Blake Johnson; Representative Rick Beck; Representative Dan Douglas; and Representative Dan Sullivan.

NON-LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON WORKFORCE EDUCATION EXCELLENCE IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Randy Henderson; Mr. Stephen Horton; Mr. Mike Rogers; and Mr. Greg Taylor.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Jonathan Dismang; Senator Eddie Joe Williams; Representative Frances Cavanaugh; Representative Jana Della Rosa; Representative Kenneth B. Ferguson; Representative David Fielding; Representative Vivian Flowers; Representative Kim Hammer; Representative Ken Henderson; Representative Monte Hodges; Representative Bob Johnson; Representative Aaron Pilkington; and Representative Johnny Rye.

Minutes:

Without objection, the minutes of September 20, 2017, October 17, 2017, and November 1, 2017, were approved as written.

Exhibits:

Exhibit C1 – 09/20/17 Minutes
Exhibit C2 – 10/17/17 Minutes
Exhibit C3 – 11/01/17 Minutes

Senator English announced that Item D, Consideration of a Motion to Authorize Chairs to Approve Special Expenses Incurred by the Task Force, would be taken up later in the meeting.

Preliminary Overview of Workforce Program Survey

Presenter:

Ms. Nell Smith, Administrator, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Ms. Smith presented an overview of responses to a survey, pertinent to funding for workforce development programs, sent to eleven (11) Arkansas state agencies in July, 2017:

- Department of Career Education
- Department of Education
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Economic Development Commission

- Department of Workforce Services
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Higher Education
- Department of Labor
- Community Correction
- Department of Correction
- Riverside Vocational Technical School

Ms. Smith stated that according to responses received, the state agencies received a total of about \$248 million in state, federal, and other funding to support programs that include workforce development activities. She said four (4) agencies, the Department of Education, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Correction, and the Department of Community Correction, reported they did not receive any direct funding for workforce development activities. Ms. Smith noted the Riverside Vocational Technical School, to which a survey had also been emailed, handles workforce training for the Department of Correction and is appropriated funding directly for that purpose. She commented that according to survey results, most funding is dedicated to three (3) areas: K-12 education, job training, and career development. Ms. Smith also discussed data, including program descriptions, target population, total population served, results/outcomes, and total received/spent for each agency, contained in a handout.

Handouts:

2017 Legislative Task Force on Workforce Education Excellence Survey
Workforce Development Task Force Survey, Memorandum

Senator English discussed the best way to go about creating a workforce system, including developing a vision, setting goals, and making recommendations for future legislation.

Review of Previous Task Force Meetings

Presenter:

Mr. Nate Klinck, Vice President, Thomas P. Miller and Associates, Indianapolis, IN, was recognized. Mr. Klinck, in his role as facilitator, requested that Task Force members consider past meetings, including those at Maverick Transportation and the Gentry School District; reflect on where the Task Force began its discussion and how it has progressed; and share key learnings and any key takeaways. Mr. Klinck noted members' comments on a flip chart.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- gap in training needed and training provided,
- earlier exposure to career opportunity; career awareness,
- lack of systemic approach to training needs,
- engagement with students; letting industry into the classroom,
- potential focus more on business attraction than retention,
- providing educators with more exposure to business and industry,
- lack of accreditation and/or certification opportunities coming out of postsecondary education,
- the "waiver process" and its impact on innovation,
- no easy pathways between secondary and postsecondary schools,
- public/private partnerships,
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) advisory boards,
- educational co-ops partnering with industry,
- plugging into resources in community groups; maximizing resources currently available,
- greater openness and engagement between business/industry and educators,
- changing the "script" for teachers,
- ability to scale successful programs,
- continuing education to further postsecondary education or to change careers,

- using military recruiting model in schools,
- scholarship recognition; “signing bonuses,” and
- maximizing usage of schools/labs/centers.

Arkansas Department of Workforce Services Program Performance Overview

Presenter:

Mr. Daryl Bassett, Director, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, was recognized. Mr. Bassett discussed the interrelationship among various state agencies, state boards and commissions, state educational institutions, local entities, and public schools that come together to deliver talent. He presented a handout containing a visualization of that network. He said the Arkansas Workforce Development Board, staffed by the Department of Workforce Services, brings the network into focus by coordinating programs funded under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). He discussed WIOA performance July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, DWS Workforce Funding, and AOC districts.

Contributors to the Discussion:

Mr. Steve Guntharp, Deputy Director, Internal Affairs, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services
Mr. Kristopher Jones, Assistant Director, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Arkansas Department of Workforce Services
Mr. Ron Snead, Deputy Director, External Affairs, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- longitudinal data system to track individuals through two (2) years of employment to determine success of programs,
- comprehensive service centers around state,
- The American Job Center Network,
- success stories with apprentice programs, and
- need for a manageable, saleable solution for industry.

PowerPoint:

DWS Innovate Workforce Development

Handouts:

Arkansas Workforce Training & Education Entities
DWS AOC Districts
DWS Business Services and Best Practice Examples
DWS Innovate Workforce Development, PowerPoint Handout
DWS One-Stop Center Partner List
DWS One-Stop Center Program Listing
DWS Partner Programs
DWS WIOA Performance 070116 to 063017
DWS Workforce Development Funding
The American Job Center Network in Arkansas

Senator English announced that Item D would be taken up at this time.

Relevant Action:

The Honorable Dan Douglas, State Representative, District 91, was recognized, and made a motion to authorize the Chairs to approve special expenses incurred by the Task Force.

The motion was seconded by Representative Rick Beck.

Pursuant to the motion by Representative Dan Douglas, the motion was carried on a voice vote.

Exhibit E:

Exhibit E - Motion to Authorize Special Expenses

Next Scheduled Meeting:

Monday, December 4, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 207 of the State Capitol, Little Rock

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Approved: 12/04/2017