

AGENDA

State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities (SBWECO)

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services
26 Corporate Hill Drive
Little Rock, AR 72205

February 7, 2008
9:30 a.m.

- TAB A Action Item – Approval of Minutes of December 10, 2007
- TAB B Action Item – State Plan for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical
Education Improvement Act of 2006

Director's Report

MINUTES - MEETING OF THE
STATE BOARD OF WORKFORCE EDUCATION
AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

December 10, 2007

Chairman Jack Justus called a meeting of the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities (SBWECO) to order at Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, 1616 Brookwood Drive, Little Rock at 1:00 p.m.

A record of member attendance is as follows:

PRESENT

Mr. Jack Justus, Chairman	<u>Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members</u>
Mr. Phil Taylor	None
Mrs. Lucy Ralston	
Mrs. Kathy Scarsdale	
Mrs. Martha Dixon	
Mr. William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., Ex-Officio Secretary	

ABSENT

Mr. Robert McClanahan	<u>Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members</u>
Mr. Richard Smith	Dr. Steve Floyd, Interim
	Dr. Ken James

Mr. Justus introduced Mrs. Martha Dixon from Arkadelphia as a new board member.

A. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF October 4, 2007

On motion by Mr. Taylor and second by Mrs. Ralston, the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities unanimously approved the minutes of October 4, 2007.

B. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF 2008 MEETING DATES

Mr. Justus recommended that the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities set the following meeting dates for 2008 per A.C.A. 25-6-302:

Thursday, February 7, 2008
Thursday, April 3, 2008
Thursday, June 5, 2008
Thursday, August 7, 2008
Thursday, October 2, 2008
Thursday, December 4, 2008

On a motion by Mr. Taylor and second by Mrs. Ralston, the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities unanimously voted to set the following meeting dates for 2008:

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Thursday, August 7, 2008

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Thursday, December 4, 2008

C. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF THE ACQUISITION OF THE U.S. ARMY RESERVE CENTER, HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

Mr. Walker introduced Commissioner Robert Trevino and Ms. Barbara Lewis, Administrator of the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center.

Ms. Lewis stated that the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services/Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center has submitted an application to the United States Department of Education for acquisition of the Hot Springs U.S. Army Reserve Center in Hot Springs, Arkansas for educational purposes. Arkansas Code 6-51-205 indicates that the "State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities" is the legal entity authorized to purchase buildings and land. In this case, there is no cost to acquire the building; however, the legal entity will be responsible for all stated renovations in the acquisition application.

Ms. Lewis stated in order for the U.S. Department of Education to move forward with a final decision on the submitted application, a new board resolution must be approved by the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities. The board must designate a person to represent the board's interest in this transaction. If so, a revised application will need to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education bearing the signature and approval of the named individual.

On motion by Mr. Taylor and second by Mrs. Ralston, the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities unanimously voted to approve that the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities become the legal entity in the acquisition of the U.S Army Reserve Center.

On motion by Mrs. Scarsdale and second by Mr. Taylor, the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities unanimously voted to designate Mr. William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. to represent the board's interest in this transaction.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Bill Walker reported on the following items:

Announced to the board that Mr. Jim Smith has accepted the position of Deputy Director of Adult Education.

Introduced additional new staff members, Mr. Rod Duckworth as the Associate Director of Career and Technical Education and Mr. Bart Haynie as the Deputy Director of Communications.

Discussed the two different organizational charts that were provided to the board members.

Mr. Jim Smith and Mr. John Davidson gave a brief update on the federal review that was conducted in August.

Successful Manufacturing Conference held here in Little Rock with around 200 participants on the first day and over 300 participants on the second day.

Informed the board members that the agency is working on the budget and wish list for the legislative session.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Justus adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Bill Walker, Ex-Officio Secretary
State Board of Workforce Education
and Career Opportunities

Jack Justus, Chairman
State Board of Workforce Education
and Career Opportunities



Department
of Workforce Education

Mike Beebe
Governor

William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.
Director

February 7, 2008

TO: State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities

FROM: Senator Bill Walker, Director 
John Davidson, Deputy Director for Career & Technical Education 

SUBJECT: ACTION ITEM – STATE PLAN FOR THE CARL D. PERKINS CAREER
AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

ACTION RECOMMENDED: It is recommended that the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities approve placing the draft of the five-year State Plan for Perkins on public review.

INFORMATION/RATIONALE: The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 (Perkins IV) was signed by President Bush on August 12, 2006. A one-year transition plan was submitted for the 2007-08 fiscal year. A five-year state plan is due by April 2008 to the U.S. Department of Education.

The state is required to hold at least two public hearings and to gather input from many constituent groups prior to submission of the state plan. Four public hearing are scheduled as follows:

- February 26 at 10:00 - Public hearing in North Little Rock (Pulaski Tech College)
- March 4 at 10:00 - Public hearing in West Helena (Great Rivers Coop)
- March 7 at 10:00 - Public hearing in Arkadelphia (Dawson Coop)
- March 11 at 2:00 - Public hearing in Harrison (North Arkansas College)

The five-year state plan is an expansion of the transition plan that was approved by the board last year. It includes several sections that were not required last year including professional development, recruitment and retention of CTE teachers, and coordination with economic development and other federal programs.

Summary of selected policy decisions contained within the five-year plan:

- Consolidation of the Tech Prep funding into the Basic State Grant -
The decision to consolidate the \$1.2 million in funds for Tech Prep was included in the transition plan. Comments from the field prior to that decision were positive. No negative comments have been received during the transition year.

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- **In-State Distribution of Funds -**
The split of the basic grant funds between secondary and postsecondary recipients has remained at 75% secondary and 25% postsecondary since the early 1990's and was included in the transition plan. No input has been given during the transition year that would suggest this be changed. The split was originally based on enrollment, and enrollment reported in the Consolidated Annual Report does not suggest a change.
- **Projects/activities approved for funding at the local level -**
Perkins funds may be spent on any approved CTE program; however, any expenditure must be tied directly to improvement on one of the performance indicators. In addition, if a program of study is in a career pathway that is high demand, high wage, and high skill, funds may be expended to improve that program so that it meets industry standards and is state-of-the-art.
- **Reserve of up to 10% from the local funds for state priorities or focus areas -**
Secondary reserved \$600,000 of the local funds for state priorities during the transition year. Postsecondary did not do so during the transition year and does not plan to do so in 2008-09. Secondary is using the reserve funds for competitive grants to eligible recipients to develop or improve programs of study in high wage, high demand, and high skill career pathways. This use will continue in 2008-09 with additional state priorities being added in subsequent years such as performance incentives, aligning CTE frameworks with academics, etc.
- **\$60,000 for support of nontraditional programs -**
The Act requires the state to set aside at least \$60,000 and not more than \$150,000 of the state leadership funds for services that prepare individuals for nontraditional fields. The transition plan included \$60,000 for this purpose because the local recipients must also address support for nontraditional students and programs. The amount of \$60,000 annually is brought forward in the five-year plan.
- **1% of the state leadership funds for state institutions -**
The Act requires the state to set aside up to but not more than 1% of the state leadership funds (10% of the state allocation) to serve individuals in state institutions, such as state correctional institutions and institutions that serve individuals with disabilities. The transition plan included an amount up to 1% for this purpose. The five-year plan contains that same wording. For the 2007-08 fiscal year, this amount was \$137,431.

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- **Accountability and continuous improvement -**
The five-year plan includes the state's definitions and methodologies for assessing local performance on the required indicators. All local recipients must make continuous improvement on performance, even if their performance is above the state's average performance or benchmark.
- **Incentives, Sanctions and Improvement Plans -**
The five-year plan includes the option for secondary and/or postsecondary to use state leadership funds to reward local performance. In addition, the reserve funds may be considered for incentive grants. Each recipient must submit an improvement plan when performance fails to meet at least 90% of their agreed-upon goals. The transition plan, as well as this five-year plan, addresses sanctions for poor performance or failure to provide accountability data. Sanctions begin with state monitoring and direction for expenditures up to assignment of funds to a third-party provider to provide services.
- **Program and fiscal monitoring, including high risk recipients -**
The transition plan, as well as the five-year plan, contains a state commitment to monitor local programs more rigorously – using a risk analysis that includes several factors. The following elements have been identified for inclusion in the monitoring plan: tardiness of reports, size of grant, failure to meet performance targets, identification as being in academic or financial distress by other state agencies or other federal programs, etc.