

MINUTES - MEETING OF THE
STATE BOARD OF CAREER EDUCATION

9:30 a.m.

August 5, 2010

The State Board of Career Education (SBCE) was called to order by Chairman Phil Taylor. The meeting was held at the Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI), 105 Reserve Avenue, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

A record of member attendance is as follows:

PRESENT

Mr. Phil Taylor, Chairman	<u>Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members</u>
Mrs. Lucy Ralston	Mr. William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.
Mrs. Martha Dixon	Ex-Officio Secretary
Dr. Thomas Flowers	

ABSENT

Mr. Richard Smith	<u>Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members</u>
Mr. John Riggs, Vice Chairman	Dr. Tom Kimbrell
	Dr. Jim Purcell

ACTI Administrator Ms. Cissy Rucker welcomed board members to the campus.

A. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 2, 2010

On motion by Mrs. Dixon and second by Dr. Flowers, the State Board of Career Education unanimously approved the minutes of June 2, 2010.

E. INFORMATIONAL ITEM – ARKANSAS REHABILITATION SERVICES DRAFT FY 2011 STATE PLAN FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PROGRAM

Mr. Randy Parker, associate director for program planning and evaluation, informed the board members that the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Division (ARS) of the Department of Career Education (ACE) is required to submit a state plan each year to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). RSA is administratively housed under the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education. The state plan is a set of written assurances to the federal government that ARS will comply with state and federal law as required in order to be eligible to receive federal funding.

B. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST FOR 2011-2013

Mr. Charles Brown, ACE deputy director for finance, recommended that the State Board of Career Education approve the budget request for the 2011-2013 biennium.

Mr. Brown stated that ACE is requesting substantial increases in appropriation and funding for the 2011-2013 biennium in an effort to provide equitable and adequate educational opportunities to Arkansans.

On motion by Mrs. Dixon and second by Mrs. Ralston, the State Board of Career Education unanimously approved the biennial budget request for 2011-2013.

D. INFORMATIONAL ITEM – AWARDS TO LITERACY COUNCILS FOR THE 2010-2011 FISCAL YEAR

Mr. Charles Brown informed the board members that ACE received appropriation and funding from the state's public school fund for the support of literacy council operations. Literary councils apply for these funds to the Arkansas Literacy Councils (ALC). The ALC's board of directors reviews applications and determines award levels.

C. ACTION ITEM – ADOPTION OF THE 2012-2013 AGENCY BIENNIAL BUDGET AND THE 2011 OPERATIONAL BUDGET

Mr. John Wright, ARS chief financial officer, recommended that the State Board of Career Education approve the 2012-2013 biennial budget and 2011 operational budgets as presented

Mr. Wright provided the board members with the following major budget components:

Biennial Budget

The General Field Program requests a total of \$400,000 (SFY 2012) and \$600,000 (SFY 2013) for the vocational rehabilitation program purchase-of-services line item. The rehabilitation counselors will use this funding to provide direct services to individuals living with disabilities on a statewide basis.

The General Field Program also requests a total of \$100,000 (SFY 2012) and \$100,000 (SFY 2013) for the independent living program purchase-of-services line item.

The capital outlay request is for the purchase of equipment items for ACTI.

Governor's Stabilization Funding – ARS Allocation

Governor Beebe allotted a total of \$3,640,000 from stimulus stabilization funding to assist ACTI with major repairs and renovations to the facilities.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services Stimulus Supplement

ARS has used this funding to purchase major software systems for the ACTI hospital and the field program.

In addition, the agency has upgraded its data processing infrastructure according to its approved technology plan. The agency is also using this funding source in conjunction with stabilization funding for renovations at ACTI.

Mr. Wright stated that the budget components funded with state appropriation were developed in a matter consistent with the requirements of the Revenue Stabilization Act and are based on official forecasts.

Operational Budget – Highlights

Mr. Wright stated that the operational budget is based on estimates of several revenue sources including vocational rehabilitation, supported employment, independent living,

technology access programs, social security reimbursements, stimulus funding, special revenue, general revenue, and various cash funds. The following schedule summarizes these funds:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Funding</u>
Federal	\$47,700,192.00
General Revenue	12,920,501.00
Other	<u>1,300,000.00</u>
Total	\$61,920,693.00

Mr. Wright reminded board members that budgets are subject to change because of changes in actual revenues, receipts of miscellaneous grants, and authorized reallocation of funds among appropriations and line items. The approved budget will constitute authority to spend in a manner consistent with applicable state and federal laws and regulations. The director of the Department of Career Education is authorized to make appropriate corrections and adjustments in accordance with policies and procedures established by the State Board of Career Education.

On motion by Dr. Flowers and second by Mrs. Ralston, the State Board of Career Education unanimously approved the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services biennial budget request for 2012-2013 and the 2011 operational budget.

G. INFORMATIONAL ITEM – ARKANSAS REHABILITATION SERVICES – BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION

Mr. Rodney Chandler, business relations manager, informed the board members that the Business Services Section was launched in 2008 as an ARS initiative.

Mr. Chandler stated that the Business Services Section's mission is to provide technical assistance to Arkansas employers seeking to hire people living with disabilities and to promote the significant benefits associated with employing persons living with disabilities.

Mr. Chandler also stated that the Business Services Section contributes to a significant increase in successful employment outcomes for individuals living with disabilities and helps ARS better serve the business community.

I. INFORMATIONAL ITEM – ARKANSAS ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM

Mr. Michael Vickers, program manager for the Alternative Financing Program, informed board members that this program provides persons living with disabilities access to extended-term, at- or below-market-rate loans for the purchase of assistive technology.

H. INFORMATIONAL ITEM – LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT OFFICE

Mr. Tim Hicks, Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) manager, informed the board members that this program provided assistance to 346 law enforcement agencies across Arkansas in obtaining technologically advanced and affordable aircraft, vehicles, weapons, and equipment.

F. INFORMATIONAL ITEM – ARKANSAS APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Mr. Jonathan Bibb, program manager for apprenticeship and construction education,

informed the board members that apprenticeship is a relationship between an employer and an employee for a specified length of time during which time the worker, or apprentice, learns a trade. An apprenticeship covers all aspects of the trade and includes both on-the-job training and related instruction.

Mr. Bibb also stated that there are more than 800 apprenticeable occupations currently recognized by the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training (BAT). Apprenticeable occupations can be found in all types of businesses and industries, such as electronics, construction, service, metalworking, public administration, and medical and health care.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Walker expressed appreciation to Ms. Rucker and her team for hosting the board meeting.

Ms. Sonja Wright-McMurray provided board members updated information on Arkansas Works. She also introduced two new career coaches: Josh Hayes, who will work with adult education populations, and MariaElena deAvila, who will work with Hispanic populations.

Mr. Walker stated that the Workforce Cabinet partnership is going well, and the cabinet is continuing to meet.

Mr. Walker stated that training on the Arkansas College and Career Planning System was held July 19, 2010.

Mr. Walker informed the board members that the duplication-of-efforts proposal has been completed.

A groundbreaking and 50th anniversary ceremony was held at ACTI was held June 23, 2010.

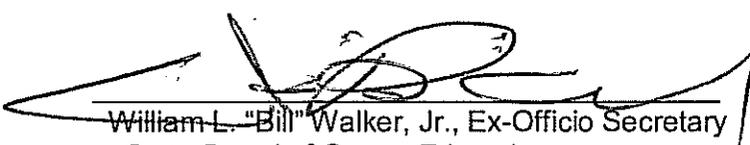
Arkansas ranked first in the nation in terms of our 5 of 5 programs in the state.

Mr. Walker announced the following dates:

- September 1 - 3, 2010 – SMT Retreat Follow-up
- Thursday, October 7, 2010 – State Board of Career Education Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Taylor adjourned the meeting at 12:06 p.m.


William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., Ex-Officio Secretary
State Board of Career Education


Phil Taylor, Chairman
State Board of Career Education