

Workforce Development Board of Western Missouri, Inc.

Full Board Minutes

July 22, 2026

The Workforce Development Board of Western Missouri, Inc. met on Wednesday, July 22, 2026 via teleconference at 1:00 p.m.

Board members present were Dr. Murders, Kamber Fusco, Laura Wallen, Robin McHugh, Thom Knott, Chris Connell, Suzie Brodersen, Kim Kendrick, Kevin Wilson and Michael Schubach. WDB staff attending were Sarah Wells, Tara Colter-Lappat, Tammy Tankersley and Missy Eidson

Board members not in attendance were Jessica Craig, Gabe Jones, April Godwin, Joyce Furnell, Lishanna Brodenhoeft, Angy Littrell and Tommy Hampton.

It was determined quorum was present.

Chairperson Chris Connell called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Kim Kendrick made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Suzie Brodersen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Connell asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 27, 2026 Full Board meeting. Mr. Michael Schubach made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Laura Wallen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Planning and Operations: Ms. Tammy Tankersley gave the committee report. The committee reached a consensus to recommend the Adult Work Experience and the Youth Work Experience policies both add the verbiage, "Exceptions may be made by the Executive Director". Ms. Kim Kendrick made a motion to add the wording as recommended. Mr. Michael Schbach seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Eligible Training Provider Selection Policy currently states providers/programs will be reviewed annually. The committee reached consensus to recommend the Full Board allow the reviews to extend past the annual review period to December 31, 2026. All providers/programs on the PY25 list as of June 30, 2026 will remain active and approved. Ms. Suzie Brodersen made a motion to approve the exception to the policy. Ms. Kamber Fusco seconded the motion. Dr. Michael Murders abstained. The motion carried. Ms. Missy Eidson will create a Memorandum to go out to staff and be posted on the website to reflect the exception.

Finance and Audit: Ms. Kim Kendrick gave an update for the Finance and Audit Committee meeting. There were no voting items to bring before the board. Adam Tilley reviewed the current investment of non-federal funds the WDB has with Edward Jones. The funds are performing well and the investment will continue as is. Quarterly reports will be shared with the committee.

Business Services Questionnaire Results: A survey was sent to all business sector board members. 100% of respondents identified applicant quality as fair. Barriers such as transportation, childcare and legal issues were noted as issues identified by applicants. The region is going to implement soft skills training with participants through LevelAll that is available through Eckerd.

Contract Enrollments: Mr. Troy Roland reported on enrollments for PY26.

Nevada Job Center / One Stop Operator Updates: Ms. Kristen Dunnaway gave an update on One-Stop activities in Nevada and the surrounding area.

Sedalia Job Center / One Stop Operator Updates: Mr. Troy Roland gave an update on One-Stop activities in Sedalia and the surrounding area.

Director's Report:

Job Center Survey Results: Ms. Tara Colter-Lappat reported on survey results that had been received since the last Full Board meeting.

Business Services Updates: Ms. Colter-Lappat discussed PY25 goals that the region had set for business services and where they finished the year. All goals were met or exceeded except hiring events. New goals have been set for PY26.

PY25 OWD Monitoring of LWDB: Ms. Tara Colter-Lappat discussed the PY25 Program monitoring results from OWD. There were zero findings and two areas of concerns (with no responses required) related to performance. The team is working to capture anything that may have been missed in order to increase the numbers in those areas. Final performance numbers will not be known until the state applies the statistical adjustments.

TEAM Legislative Efforts: Ms. Missy Eidson stated the Job Center Open Houses previously scheduled for September were going to be postponed. An event is being planned at the Governor's Conference in Kansas City to potentially allow for meeting with legislators. Also, Ozark Region is sending their Director and Board Chair to Washington D.C. September 28-30 to participate in the Workforce Impact Summit being hosted by the National Association for Workforce Boards.

RESTART Grant Update: The Office of Workforce Development and Higher Education applied for the RESTART Grant and the West Central Region chose to participate. The grant was scheduled to start July 1, 2026 however, the Department of Labor has yet to announce who will receive the awards.

Patterson Family Foundation Grant: The West Central Region submitted an application on June 23rd. The project is entitled "Elevating Rural Missouri's Workforce"; \$500,000 was requested for a 3-year grant period. Selected recipients will be released in September or October.

Miscellaneous: There were no miscellaneous items to discuss.

Mr. Chris Connell asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Thom Knott made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Kim Kendrick seconded the motion. The motion carried.