

**ALABAMA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
MINUTES FOR CALL – IN MEETING  
March 17, 2021 Alabama Center for Commerce, Room 380  
Montgomery, Alabama**

**Members Present (31):** Mary Allbritten, Ronald Boles, Myrian Aerts, Ed Castile, Chairman George Clark, Frank Coiro, AJ Cooper, Steve Hildebrant, Sandra Koblas, Josh Laney, Mercia Ludgood, Keith Phillips, Kasey Myers, Jason Phelps, Sydney Raine, Mike Petrus, Laura Kappler-Roberts, Peggy Sease-Fain, Julie Kornegay, Margaret Morton, Dr. Phillip Cleveland, Joseph Brown, Jim Searcy, Russell DuBose, Matthew Dudley, Donny Jones, Dr. James Purcell, Mike Reynolds, Tony Wojciechowski, Lawrence Lavender, Chrystal Morgan.

**Members Represented (2):** Nick Moore for Gov. Kay Ivey, Faye Nelson and Brandon Hardin for Nancy Buckner.

**Members Absent (17):** Rep. Alan Baker, Cleve Poole, Jane Elizabeth Burdeshaw, Mike Fields, Perry Hand, Tony Haygood, Bobby Humphrey, Ashley Ramsay-Naile, Rep. Terri Collins, Bren Riley, Paulette Risher, Sen. Clay Scofield, Ken Tucker, Bruce Willingham, Lynne Stokley, Fitzgerald Washington, Jimmy Baker,

Chairman George Clark called the meeting to order at 2:18 p.m.

A quorum was established.

Chairman Clark then asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the Dec. 1, 2020 Board meeting.

**MOTION: AJ Cooper made a motion to approve the Minutes from the Dec. 1, 2020 State Workforce Development Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Steve Hildebrant. MOTION APPROVED.**

Chairman Clark said the recent orientation for new Board members, held virtually, was well attended.

Each new Board member then introduced themselves to the full Board.

Chairman Clark said that there will be more female members of the Board added to the Board's Executive Committee.

Ms. Jessica Dent, of Commerce's Workforce Development Division, then provided the Board with an update on the progress being made on the Alabama Workforce Stabilization Program Grant.

Alabama was awarded \$17.8 million to provide short-term education and training to approximately 7,000 Alabamians, and to help businesses avoid layoffs, develop talent pipelines, and upgrade skills among existing employees.

Ms. Dent added that priority will be given to Alabama-based small businesses with 500 or less employees located in rural areas within the predetermined Alabama Opportunity Zones.

She said that contracts for work on the grant have been issued to the State's seven WIOA Regions, and each Region has a 3-member panel in place to guide the process.

Training for three of the panels has already been held, with the other four scheduled to receive training within the next month. She said the program will be at full speed by May 1.

Participants will receive assistance with transportation, childcare, and other supportive services through the Alabama Human Capital Development Fund.

Ms. Dent pointed out that the Alabama Community College System and the Alabama Technology Network will be the primary providers of education and job training services offered through the grant.

Ms. Lorilei Sanders, of Commerce's Workforce Development Division (WDD), then provided the Board with estimated WIOA Program Year (PY) 2021 allocations for each Region. PY 2021 begins July 1, 2021.

Ms. Sanders said the state's total PY21 allocations, about \$40 million, would be approximately \$4 million less than in PY20, due to a number of factors that USDOL uses to determine allocations.

WDD Director, Ms. Tammy Wilkinson, added that there are 26 factors that USDOL uses to arrive at funding allocation levels.

Ms. Wilkinson then updated the Board on WIOA policy changes which she said were aimed at serving more people and getting WIOA participants into jobs quicker.

She said the policy changes were put into place to make sure the Alabama WIOA program was getting the most it could for the money. These policy changes will be effective until July 1, 2021.

The Board was provided the materials for the day's presentations prior to the meeting.

Chairman Clark concluded the meeting by saying that the power of the Board to make changes is through adopting policy. He added that some of the changes Ms. Wilkinson mentioned resulted from Board input.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Clark at 3:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

 / 5.3.2021  
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Tammy Wilkinson, Director / Date  
Workforce Development Division

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Mr. George Clark, Chairman / Date  
Alabama Workforce Development Board