Minutes
Kansas City & Vicinity Workforce Development Board Meeting
April 9, 2025
10:00 - 11:30 am via ZOOM

Members Present	**FEC Staff**	**Guests**
Robert Hughes, Jr.	Tirhas Kidane	Chester Moyer
Clyde McQueen	Shelley Penn	Carolyn Graham
Bobby Barlow	Andrea Robins	Robin McHugh
Dr. Kimberly Beatty	April Law	
Leslie Elwell	Rohina Behrmann	
Clifton Campbell	Stefan Townsend	
Riki Donner		
Jill Lawlor		
Will McCarther		
JaCinda Rainey		
Jeron Ravin		
George Satterlee		
Yolanda Waldon		

Call to Order
Chairman Robert Hughes opened the meeting by thanking everyone for the flexibility in changing the meeting from in-person to virtual due to the weather conditions.

Financial Audit Presentation
Chester Moyer, RubinBrown, LLC, presented the Financial Audit Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, to the board. The report included a review of the Full Employment Council's compliance with federal regulations and contract. The audit was conducted in accordance with regular auditing and government auditing standards, resulting in a clean opinion, and no misstatements were identified in this year's audit. The team also noted a change in the presentation of leases due to a new accounting standard. Mr. Moyer explained that there was a new standard around credit losses and the application of whether account and grant receivables would not be collected. FEC does not have any allowances for credit losses, the collection is high on the receivables. In 2023, there was a new standard for leases which had an impact on FEC this past year.

It was properly moved and seconded to approve the Financial Audit and passed unanimously.

Audit Results and Future Standards
Chester Moyer, an audit partner with RubinBrown, presented the financial statement audit for the Full Employment Council (FEC) for the year ended June 30, 2024. The audit was completed in March 2025, meeting the Federal Government's deadline. The audit results showed an unmodified or clean opinion, the highest level of opinion given. A new standard regarding credit losses has been introduced. The audit revealed no uncorrected misstatements. Over the past year, the Full Employment Council (FEC) had to consider a new lease standard, which will affect

future financial statements. The representation letter included all the information that management provided to the auditors at the conclusion of the audit. Additionally, upcoming changes to the uniform guidance may impact the FEC during the 2026 year-end audit.

It was properly moved and seconded to approve the Financial Audit Report as presented.

Financial Report and Monitoring
Tirhas Kidane presented the financial report for the first seven months of the fiscal year. She highlighted that formula funds for adult programs are averaging 33% expenditure, while youth programs have spent 99% of PY23 funds and 65% of PY24 funds. The overall expenditure rate is 52%. Ms. Kidane also mentioned that the State annual financial monitoring has started, with a CPA firm reviewing documents and planning an on-site visit next week.

A motion was made and seconded, and the Board unanimously approved the Financial Report as written.

Performance Summary
Shelley Penn presented the FEC's performance from July 2024 to March 2025. The FEC served 12,329 individuals, with 3,000 obtaining employment and 3,905 obtaining employment one year after entering the system. The average wage of placements was $23.14. The FEC also provided services to employers, including resumes, referrals to jobs, hiring events, and job matches. The highest number of training was in healthcare, followed by transportation, and the highest rate of placement was $42 an hour for a CDL license and hazmat training. FEC hosted events for laid-off workers, including one with the United Workers and another with the National Treasury Employees Union. FEC also worked on a hub system to reduce overhead costs and is partnering with organizations like the UAW and the Treasurer's Union. The Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development has handed off the business services unit to the Workforce Board. The council is also working on a MoSTAR apprenticeship program and a digital equity program.

Jill Lawler mentioned that the City of Kansas City has openings in the public works and parks departments. Rohina Behrmann mentioned that the FEC has an ordinance for internships and work experiences with the City.

Ms. Lawler proposed the approval of the Performance Summary, which Mr. Ravin seconded. The report was approved by unanimous consent.

President's Report
Mr. McQueen discussed the current economic situation in the region, focusing on employment trends and workforce development. He presented data showing an increase in labor force and employment numbers compared to the previous year, but also noted a rise in unemployment. He highlighted the impact of federal government activities on the local economy and discussed specific trends in different counties. He also presents statistics on the increased number of people seeking employment services through our system.

Mr. McQueen announced that the Missouri Department of Higher Education Workforce Development has transferred business services to the Workforce Board. This change aims to enhance market penetration and accelerate employment services. Additionally, the department is providing $80,000 for staffing. He also mentioned that we have received the MoSTAR Apprenticeship grant amounting to $150,000, which will focus on activities in healthcare, mental health, childcare, and advanced management-level childcare. Furthermore, we have secured funding for the KCV WIOA Training and Technology initiative, which will support credential-based training in our area, increasing the availability of "just-in-time" training that is not semester-based and is aligned with the job demands in our region.

Mr. McQueen also highlighted three funds that are pending. One fund is with Mid-America Regional Council which would be used to make our building at 1740 Paseo more energy efficient to reduce our operating costs.

Mr. McQueen explained that we have made several presentations lately to explain where our economy is compared to last year. It was asked how Kansas City compares to the national average for unemployment. Mr. McQueen explained that the national figures, which are about eight weeks behind what we can provide for this area, is about 4%, which is in line for this area at this time. The national average is actually about 2% behind our current percentage.

Mr. McQueen went on to explain the request for approval for the for the approval of the out-of-school youth contract to be presented to the Kansas City Public School System for their successful program called Middle College. He also explained that they have an 83% graduation rate for their drop-out program.

It was properly moved and seconded to approve the Kansas City Public School System for the out of school youth contract.

Nomination for Board Chair

Mr. Hughes explained that a nomination committee met to nominiate his successor as chair of the board. He announced that Jeron Ravin was nominated to succeed him as chairperson. The board unanimously approved Dr. Ravin’s nomination. Clyde announced that Bob Hughes, the previous chair, is moving on to a new phase, and a committee will search for a new chair. The board expressed appreciation for Mr. Hughes's leadership and support.