

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lana Gordon at 3:30 P.M. on January 19, 2006 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Terrie Huntington- excused  
Carl Krehbiel- excused  
Annie Kuether - excused

Committee staff present:

Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Renaë Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes  
Helen Pedigo, Revisor of Statutes  
Carlene Maag, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Secretary Howard R. Fricke, Department of Commerce  
Sysan symons, Career and Technical Coordinator, Pottawatomie Consortium

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairperson Gordon welcomed the members from the Senate Commerce and House Commerce and Labor Committees.

Howard Fricke, Secretary of Commerce gave a presentation pertaining to the Kansas 1<sup>st</sup> initiative and the development of a skilled workforce for Kansas.

Kansas 1<sup>st</sup> was created after Executive Reorganization order (ERO) 31. The underlying purpose of the ERO was to create a workforce development system in Kansas that produces qualified employees for Kansas employers and enables Kansas to attract and retain businesses.

Early results from the reorganization are promising. In the former structure, Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs struggled to meet performance measures. At the state level in program year 2004, fifteen of the seventeen performance measure levels exceeded the average performance levels for the past five years.

By moving to the delivery of direct training services, Commerce and the Board of Regents are able to serve more companies more effectively and efficiently.

To ensure our training system remains responsive to business needs and positions our institutions to fulfill this enhance training role, the 2004 Kansas Economic Growth Act created the Workforce Solutions Fund, a trust fund to direct state resources in order to create centers of excellence and require capacities at community and technical colleges.

The Joint Committee on Economic Development defines workforce development as a partnership between the State and business to develop employment opportunities with meaningful and sustainable income to Kansans and providing programs that assist business through specialized training.

The Department of Commerce feels workforce development is difficult to define because almost all educational experiences provide some job-related benefit. Commerce does not feel the definition developed by the Committee sufficiently addresses the breadth of workforce development, both in its content and potential stakeholders.

Workforce development as defined by the current business economy provides five interrelated categories of activity.

- Pipeline
- Renewal

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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- Incumbent
- Retraining
- Entrepreneurial

The Department of Commerce would like to use this framework to organize the State's workforce development activities.

The foundation and goals for Kansas 1<sup>st</sup> have been established, based on both the challenges and opportunities presented to Commerce. Kansas 1<sup>st</sup> is operational today. (Attachment 1)

In the Discussion that followed the presentation, Senator Jordon complimented Secretary Fricke on the work that Kansas 1<sup>st</sup> has done, but thought there was still a long ways to go.

Susan Symons, Career and Technical Education (TE) Coordinator, Pottawatomie Consortium, presented testimony pertaining to two rural high schools in Pottawatomie County. A total of 158 seniors graduated from the two high schools in May 2005 and approximately 81 percent of the graduates enrolled in post secondary education and training.

After extensive research to determine how to integrate higher-level mathematics, science, literacy, and problem-solving skills necessary in life, the workplace and further education, the Rock Creek Board of Education approved graduation requirements of a Senior Exit Project and portfolio Project.

In the Portfolio Project, all students develop a portfolio during their four years of high school that is a personal snapshot of their career and personal interests, academic and teamwork skills, time management, and community service involvement.

In the Senior Exit Project, all students are required to do a research project to manufacture a "product" to demonstrate mastery of the topic. (Attachment 2) Ms. Symons provided the Committee members with a brochure "WorkKeys," which can be found at [www.matc.net/buscenter.htm](http://www.matc.net/buscenter.htm)

Sheila Frahm Executive Director, Kansas Association of Community Colleges Trustees was to be the next speaker. However, due to lack of time, she offered to come back to a committee meeting at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24.