Eastern Area Workforce Development Board

CEO Meeting Minutes
Via ZOOM Video Conference
November 16, 2026
To Be Approved……December 14, 2026

Meeting called to Order at 9:31am by Lead CEO Clay Kiesling.

ROLL CALL
Roll call was taken. Below is the record of attendance based on that:

CEO's present: C. Kiesling, F. Madrid, D. Dowell, V. Marquardt, R. Taylor, T. Dixon

CEO's absent: *M. Chavez, M. Gallagher, Harding County, Guadalupe County, DeBaca County, Lea County*

AE/FA Staff present: B. Elias, T. Roth, T. Suarez, M. Sosa, C. Carrasco, V. Davis

Board Members present: S. Pawlyshyn, J. Baker

Guests present: C. Hollon

It was noted that a quorum was present.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS
B. Elias noted that the only individuals in person were board staff and two CEOs. T Roth, C. Carrasco, and C. Hollon attended remotely.

WIOA LOCAL PLAN MODIFICATION
B. Elias provided an overview of the WIOA Local Plan Modification, explaining that the draft had been posted for the required 30-day public comment period. She noted that this modification represents the required two-year update to the Local Plan. During the comment period the State provided feedback primarily involving grammar, punctuation, and language revisions. A summary of the State's recommendations was prepared in a white paper.

V. Davis reviewed the recommended changes, explaining that the State requested revisions to language regarding partnerships and previous partnerships, specifically referencing New Mexico Youth Challenge, which did not sign the Board's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the current year. Additional recommendations addressed service coordination and referral processes with regional partners.

V. Davis also explained that the State requested clarification regarding the Board's standing committees. She noted that the Board does not currently have a standing committee specifically

dedicated to individuals with disabilities. When needed, an Ad Hoc Committee is established to address those matters. Between those times, the One-Stop Service Delivery Committee provides oversight of related activities.

Other recommended changes included adding references to apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs in applicable sections to distinguish between the two. Cultural competency training completed by all staff was also incorporated into the plan. The remaining revisions primarily addressed grammar, punctuation, and outdated language.

B. Elias added that the State had changed the name of its management information system from the New Mexico Workforce Connection online system to NM Jobs. Several references to the previous system name were updated throughout the plan.

C. Kiesling asked whether there were any questions for B. Elias or V. Davis. V. Marquardt asked whether information was available regarding individuals leaving the region for better employment opportunities. B. Elias explained that this information was not included in the Local Plan, as the plan primarily outlines goals and strategies. However, she indicated that she had additional information available outside of the plan and would share it. V. Marquardt expressed interest in reviewing the information and discussing how it might be used to support workforce retention. No further questions were raised.

On a motion by T. Dixon and seconded by V. Marquardt, a roll call vote was conducted on the approval of the WIOA Local Plan Modifications as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

UPDATES
C. Kiesling and V. Marquardt provided an update on their review of the CEO Partnership Agreement, noting that the only changes they anticipated would be necessary were updates to the dates. The agreement will be shared with the Chief Elected Officials for review and recommendation at the next CEO Meeting.

B. Elias shared that C. Kiesling would be terming out of his position and that a new Lead CEO would need to be selected at the next CEO Meeting.

Next Meeting
December 14, 2026 at 3:30pm.

Motion to Adjourn
Meeting adjourned at 9:44am

DRAFT