

Quarterly Meeting Minutes
South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc.
Stonegate Arts & Education Center, Bedford, IN
September 27, 2023 – Noon to 1:30pm

Board Members Present: Scott Baker, Adam Gross, Kevin Bush, Linda Henderson, Blayze Damron, Dustin Gabhart, Jeff Pipkin, Jim Parsch, Scott Wilcoxon, Jennifer Pearl, Scott Adams, Derek Cronin, Terry Pittman, Teresa Hudson

Board Members Present via Zoom: Brian Shockney, Lisa Hein

Others Present: Rob King, Shannon Laurent, Carla Crowe, Randy Wells, David Tucker, Susan Neal, Don Kent, Erin Brewer, Robin Branch, Brian Rawlins, Sandy Friedman, De La Rosa, Joe Timbrook, Joanna Peaks, Katie Rounds, Jill Van Oostenburg, Dan Peterson, Amy Willis

Board Members Absent: Brenda Reetz, Michael Stieglitz, Michelle Ellis, Pam Metz

Call to Order

Vice-Board Chair, Scott Baker, called the meeting to order at Noon and a quorum of the Board was confirmed as present. Board members introduced themselves with each member invited to share relevant news or information about their organizations. Guests in attendance also introduced themselves as well. Rob King acknowledged new Board members Derek Cronin, General Motors/UAW Local 440, as a Workforce Representative for Labor Employees and Registered Apprenticeships. Rob also acknowledged Blayze Damron, Regional Service Manager for Region 8 as a Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Representative.

Approval of Minutes

Scott Baker moved to accept the minutes of the 06/28/2023 meeting of the South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc. Dustin Gabhart seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

Guest Presentations

Jill Van Oostenburg, Talent Director at Nextech,, provided the Board with information about the Nextech Catapult Summer 2023 Paid Internship Program held in Bloomington, Evansville and Indianapolis. The Nextech Catapult Internship is a fully-immersive computer science program for High School students who aspire a career in Technology. Students Attended a 5-week course held at Indiana University Bloomington Campus and included a combination of classroom instruction, employer visits, team lead project based learning and a final peer and community reviewed project. Students visited such places as the Dimension Mill in Bloomington and Crane NWS located within Region 8. Jill stated that recruitment for the Summer 2024 Paid Internship Program will begin in January and she will visit the Board to provide a follow-up recruitment presentation as well.

Katie Rounds, DWD Operations Chief, discussed the current structure in place at DWD. Katie also discussed the strategic partnership and collaborative efforts with the twelve (12) Regional Workforce Boards throughout the State. Katie shared DWD's overall strategic goals for PY23 to include work that is in progress towards the upcoming 2024-2028 State Strategic Plan that is due in March of 2024. Katie outlined the key State Goals that included: 1) - Understand employer talent needs and align agency initiatives, partners and programs to help individuals develop those knowledge, skills, and abilities. 2) - Ensure data driven tools with a focus on economic impact and a culture of performance are imbedded in agency initiatives. 3) - Position Indiana as a national leader in workforce development. 4) - Maximize impact of JAG and Adult Education programs thru program expansion. Katie mentioned that Regional Workforce Plans will be due following the approval of the State Plan and stated that Regional Workforce Plans will need to align with the overall State Plan and DWD will work closely with the Regions to ensure a strong collaborative effort on all fronts.

Financial Reports

Carla Crowe with Crowe LLP, the Board's Fiscal Agent, distributed and presented the financial report for the period ending August 31, 2023. Carla noted that 11% of the Total Annual Budget was expended through August 31, 2023. Carla reviewed adjustments to the Budget and Expenditures. Funds added/adjusted to the budget included the following:

- VU Service Provider (\$25,000)

Carla discussed contracts to be awarded to Vincennes University and provided a summary of each contract item as follows:

- 1) **Business Services** funding in the amount of \$120,000 to support regional Employer engagement and Rapid Response activities in South Central Indiana to be awarded to VU.
- 2) **RESEA** funding in the amount up to \$137, 548 for Re-employment Services and Eligibility Assessment within the region, to be awarded to VU.
- 3) **SJAG funds** for up to \$498,625 to support regional JAG Programs in South Central Indiana to be awarded to VU.
- 4) **Rapid Response** funds in the amount of \$25,000 in support of Regional Dislocations.
- 5) **Employer Training Grant (ETG)** funds in the amount of \$10,000 to support administrative functions.

Comer & Nowling, Tax and Audit Services – Region 8

Carla Crowe informed the Board that the Tax and Audit Services Contract, currently contracted to Comer & Nowling, has completed two years of the contract and the Board needs to approve a third year extension based on performance. Rob stated that there

have been no issues with Comer & Nowling and they have always performed an outstanding job for Region 8. Rob opened the floor for discussion. No issues were noted and no further discussion was held.

Terry Pittman moved to approve the financial report and budget, SJAG Contract award for \$498,625, Business Services Contract award for \$120,000, RRESEA Contract award for up to \$160,000, JAG Contract award for up to Rapid Response Contract award for \$25,000, NLJ-ETG Contract award for \$10,000, RESEA Contract award for \$137,548 to Vincennes University, and approve Comer & Nowling, Tax and Audit Services Vendor, for a one-year contract extension renewal. Jeff Pipkin seconded the motion. Blayze Damron abstained from the vote, all other Board members voted in favor and the motion was approved.

Election of Officers

Rob King discussed election of Board officers for PY'23 and advised that PY'22 Board Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary Officers have agreed to maintain their current roles if no other Board members expressed interest in serving in this capacity. As there were no additional nominations for Board officers, Rob recognized the current PY'23 officers as follows: 1) Brenda Reetz to remain as Board Chair, 2) Scott Baker to remain as Vice-Chair, and 3) Adam Gross to remain as Secretary.

Jeff Pipkin moved to approve all Board Officers for PY'23. Dustin Gabhart seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the 2023-2024 Board Officers were approved.

JAG Expansion – Region 8

Susan Neal, One-Stop Operator for Region 8, provided the Board with information about the recent JAG Program expansion as announced by the Governor for plans to expand the JAG Program to 250 schools by 2025, nearly doubling the current number of programs. Susan explained the region 8 process for selecting schools to expand to and provided Board members with a detailed spreadsheet containing the data utilized to select potential order of expansion. Susan walked Board members through the Spreadsheet and identified the top five to six schools for expansion to include: Orleans Community Schools, Linton-Stockton School Corporation and Owen Valley Community Schools (9th and 10th Grade Pilot School) for PY23. Potential PY24 schools include: Washington Community Schools, North Lawrence Community Schools and Richard Bean-Blossom School Corporation.

Scott Adams motioned to approve JAG Expansion in Region 8 for the top three (3) programs for the 2023-2024 school year with a January 2024 start date. Adam Gross seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the JAG Expansion and the motion was approved.

Region 8 Facebook Page & Website

Susan Neal informed the Board that Region 8 has a new Facebook general page that can be accessed at: [facebook.com/WorkOneSouthCentral](https://www.facebook.com/WorkOneSouthCentral). Additionally, the Regional Workforce Board website can still be located at: <http://www.southcentral8.org/>.

Rapid Response Update

Susan Neal provide an update on Rapid Response activities and advised Board that Region 8 is working on a Product Brochure for Employers in the event of a dislocation. This new brochure will assist employers with navigating the many services provided within the South Central Indiana service area for businesses and employees.

WorkOne Report

The WorkOne report was distributed to the Board for review. Donald Kent, Executive Director of VUWDS in Region 8, highlighted the report and provided updates on regional WorkOne office operations, RESEA, National Dislocated Worker Employment Recovery Grant (DW-ERG), UI Data, Performance Highlights, TAA, JAG Program, Rapid Response and Business Services activities, and Next Level Jobs Data. A copy of the complete WorkOne Region 8 Report is available on the South Central Region 8 Workforce Board's website at www.southcentral8.org.

Workforce Board Meeting Dates (2023-2024)

Rob King provided Board members with upcoming Workforce Board meeting dates as follows:

- January 24, 2024 (Zoom Meeting)
- April 24, 2024 (In-Person)
- June 26, 2024 (TBD)

Other Business – Public Comments

Rob King acknowledged last board meeting date for Brian Shockney (IU Health), Monroe County Business Representative and thanked Mr. Shockney for his dedicated service to the Region 8 Workforce Board.

With no further business, Dustin Gabhart made a motion to adjourn, Scott Baker seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30pm

Prepared By: Rob King