

Quarterly Meeting Minutes
South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc.
Stonegate Arts & Education Center, Bedford, IN
April 24, 2024 – Noon to 1:30pm

Board Members Present: Scott Baker, Linda Henderson, Blayze Damron, Michael Stieglitz, Jennifer Pearl, Dan Peterson, Michelle Ellis, Pam Metz, Scott Adams, Adam Gross, Jeff Pipkin, Scott Wilcoxon, Jim Parsch, Lisa Hein

Board Members Present via Zoom or Call-In: Dustin Gabhart, Derek Cronin, Teresa Hudson

Others Present: Rob King, Susan Neal, Erin Brewer, Sandy Friedman, David Tucker, Robin Branch, Randy Wells, Carla Crowe, Carol Johnson, Michi McClain, Brian Rawlins, Marilyn Pitzulo, Apryl Kidd, Sam Perkins, Jen Robinson, Jill Campbell

Board Members Absent: Brenda Reetz, Kevin Bush, Terry Pittman,

Call to Order

Scott Baker called the meeting to order at 12:10pm and a quorum of the Board was confirmed as present. Each person present introduced themselves with Board Members invited to share relevant news or information about their organizations.

Approval of Minutes

Jeff Pipkin moved to accept the minutes of the 01/24/2024 meeting of the South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc. Scott Adams seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

Financial Reports & Workforce Board Audit Results

Carla Crowe with Crowe LLP, the Board's Fiscal Agent, distributed and presented the financial report for the period ending March 31, 2024. Carla noted that 47% of the Total Annual Budget was expended through March 31, 2024. Carla reviewed adjustments to the Budget and Expenditures. Funds added/adjusted to the budget included the following:

- JAG Expansion (\$3,400)
- JAG-TANF Funds (\$386,666)
- WRG Funds (\$350,300)
- NLJ-ETG (\$750,000)
- LISC (\$55,000)

Susan Neal provided an update on the WRG, ETG and QUEST Grants. Carla Crowe stated that the following funds would be contracted to Service Provider, Vincennes University:

- WRG Contract (\$10,00)
- SJAG Contract (\$3,400)
- JAG-TANF Contract (\$330,000)
- RESEA Contract (up to \$34,000)
- QUEST Contract (up to \$500,000)

Carla Crowe provided the Board with the most recent Region 8 Workforce Board Audit results. There were no financial statement or federal award issues or findings for the Program Periods ending June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

Adam Gross moved to approve the financial report and budget, WRG Contract for \$10,000, SJAG Contract for \$3,400, JAG-TANF Contract for \$330,000, RESEA Contract up to \$34,000, Quest Contract up to \$500,000 to Vincennes Vincennes University, and the Workforce Board Audit Results for the periods ending June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023. Dan Peterson seconded the motion. Blayze Damron abstained from the financial/budget items only vote, all other Board members voted in favor and the motion was approved.

Guest Presentations

Apryl Kidd, Director of the Collaboration of Shoals, Mitchell and Orleans High School (COSMOS) Program, discussed the new construction/machining learning area at Mitchell High School. The learning area is set to open in Fall of 2024. Apryl informed members that MHS is looking for local Employers to work with students and provide support for the project as it will create a direct link to Employers in hopes of filling much needed job positions and a career pathway start for those interested in the construction and machining fields.

Jennifer Robinson, DWD Field Support Manager-South, provided Board members with a Region 8 Expansion Status update to include future efforts moving forward.

WIOA One-Stop Job Center Certifications Update (Region 8)

Rob King provided an update for the Job Center certifications. Title I of WIOA requires each Region to officially certify its regional Comprehensive and Affiliate WorkOne Centers every three (3) years. The Workforce Board is responsible for conducting these certifications. However, with Vincennes University WDS-Region 8 performing the Staff to the Board, One-Stop Operator and Service Provider functions, DWD was required to perform the certifications and finished up the process on March 31, 2024. The certification of One-Stop Centers is essential in setting a minimum level of quality and consistency of services in the Workforce System across the region and State. On April 17, 2024, Region 8 was informed that all eight WorkOne Offices were certified by the Governor's Workforce Cabinet (GWC). This certification will remain in effect for three years with the next certification due by March 31, 2027.

BEDC Resource Guide and Region 8 Business Services Employer Guide

Rob King shared two new employment related resources that are now available. Your Next Chapter: A Guide to Employment and Navigating Transition Resource was created by the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation (BEDC) working with several partners and includes the following topics: Emergency Needs/Community Resources, Introducing WorkOne, Opportunities available, Skills & Training, and Preparing for the Job Market. Thanks to Board member Jennifer Pearl, Economic Development Representative, for sharing this valuable resource. Robin Branch, Business Services Manager, shared the South Central Region 8 WorkOne Employer Service Guide (ESG) with Board members as well. The ESG was designed to assist employers with navigating our Workforce System and to understanding the many services we provide to our local employers.

Regional Four-Year Plan Update (2024-2028)

Rob King informed the Board that the Local Workforce Four Year Plan (2024-2028) is due to the Department of Workforce Development on or before September 30, 2024. WIOA requires Workforce Boards to develop and submit a comprehensive regional workforce plan every four years. The Workforce Plan must address current and future strategies that will advance the overall workforce system goals and support a customer-centered system. The plan must also align with the Unified State Plan. The initial draft of this plan will be published for public comments for at least 30-days prior to submission to DWD. DWD should be releasing instructions for local areas to begin work on the Regional Plan sometime in May 2024.

DWD PY'23 Monitoring Results

Susan Neal provided the Board with the Department of Workforce Development's (DWD) annual monitoring results for PY'23. Susan stated that Region 8 received a comprehensive monitoring by DWD in December of 2023. DWD evaluated the following as part of the monitoring: Programs, Policies, Procedures, Client Files, Case Notes, Financial Data, Equal Opportunity/ADA, Board Administration, Compliance, Contracts and Performance Outcomes. Region 8 had no Compliance Findings for PY'23. Susan stated this is a great reflection on the work staff do day-in and day-out in Region 8. Susan stated noteworthy areas identified as follows: 1) Adult Education continued strong partnership collaboration and the Academic Partners Team in Lawrence County serving the southern part of Region 8.

WorkOne Board Report (Don Kent)

The WorkOne Board report for April 24, 2024 was distributed to the Board for review and Don Kent 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.

Board Member Linda Henderson, Region 8 Workforce Representative, provided an update on upcoming happenings in and around the Lawrence County area to include Manufacturing Day Event coming up in October of 2024. Michelle Ellis, Adult Education Representative, stated that Wagler Education & Training Center will hold its Adult Education Graduation on Friday, June 14th. Pam Metz, Orange County Business Representative, informed Board members about the recently released 2024 CEO Survey announcing the Best and Worst States for doing business. Indiana was ranked number 6 in the survey and recognized for its innovative ideas and business strategies. Pam will forward the survey to Rob King for dissemination to the Board members.

Other Business – Public Comments

With no further business, Scott Adams made a motion to adjourn, Michelle Ellis 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