

**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**  
**South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc.**  
**Stonegate Arts & Education Center, Bedford, IN**  
**April 27, 2022 – Noon to 1:30pm**

**Board Members Present:** Brenda Reetz, Scott Baker, Kevin Bush, Linda Henderson, Elizabeth Green, Dustin Gabhart, Terry Pittman, Michael Stieglitz, Teresa Hudson, Brian Shockney, Michelle Ellis, Scott Adams, Adam Gross, Jim Parsch

**Others Present:** Rob King, Shannon Laurent, Randy Wells, Susan Neal, Erin Brewer, Carla Crowe, Robin Branch, Earl Isom, Alex Crowley, Don Kent, Marilyn Pitzulo, Judy Hasselkus

**Board Members Absent:** Trent Todd, Jennifer Pearl, Jeff Pipkin, Andrea Winters, Marvin Wagler

**Call to Order**

Brenda Reetz called the meeting to order at Noon 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**

***Brian Shockey moved to accept the minutes of the 01/26/2022 meeting of the South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc. Scott Baker 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, 2022. Carla noted that 47% of the Total Annual Budget was expended through March 31, 2022. Carla reviewed adjustments to the Budget and Expenditures. Funds added/adjusted to the budget included the following:

- JAG Expansion (\$950)
- DR Grant (\$520,000)
- WRG (\$34,000)
- NLJ Employer Training Grant (\$550,000)

Carla Crowe stated that the following funds would be contracted to Service Provider, Vincennes University:

- WRG Funds (\$3,400)
- NLJ (ETG) (\$66,000)

Carla Crowe also noted that Region 8 would be transferring \$180,000 from the PY'21 Dislocated Worker Funds to the PY'21 Adult Funds to be spent on Adult program costs appropriately.

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, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

***Michelle Ellis moved to approve the financial report and budget, WRG Contract Amount for \$3,400, NLJ (ETG) Contract for \$66,000 to Vincennes University, transfer of \$180,000 from PY'21 Dislocated Worker Funds to PY'21 Adult Funds, and the Workforce Board Audit Results for the periods ending June 30, 2020 and June 30, 2021. Scott Adams seconded the motion. Elizabeth Green abstained from the financial/budget items only vote, all other Board members voted in favor and the motion was approved.***

### **Disaster Recovery Grant**

Rob King discussed the \$520,000 funds added to the financial report for this quarter. Last November, DWD had funds available in the amount of \$520,000 and needed to contract it out with a Region. Region 8 was asked to accept this contract. The DRG was scheduled to end on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, which meant that there was not enough time to spend these funds down in an appropriate manner. Region 8 agreed to accept the contract with the understanding we would try to expend some of the funds if we could, but no promises were made given the short turn-around time on the expiration date. DWD needed to contract these funds out either way, so Region 8 agreed to accept the contract to help them out. The contract did not get processed until January of 2022, so no time was allotted to spend any of these funds down. Although these funds will be returned to DWD, it did allow them to meet their contractual need. Beth Green, DWD Representative, thanked Region 8 and the Workforce Board for assisting DWD with contracting these funds.

### **Regional Workforce Plan (Two-Year Update)**

Rob King advised the Board that the workforce plan two-year review and update is coming up and expected to be due to the state on or around September 30, 2022. As a reminder, WIOA requires Workforce Boards to develop and submit a comprehensive four year local plan to the state for approval, which the last plan was approved in April of 2021 for the period 2020 - 2024. This plan must address current and future strategies to advance workforce system strategies and support a customer-centered system. This plan must align with the state plan and includes labor market information, in-demand occupation listings and memorandums of understanding with partner agencies. We will work closely with the Board Chair and Chief Elected Official while reviewing and updating this plan. The workforce plan must be published for public comment for at least 30 days prior to submission to state. Specific submission dates should be ready by the June Board meeting.

### **Workforce Board Meeting Dates (2021-2022)**

Rob King discussed future Region 8 Workforce Board meeting dates and the forum Board members wish to utilize moving forward. It was decided that Region 8 will meet in-person twice per year at the Annual meeting in September and the Spring meeting in April. The Board shall

meet via Zoom for the winter meeting in January and the Summer meeting in June. The upcoming Region 8 Workforce Board meeting dates will be as follows:

- June 29, 2022 (via Zoom invite)
- September 28, 2022 (Annual – In-Person)
- January 25, 2023 (Via Zoom)
- April 26, 2023 (In-Person)
- June 28, 2023 (Via Zoom)

### **WorkOne Board Report (Susan Neal)**

The WorkOne Board report was distributed to the Board for review and Susan Neal 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](http://www.southcentral8.org).

Board Member Jim Parsch, Monroe County Business Representative, started a discussion among Board members about unemployment numbers as it is related to the current unemployment rate, labor participation rate and how numbers are ultimately captured by the State of Indiana. Board members understand that filling available jobs in the workforce has proven very challenging for regional and state employers despite the low unemployment rate. Shannon Laurent stated that people not looking for work in Indiana are not included in the unemployment insurance numbers released monthly. This is reflected in the lower participation rate numbers and part of the reason we are having trouble with filling positions. Brian Shockney, Monroe County Business Representative, inquired how work-from-home employees for out-of-state employers is captured in employment numbers if at all? Rob King responded that DWD Representatives would be invited to the next Board meeting to address some of these concerns and answer questions by Board members. Beth Green, DWD Representative Board member, stated she would take these concerns to the leadership team in Indianapolis for discussion and a response. Rob stated that the responses could be delivered in presentations at next Board meeting.

### **Other Business – Public Comments**

**With no further business, Brian Shockney 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 1:20PM

Prepared By: Rob King