

**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**  
**South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc.**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**January 25, 2023 – Noon to 1:30pm**

**Board Members Present:** Brenda Reetz, Scott Baker, Kevin Bush, Linda Henderson, Elizabeth Green, Dustin Gabhart, Trent Todd, Terry Pittman, Jennifer Pearl, Teresa Hudson, Brian Shockney, Michelle Ellis, Pam Metz, Scott Adams, Adam Gross, Scott Wilcoxon, Jim Parsch, Lisa Hein

**Others Present:** Rob King, Shannon Laurent, Susan Neal, Carla Crowe, Randy Wells, David Tucker, Erin Brewer, Sandy Friedman, Robin Branch, Don Kent, Alex Crowley, Amy Redman, Blayze Damron, Carol Johnson, Joe Timbrook, Jennifer Jones

**Board Members Absent:** Michael Stieglitz, Jeff Pipkin

**Call to Order**

Brenda Reetz called the meeting to order at Noon and a quorum of the Board was confirmed as present. Rob King welcomed all Board members and attending guests.

**Approval of Minutes**

***Brian Shockney moved to accept the minutes of the 09/28/2022 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**

Carla Crowe with Crowe LLP, the Board's Fiscal Agent, distributed and presented the financial report for the period July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Carla noted that 41% of the Total Annual Budget was expended through December 31, 2022. Carla reviewed adjustments to the Budget and Expenditures. Funds added/adjusted to the budget included the following:

- Strada JAG (\$90,000)
- NLJ-ETG (\$411,919)
- Employee Recovery Grant (\$100,000)
- WIOA Performance (\$428,282)

Alex Crowley, City of Bloomington, asked about the remaining funds allocation listed under the NLJ Employer Training Grant in the amount of \$921,167. Carla explained that we are working with several employers and that the funds are in the process of being obligated with additional commitments to be added over the next few months. Alex asked if there was a way to track the employer commitments and report it to the Board moving forward. Carla stated that we could report it out and that Susan Neal would be covering this in her Board report. Rob King noted that we would add this to our reporting moving forward. Rob King also noted that Region 8

would be requesting to transfer \$125,000 from the PY'22 Dislocated Worker Funds to the PY'22 Adult Funds to be spent on programs costs appropriately.

***Dustin Gabhart moved to approve the financial report and budget, PSG Contract Amount for up to \$61,891, NLJ (ETG) Contract Amount for \$25,191, and Strada JAG Contract Amount for \$90,000 to Vincennes University, and transfer of \$125,000 from PY'22 Dislocated Worker Funds to PY'22 Adult Funds. Pam Metz seconded the motion. Elizabeth Green abstained from the vote, all other Board members voted in favor and the motion was approved.***

### **Regional Four-Year Modification Plan Update**

Rob King reminded the Board that the Local Workforce Four-Year Plan modification was submitted for DWD review and approval at the end of September 2022. Rob noted that there were a few minor additions made, but the plan has been reviewed and submitted to the Governor's Workforce Cabinet for final approval which is expected by February of 2023.

No issues with approval are anticipated.

### **Board Training and INWBA Symposium 2022 Update**

Rob King informed the Board that one-on-one training continues and is going well. This training and WorkOne visits will be on-going throughout the program year moving forward and be offered to all Board members, for both newer and experienced members.

Rob informed the Board that the Indiana Workforce Board Alliance (INWBA) held its inaugural Workforce Symposium in November of 2022. The purpose of the Symposium was to bring all workforce stakeholders together to discuss real world issues all regions are facing today. Mr. Ron Painter, President of the National Association of Workforce Boards, provided the morning keynote presentation. The event included several panels throughout the day including discussions on Employer-Led Talent Development, Serving Priority Populations, Building and Sustaining Apprenticeships & WBL Programs and New Economic Development System. Special thanks to Board Chair, Brenda Reetz, for participating on one of the expert panels at the event. Thanks also goes out to Board Members Adam Gross (Ivy Tech) and Lisa Hein (Owen County Business) for attending and participating in this event as well.

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

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

Board Member Jennifer Pearl, Bloomington Economic Development Corporation (BEDC), made a comment about the overall metrics and challenges we face to properly serve all stakeholders. Jen mentioned that the pandemic has changed the way people operate and that many activities

are now conducted virtually and/or online. Jen posed two specific questions: 1) for WorkOne activities - what opportunities are there for updating services to address the ways people are conducting business today, and 2) for Board Members – what tools are available for employers or those working with employers to assist with better serving the community? Susan Neal stated the pandemic did cause us to upgrade our systems and that many virtual services are already in place to serve clients where they are in real time, whether that be the WorkOne office, online, virtually or at another location within the community. Even with the upgrades we have made over the past two-years, there are still challenges in the rural areas such as many clients not familiar with or able to utilize virtual or real-time technology. However, we still ensure access to our services for all participants within our system. Susan noted that we utilize the Indiana Career Connect system in many ways to communicate employment services to all stakeholders. Jen Pearl stated that the WorkOne system serves many folks and has a tremendous amount of services. WorkOne does a great job overall and maybe this is an opportunity to create a focus group to discuss how we can assist with services offered in conjunction with partner groups within the region to address issues such as employer dislocations. Rob King stated he will create a focus group to discuss and review current service delivery strategies.

Robin Branch, Business Services Director, provided an update on Rapid Response activities at Catalent in Bloomington. Robin stated that Rapid Response services are usually provided onsite working directly with the employer. In this case, the announcement to lay-off staff happened on November 30, 2022 with layoffs occurring on December 3, 2022. Business Services team met with the Catalent HR team and they agreed to share the WorkOne Rapid Response information, surveys and paperwork with front-end staff affected via e-mail. To date, less than 20 Catalent staff members have visited their local WorkOne offices for services. Staff members at Catalent did receive Severance packages that can last up to eight (8) or more weeks, which means they may not come into the WorkOne Centers for services until February/March 2023 time frame, or later. Rob King reminded Board members that Rapid Response activities occur in real-time and that it can change rapidly. Employers have the main say in how services are delivered and in what manner, both publically and through the company only.

### **Workforce Board Meeting Dates (2022-2023)**

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

- April 26, 2023 (In-Person)
- June 28, 2023 (Zoom Invite)
- September 27, 2023 (In-Person)

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

**With no further business, Brian Shockney made a motion to adjourn, Brenda Reetz seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the meeting was adjourned.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:10PM

Prepared By: Rob King