

Quarterly Meeting Minutes
South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc.
Zoom Meeting
January 26, 2022 – Noon to 1:30pm

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

Others Present: Rob King, Shannon Laurent, Randy Wells, David Tucker, Susan Neal, Erin Brewer, Sandy Friedman, Carla Crowe, Robin Branch, Christopher Emge, Earl Isom, Brian Rawlins, Alex Crowley, Don Kent

Board Members Absent: Trent Todd, Andrea Winters, Adam Gross, Marvin Wagler

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 new Board members to include: Mr. Jim Parsch – Monroe County Business Representative and Chief Strategy Officer (Tri-Star Engineering).

Approval of Minutes

Scott Adams moved to accept the minutes of the 09/29/2021 meeting of the South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc. Jeff Pipkin 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 ending December 31, 2021. Carla noted that 34% of the Total Annual Budget was expended through December 31, 2021. Carla reviewed adjustments to the Budget and Expenditures. Funds added/adjusted to the budget included the following:

- Business Consultant (\$120,000)
- Strata JAG (\$31,250)
- PRE-ETS (\$175,000)
- WRG (CARES) (\$395,000)
- WRG (\$400,000)
- Infrastructure Agreement (\$3,997)

Carla Crowe also noted that Region 8 would be requesting to transfer \$70,000 from the PY'20 Dislocated Worker Funds to the PY'21 Adult Funds to be spend on programs costs appropriately.

Brian Shockney moved to approve the financial report and budget, WRG Contract Amount for \$34,000 to Vincennes University, and transfer of \$70,000 from PY'20 Dislocated Worker Funds to PY'21 Adult Funds. Michael Stieglitz seconded the motion. Elizabeth Green abstained from the vote, all other Board members voted in favor and the motion was approved.

Economic Vitality Project

Board Member Jennifer Pearl, with the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation (BEDC), discussed the Economic Vitality Project with the Workforce Board. Jen stated that a group would be acquired to conduct a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Monroe County and include a wide variety of stakeholders. This analysis will address ongoing economic challenges such as Workforce, Housing, Transit, Child Care, Land Availability and much more. The goal is to address these issues as a whole within the community as opposed to working in siloes. Fourth Economy Consulting has been selected to facilitate this initiative and the three areas of focus include: 1) Engage Community in co-owned vision setting and action to address current and future needs, 2) Build on existing work in Monroe County, fill-in gaps and connect to the region, and 3) Recognize the diversity of our communities in Monroe and the surrounding counties affected.

Registered Apprenticeships Update

Rob King provided the Board with a brief update on Registered Apprenticeships (ASE). To date, Region 8 has developed the following Registered Apprenticeships: Bio-Manufacturing (16 Participants); Workforce Training Coordinator (1 Participant); CCMA (New); and a Registered Behavioral Technician – RBT (New). IU Health, Greene County General Hospital and a few other healthcare providers are interested in the CCMA Registered Apprenticeships. Littlestar is the main company we are currently dealing with for the RBT Registered Apprenticeship. Gail Mitchell has been hired as the new Registered Apprenticeship Coordinator (RAC) for Region 8 and works with the Region 8 Service Provider.

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.

Board Member Michael Stieglitz, Brown County Business Representative, asked why we are assisting people with signing-up for unemployment in the WorkOne offices and if it is required or mandated in our By-Laws or if it is a State Oversight Requirement? Rob King responded that Region 8 is required to provide appropriate resources for all participants coming into the WorkOne. This includes allowing them the opportunity to file an Unemployment Insurance (UI) claim as a participant cannot be denied the right to file a claim at any time. WorkOnes are an appropriate facility for individuals to sign-up for UI Benefits and we are expected to provide this

important resource. Rob also stated that Region 8 has a great partnership with the DWD and that in many cases we are able to properly identify and serve those in need of our services through the filing of UI Claims within the WorkOne Offices. We are not able to answer any direct questions about UI applications and always provide a proper referral to the representatives in Indianapolis should the need arise. This can be via a general 800 contact number or via one of the UI "Bat Phones" located in the Bloomington or Linton WorkOne Offices. Rob stated that it may be beneficial to the Board to invite a UI Representative to the next Board meeting for a presentation. Rob did acknowledge the amazing efforts of Regina Ashley for her assistance with UI issues and complaints over the past two years.

Alex Crowley, City of Bloomington, asked that since funding of WIOA related programs are based on UI Claims data in the calculations, is there going to be a funding crisis in the near future if something doesn't change? Rob King responded that currently it is true that UI rates are calculated in the funding allocations, but with the new infra-structure Bill signed by the Biden Administration there could be more funding dollars received as part of this initiative. We anticipate funding to be at similar levels or above for the next few years, but will have to wait and see how it unfolds.

Workforce Board Meeting Dates (2021-2022)

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

- April 27, 2022 (TBD)
- June 29, 2022 (TBD)

Other Business – Public Comments

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:15PM

Prepared By: Rob King