

**Meeting Minutes**  
**South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc.**  
**Quarterly Meeting**  
**Stonegate Arts and Education Center**  
**November 18, 2015, 12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM**

**Board Members Present:** Darrell White, Trent Todd, Brenda Reetz, David St. John, Gene McCracken, Frank Guratzsch, Steve Johnson, Scott Baker, Jennie Vaughn, Ken McKee, Jeff Quyle, Nancy Davisson

**Others Present:** John Corcoran, Shannon Laurent, Chris DuKate, Richard Rampley, Brian Rawlins, Trudie Dillman, Nancy Karaszia, Robin Branch, Susan Neal, Rob King, Iris Kiesling, David Anderson, Nathan Gabhardt, Ed Michael, Debbie Theriac, Bill Nonte, Steve Braun, Joe Frank

**Board Members Absent:** Terri Gammon, Renee Sears, Jason Flinn, Doug Kellams, David Brinegar, Terry Pittman, Rachel Carver, Lynn Coyne

**Call to Order**

Brenda Reetz called the meeting to order at Noon and welcomed guests. Each person present introduced themselves. A quorum of the Board was confirmed as present.

**Approval of Minutes**

***Scott Baker moved to accept the minutes of the 8/19/15 meeting of the South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc. Frank Guratzsch seconded the motion. All voted in favor.***

**DWD Commissioner Steve Braun**

John Corcoran introduced the Department of Workforce Development Commissioner Steve Braun. Mr. Braun addressed the Board and guests. Mr. Braun highlighted his time as Commissioner and specifically addressed the state of the Indiana workforce. His concern is that the limited skills of the workforce limit growth and economic development in the State of Indiana. Mr. Braun described efforts to analyze the 800 occupations in the states, which occupations are growing and which are declining. Mr. Braun described his vision of an employer demand driven system. Mr. Braun outlined an unprecedented State allocation of \$50 million to the Department of Workforce Development and how these funds would be used.

Mr. Braun emphasized the collaborative efforts of Vincennes University, Ivy Tech Community College, the WorkOne system, Employers and the Education system to develop the skills of the workforce to meet employer demand. Resources are being made available through the Skill Up Initiative.

Gene McCracken stated that collaboration is good but what is being done about the drug use problem. Mr. Braun stated that the collaboration of schools, employers and community organizations is needed to assess drug users and refer them to appropriate rehabilitation organizations. Gene McCracken stated that companies are concerned. One company returned a tax abatement to the county so that the county could use it for drug rehabilitation services. Brenda Reetz discussed the link between public health and workforce development. Infant mortality rates are higher in Indiana, particularly our workforce region. Ms. Reetz stated that youth involved in JAG are less likely to become pregnant or abuse drugs.

John Corcoran asked how the 50 million is planned to be used. Mr. Braun outlined the uses and amounts allocated for Skill Up, Technology, Case Management systems, career and technical education and performance.

John Corcoran suggested that regions should receive incentive funds for meeting performance. Mr. Braun agreed and said the regions that meet performance will be rewarded and regions that do not will be held accountable.

Richard Rampley asked if any programs are planned to help the Adult population with Work Ethic. Mr. Braun replied that he is concerned about the effectiveness of Adult Education. Employers need skill competencies, literacy and work ethics. Mr. Nonte, DWD, CFO stated that the Skill Up Initiative received 37 proposals and many focus on soft skill issues.

Mr. Braun, Mr. Nonte and Mr. Frank left the meeting to return to Indianapolis.

**Labor Market Data Discussion** - Shannon Laurent asked the Board what Labor Market information is needed. Jeff Quyle stated that we should use funds from the Board to identify industry clusters and workforce skills in the Region. The workforce should be prepared for the skills needed by employers. Our workforce efforts should attract additional employers that need the skill sets in the region. John Corcoran mentioned that the Skill Up proposal includes a skills assessment for Region 8. David St. John mentioned that the new entity R.O.I will collect the data and have staff to support cluster driven analysis. Shannon Laurent stated that since DWD is working on new Labor Market Information systems perhaps we should wait to see what they generate; Jeff Quyle agreed that we can wait on this.

**Full-Employment and Labor Force Participation** – Richard Rampley discussed the low unemployment rates by county in our region. While some counties like Monroe are at 4.1% some of our counties such as Greene, Lawrence, Owen and Orange have some of the highest rates in the State. Richard explained the reasons some workers do not seek jobs and are not counted in the labor force. There was a general discussion of skills needed for the workforce.

**Financial Report** - Chris DuKate with Crowe Horwath the Board's contracted Fiscal Agent distributed and explained the financial reports; Chris highlighted the schedules in the reports as well as changes to the budgets. Changes in the budget for this period include \$99,280 added to WorkINdiana and new funding for Sector Partnership – National Emergency Grant for job readiness training targeted at Dislocated Workers who are Veterans. Chris explained that the

Benchmark is 33% of expenditures and we are currently at 26% for the overall budget. Chris explained that the same information in the schedules is also presented in a visual pie chart.

Chris DuKate noted that 32% of total eligible expenditures have been expended on direct client costs. There was a brief discussion and Chris noted that this percentage is very strong compared to other regions.

***Gene McCracken motioned to approve the financial reports and budget changes. Steve Johnson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.***

**Regional Operator Report** -John Corcoran distributed the Program Year 2014 Region 8 Common Measures and Six Month Average Earnings report. This report is the performance of Region 8 for the year ending 6/30/15. John stated that the standard is meeting or exceeding 80% of all the adult, youth and dislocated worker measures. Region 8 did this for PY 2014. Shannon Laurent explained that the wage measures are for the entire state and do not take into account lower wages paid in our Region. The wage standards were not met but we did exceed the 80% of six month average earnings.

John Corcoran summarized the Sector Partnership – NEG grant for Veterans. DWD has provided \$80,000 for a 5 day job readiness workshop. John explained we must competitively procure the services of an organization to provide these services. The Regional Operator has proposed to the State that the funds be used to support local DWD state staff member(s) to provide these services as an alternative to reductions in force that may occur. This request is pending a decision at this time. John asked the Board for a resolution supporting the use of the NEG funds to support a local DWD staff member(s) as the first alternative. If DWD denies that request, the Board should authorize a competitive solicitation for the Veterans Workshops.

***Gene McCracken moved to use the \$80,000 in NEG funds to support local DWD staff member(s) to provide the Veterans workshops and if DWD denies that request the Board authorizes the Regional Operator to conduct a competitive solicitation for an entity to provide the workshops.***

There was a brief discussion whether this is a mandate to provide the workshops or if we had other options. John Corcoran stated that the grant mandated the 5 day job readiness workshops.

**Jeff Quyle seconded the motion and all voted in favor.**

John Corcoran reported that the Skill Up! Solicitation by the State makes \$11 million available. The grant opportunity requires a partnership of entities to submit with one entity as the applicant. The Workforce Development Board, the Works Council, Radius, Crane NSWC, the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County are planning a submission with Regional Opportunities, Inc. a new 501(c)(3) as the applicant. John summarized the planning process and the proposal which is to be submitted at the end of December. The proposal targets advanced manufacturing for the Southwest Central Region which includes all of the

Region 8 counties plus, Washington, Crawford and Dubois counties. The proposal includes these planned:

- An Occupational Needs Assessment
- Soft Skill Training conducted at employer locations
- Employment of Work based Learning Specialists
- Employment of Graduation and Career Coaches at 11 school corporations in partnership with Ivy Tech Community College

Brenda Reetz asked when the grants will be awarded. Nancy Davisson that February 20, 2016 is the planned award date. John Corcoran stated that the partnership submitting the proposal must be industry led.

John Corcoran stated that there will be more NEG funds coming to Region 8 from DWD. These NEG funds may provide some economic development planning funds in connection with the I-69 corridor and tuition funds for a Certification Program in Life Sciences. This program will be developed by Ivy Tech Community College.

John Corcoran also stated that the Board has received a grant for \$25,000 for staff time to implement the new DWD Case Management system.

**Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Program** - Ms. Debbie Theriac presented an overview of the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Program in Indiana. This program is funded by the WIOA and has existed for many years. Ms. Theriac is employed by Proteus, Inc. the Farmworker program grant recipient and she is based in Vincennes. This program is designed to serve Farmworkers and help them with their career choices. Ms. Theriac coordinates her services with WorkOne, Vincennes University and Ivy Tech Community College.

**WorkOne Report** - Richard Rampley presented the WorkOne report. Mr. Rampley stated that ModusLink would lay off 169 workers on 12-31-15. Pre-layoff services are being provided to these individuals. Most of these workers will be looking for re-employment and should be successful.

Mr. Rampley stated that Region 8 has been in the top 5 Regions in Work Indiana performance the past 3 years and has recently become third in the State.

The business services report was discussed with the group by Mr. Rampley and Ms. Robin Branch, our Business Services Director. Job Fairs, advertising efforts and site visitations were summarized. Ms. Branch announced that the Orange County Job Fair would be held on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

John Corcoran stated that the Board will meet next on February 17, 2016.

**Gene McCracken moved to adjourn, Jeff Quyle seconded the motion. All voted in favor.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM.

Prepared By: John Corcoran