

Quarterly Meeting Minutes
South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc.
Stonegate Arts & Education Center, Bedford, IN
September 25, 2024 – Noon to 1:30pm

Board Members Present: Scott Baker, Linda Henderson, Blayze Damron, Michael Stieglitz, Jennifer Pearl, Michelle Ellis, Scott Adams, Mike Norris, Lisa Hein

Board Members Present via Zoom Invite/Call-In: Brenda Reetz, Adam Gross, Kevin Bush, Dustin Gabhart, Derek Cronin, Teresa Hudson, Dan Peterson, Pam Metz, Scott Wilcoxon

Others Present: Rob King, Shannon Laurent, Carla Crowe, Randy Wells, Susan Neal, Don Kent, Erin Brewer, Brian Rawlins, Samuel Perkins, Bob Grewe, Skylar Whiteman, Kim Burgess, Christian Blome, Nolan Bernard, Michael Wicks, Rob Kimball

Board Members Absent: Terry Pittman, Jeff Pipkin

Call to Order

Vice-Board Chair, Scott Baker, called the meeting to order at Noon and a quorum of the Board was confirmed as present. Board members introduced themselves with each member invited to share relevant news or information about their organizations. Guests in attendance also introduced themselves as well. Rob King acknowledged new Board member Mike Norris, President/CEO of Warrant Technologies, as a Business Representative for Monroe County.

Approval of Minutes

Scott Baker moved to accept the minutes of the 06/24/2024 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 and Region 8 Tax & Audit RFP Results

Carla Crowe, with Crowe LLP, the Board's Fiscal Agent, distributed and presented the financial report for the period ending August 31, 2024. Carla noted that 12% of the Total Annual Budget was expended through August 31, 2024. Carla reviewed adjustments to the Budget and Expenditures. Funds added/adjusted to the budget included the following:

- WIOA Adult \$40,605
- WIOA DW \$21,175 (-)
- WIOA Youth \$7,216 (-)
- WIOA Admin \$7,569
- JAG Expansion \$49,005 (-)
- JAG-TANF \$200,213
- PRE-ETS \$95,644
- ABA \$12,694
- QUEST \$5,657 (-)
- RESEA \$97,445 (-)

- NLJ(ETG) \$242,117
- LISC \$7,500

Carla Crowe and Rob King discussed the Audit and Tax Services RFP results to secure a provider for the next two program years, with a possible third year extension based on performance (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026). The Executive Committee served as the reviewers of the Proposals received by bidders. The Executive Committee reviewed all bids submitted electronically with a total of one bid(s) received from: 1) Comer, Nowling & Associates P.C. Upon review of the the proposal, the Executive Committee decided on recommending Comer, Nowling & Associates P.C. as the selected Region 8 Vendor to the full board.

Carla Crowe asked if there were any questions about the Executive Committee recommendation for Comer, Nowling & Associates P.C. to serve as the Audit & Tax Services Vendor. There were no questions.

Rob King provided Board members with the final Regional Plan draft for review and highlighted key sections of the plan and noted that it aligned well with the State Plan. Rob also discussed the extensive collaborative efforts among all Workforce Development partners in the development of the Regional Plan for 2024-2027. Rob then discussed the updated Region 8 Demand Occupation List and reviewed changes to the items. The Demand Occupation listing is reviewed at least bi-annually or as needed and is always included as part of the Regional Plan submission. There were no questions or further discussions on the Regional Plan 2024-2027 draft.

Michelle Ellis moved to approve the financial report and budget, Business Services Contract Amount for \$60,000, NLJ(ETG) Contract Amount for up to \$75,000 to Vincennes University, approval of updated Demand Occupation Listing and submission of the Regional Plan (2024-2027) to DWD for review, and approve Comer & Nowling as the Region 8 Tax & Audit Services Vendor. Scott Baker seconded the motion. Blayze Damron abstained from the financial budget vote, all other Board members voted in favor and the motion was approved.

Guest Presentations

Michael Wicks, Program Manager at High Alpha Innovation, provided the Board with information about the "SLATE-UP" Recruitment Program. Additional guests included Nolan Bernard, Portfolio & Network Director, and Rob Kimball, Managing Director, Corporate Partnerships. In collaboration with Notre Dame University, SLATE-UP Recruit is a new project to create technology utilizing Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology to assist employers with finding quality job candidates. Region 8 is a pilot partner and will assist High Alpha Innovations with the development of an AI program to effectively screen potential job applicants prior to them visiting and working with a regional case manager. Once created, it will also be adapted to fit employer needs and potentially be utilized as a tool to find qualified job candidates or identify transferrable skills for those applicants that may be upskilled by an employer to meet their demands. Contact information was provided by High Alpha Innovations to Board members for presentation follow-ups. Topics discussed also included how this new tool would be different from current job recruitment methods and potential start-up costs for employers once designed.

Election of Officers

Rob King discussed election of Board officers for PY'24 and advised that PY'23 Board Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary Officers have agreed to maintain their current roles if no other Board members expressed interest in serving in this capacity. As there were no additional nominations for Board officers, Rob recognized the current PY'24 officers as follows: 1) Brenda Reetz to remain as Board Chair, 2) Scott Baker to remain as Vice-Chair, and 3) Adam Gross to remain as Secretary.

Michael Stieglitz moved to approve all Board Officers for PY'24. Michelle Ellis seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the 2024-2025 Board Officers were approved.

Executive Council Meeting (Local Elected Officials)

Rob King provided an update on the Executive Council (Local Elected Officials) meeting that was held on September 10, 2024. There was a quorum, and items discussed at meeting included: 1) Operational Update for Region 8; 2) Regional Governance Structure approved through June 30, 2025; 3) Regional WIOA PY'24 Allocations; 4) Elected Officials Agreement and Appointment Process to Executive Council; 5) Duties and Responsibilities of LEO's; 5) County Local Elected Officials Appointment agreement; and (6) Election of a Regional Chief Elected Official (RCEO) to represent Region 8. Dustin Gabhart, Lawrence County Commissioner, will no longer serve as an elected official as of January of 2025 and will no longer act as the RCEO past this date. Rob stated that Dustin had done a tremendous job as RCEO and will be missed. Dustin will remain a Lawrence County Business Representative on the Regional Workforce Board. Rob then stated that a new RCEO would need to be elected by the Executive Council. Sam Craig, Mayor of Bedford, Indiana in Lawrence County, agreed that if appointed by his colleagues, he would be honored to serve as the RCEO for Region 8. After discussion with members, no objections were noted to Mayor Craig serving as the new RCEO for the region beginning in January of 2025. Dustin agreed to serve until Mayor Craig was officially appointed. Rob reviewed the Region 8 Local Elected Officials renewal agreement (2023-2028). The new five-year agreement will remain in place through 06/20/2028.

JAG Expansion – Region 8

Sam Perkin, Region 8 JAG Program Manager, provided the Board with an update on how the recent JAG Program expansion was going in in the Region. Sam stated that the following programs have been successfully added to Region 8:

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| 1) - Bloomfield HS (11th/12th Grade) | 5) - Bloomfield (Middle School) |
| 2) - Linton-Stockton HS (11th/12th Grade) | 6) - Eastern Greene (Middle School) |
| 3) - Shakamak HS (11th/12th Grade) | 7) - WRV (Middle School) |
| 4) - Owen Valley HS (9th/10th Grade) | 8) - Shakamak (Middle School) |

Sam stated that he is also working with a few other schools as well and there could be more programs added soon. Sam will provide an update on this progress at the January 2025 Board meeting.

WorkOne Report

The WorkOne report was distributed to the Board for review. Donald Kent, Executive Director of VUWDS in Region 8, highlighted the report 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.

Workforce Board Meeting Dates (2023-2024)

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

- January 22, 2025 (Zoom Invite)
- April 23, 2025 (In-Person with Zoom Option)
- June 25, 2025 (In-Person with Zoom Option)

Region 8 WIOA Services Request for Proposal (RFP)

Vincennes University staff exited meeting for this discussion. Carla Crowe discussed upcoming Region 8 WIOA Services Request for Proposal (RFP) for Staff to the Board, One-Stop Operator and Service Provider for Program years 2025 through 2028. Carla discussed announcement of RFP and associated deadlines for submission, review and selection. Carla reminded Board that the Executive Committee would be responsible for reviewing and scoring the Proposals. All Board members were advised they could also participate in the review and scoring process as well. The full Board will review the recommendation of the Executive Committee at January's 2025 Board meeting and vote on a vendor for Staff to the Board, One-Stop Operator and Service Provider for Region 8.

Linda Henderson motioned to move forward with the WIOA Services Request for Proposal (RFP) for Staff to the Board, One-Stop Operator and Service Provider. Michelle Ellis seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion was approved

Other Business – Public Comments

With no further business, Scott Adams 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 1:30pm

Prepared By: Rob King