

Quarterly Meeting Minutes
South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc.
Zoom Meeting
January 22, 2025 – Noon to 1:30pm

Board Members Present: Brenda Reetz, Scott Baker, Kevin Bush, Linda Henderson, Blayze Damron, Dustin Gabhart, Derek Cronin, Terry Pittman, Jennifer Pearl, Teresa Dukate, Dan Peterson, Michelle Ellis, Pam Metz, Adam Gross, Jeff Pipkin, Scott Wilcoxon, Lisa Hein

Others Present: Rob King, Shannon Laurent, Susan Neal, Mandy Mahurin, Carla Crowe, Don Kent, Sam Perkins, Randy Wells, Sandy Friedman, Brian Rawlins, Joe Timbrook, Jason Goodman, Jessica Potts, Paul George, Patrick Nay, Ed Michael

Board Members Absent: Michael Stieglitz, Scott Adams, Mike Norris

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. Rob King welcomed new Board members to include: Mr. Sam Craig – Special Member (Chief Local Elected Official) who will become an official Board member by 04/23/2025 meeting. Mayor Craig is attending as guest today.

Approval of Minutes

Jeff Pipkin moved to accept the minutes of the 09/25/2024 meeting of the South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc. Michelle Ellis 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, 2024 through June 30, 2025. Carla noted that 40% of the Total Annual Budget was expended through December 31, 2024. Carla reviewed adjustments to the Budget and Expenditures. Funds added/adjusted to the budget included the following:

- Vincennes University – Service Provider (-) \$296,000, from ABA Grant OWBLA Adjustment)

Michelle Ellis moved to approve the financial report and budget, Business Consultant Contract Amount for additional \$60,000 to Vincennes University, and Midwest Urban Strategies Annual Membership Dues of \$2,500. Dan Peterson seconded the motion. Blayze Damron abstained from the vote, all other Board members voted in favor and the motion was approved.

Regional Four-Year Plan Update (2024-2027)

Rob King reminded the Board that the Local Workforce Four-Year Plan was edited along with DWD and submitted for final review and approval at the end of November 2024. Rob noted that there were a few minor additions made, but the plan has been reviewed and officially approved by the Governor's Workforce Cabinet on 01/15/2025.

Midwest Urban Strategies Affiliate Membership

Rob King informed the Board that the Executive Committee approved a \$2,500 affiliate membership with Midwest Urban Strategies (MUS) in the Fall of 2024. Midwest Urban Strategies works with regional partners to improve the economic conditions of the Midwest, with a targeted focus on urban areas. The MUS mission is to serve and advance the needs of the region's populations, employers, workers, job seekers, and workforce development professionals—creating inclusive, sustainable opportunities for all. Midwest Urban Strategies offers a unique collaborative network that connects urban workforce development organizations across the Midwest, fostering innovative solutions and sharing best practices to enhance regional economic growth. Members gain access to a wealth of resources, including expert insights, funding opportunities, and powerful partnerships, all aimed at driving meaningful change in their communities.

Operational Updates: RESEA, NLJ (ETG) & JAG Expansion

Susan Neal, One-Stop Operator, provided Board with operational updates on RESEA and NLJ (ETG). RESEA: In November of 2023, DOL released a Wagner-Peyser (WP) Act new compliance staffing rule related to the delivery of WP Services resulting in RESEA services and WP services being moved back under DWD. Statewide compliance of this new rule will be completed on or before January of 2026. Region 8 was selected as one of three pilot regions to transition WP staff to meet these new requirements. The management structure will be structured to reflect regionally, with Blayze Damron being moved to an Operations Manager for DWD, Trudie Dillman assumed RSM role for Region 8 on 01/01/2025. Overall, DWD plans to automate and streamline changes by the end of April 2025 for the pilot regions. We will be working with DWD leadership to ensure a smooth transition.

NLJ (ETG): ETG 6.0 has officially been closed out with all funds fully expended. ETG 7.0 ran from 07/01/2023 through June of 2025. For 7.0, 25 Employers, with over 230 employees being trained, have been successfully completed. \$720,000 has been expended to date. We will be able to provide final numbers after June of 2025. Susan noted that it is hard to estimate the final numbers due to having to wait for employers to provide the final training numbers upon completion of ETG requirements for the funds. This may cause some of the funds not to be expended, which is a flaw in the system and not due to obligation status of the funds. For ETG 8.0, Region 8 received \$750,000, with \$675,000 available to employers for training. The dates are 07/01/2024 thru 12/31/2024 to obligate for 8.0, with a possible extension based on employer needs. Susan reminder Board members to refer employers to us that may be interested in ETG funding.

Sam Perkins, 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:

- 1) - ***Bloomfield HS (11th/12th Grade)***
- 2) - ***Linton-Stockton HS (11th/12th Grade)***
- 3) - ***Shakamak HS (11th/12th Grade)***
- 4) - ***Owen Valley HS (9th/10th Grade)***
- 9) – ***Brown County Schools (Middle School)***
- 11)- ***Owen Valley (Middle School)***
- 13) – ***Edgewood HS (Jr. HS)***

- 5) - ***Bloomfield (Middle School)***
- 6)- ***Eastern Greene (Middle School)***
- 7) -***WRV (Middle School)***
- 8) -***Shakamak (Middle School)***
- 10) – ***Brown County Schools 9th/10th***
- 12) – ***Edgewood (9th/10th Grade)***

Sam shared a few success stories from Eastern Greene High School, Owen Valley High School (11th/12th Grade) and Shakamak High School.

WorkOne Board Report (Don Kent)

The WorkOne Board report was distributed to the Board for review and Don Kent, Region 8 Service Provider Executive Director, 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.

WIOA Services Request for Proposal (RFP) Results (2025-2028)

Carla Crowe discussed results of Region 8 Request for Proposal (RFP) for Staff to the Board, One-Stop Operator and Service Provider for Program years 2025 through 2028. Several organizations submitted letters of intent to bid, with only one proposal fully submitted to Crowe LLP. Crowe LLP distributed proposals to the Executive Committee for review and discussion. The Executive Committee voted to recommend the Workforce Board award the contract to Vincennes University for a three-year period ending on June 30, 2028 with a one-year extension through June 30, 2029 that may be exercised by the Workforce Board based on performance. There was minimal discussion about the selection. Brenda Reetz stated that the Executive Committee was happy with VU's proposal and it continues the work we have been doing, which is very good. With no further discussion:

Jennifer Pearl moved to accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee to award the Region 8 Staff to the Board, One-Stop Operator and Service Provider contract to Vincennes University for a three-year period from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028 with a one-year extension through June 30, 2029 that may be exercised by the Board based on performance. Michelle Ellis seconded the motion. Blayze Damron abstained from the vote, all other Board members voted in favor and the motion was approved.

Brenda Reetz, Board Chair, personally offered her thanks to Vincennes University staff for a job well done.

Other Business – Public Comments

Joe Timbrook, Lawrence County Economic Growth Council, provided information about the new Health Sciences Pathway program in Lawrence County and their partnership with Vincennes University. Joe also mentioned that SOAR Plus Literacy Program will begin in Lawrence County on or around 04/01/2025.

Rob King reminded Board members that have yet to submit a picture and bio of themselves to do so prior to next Board meeting if possible. Region 8 expects to post on or before July 1, 2025. Rob also reminded Board members of the upcoming Board Re-Certification that is due to DWD on or before June 30, 2025. This is conducted every two years and Rob will be reaching out to all members to discuss re-appointment or replacement. Rob then reminded Board members about the Indiana Workforce Alliance (IWA) Legislative Day to be held on 02/13/2024 at the Statehouse.

With no further business, Jeff Pipkin made a motion to adjourn, Lisa Hein seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 1:12PM

Prepared By: Rob King