

Quarterly Meeting Minutes
South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc.
Zoom Meeting
October 28, 2020 – 11:30am to 1:00pm

Board Members Present: Brenda Reetz, Scott Baker, Kenneth McKee, Gene McCracken, Brian Shockney, Elizabeth Green, Scott Adams, Jennifer Pearl, Adam Gross, Michelle Ellis, Jeff Pipkin, Michael Stieglitz, Teresa Hudson

Others Present: Rob King, Shannon Laurent, Randy Wells, Carla Crowe, Lauren Markley, David Tucker, Susan Neal, Sandy Friedman, Phillip Dart, Robin Branch, Alex Crowley

Board Members Absent: Jason Flinn, Trent Todd, Terry Pittman, Steve Johnson, Marvin Wagler, Mitch Holland

Call to Order

Brenda Reetz called the meeting to order at 11:30am. Rob King welcomed Board members and a quorum of the Board was confirmed as present. Rob King announced that Gene McCracken, Chief Local Elected Official of Region 8 would be retiring from his position at Stonegate Arts and Education Center on 12/31/2020. Gene will no longer be an elected official as of January 2021 and will be leaving his Board position effective 12/31/2021. Rob recognized Gene's contributions and tremendous dedication to the Workforce Board for the past several years and stated that Gene will be greatly missed. All Board members wished Gene well in his upcoming retirement.

Approval of Minutes

Scott Baker moved to accept the minutes of the 08/05/2020 meeting of the South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc. Kenneth McKee seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

Local Workforce Four Year Plan

Rob King informed the Board that the Local Workforce Four Year Plan is due to the Department of Workforce Development on or before January 29, 2021. WIOA requires Workforce Boards to develop and submit a comprehensive regional workforce plan every four years. The Workforce Plan must address current and future strategies that will advance the overall workforce system goals and support a customer-centered system. The plan must also align with the Unified State Plan. The initial draft of this plan will be published for public comments for at least 30-days prior to submission to DWD. The initial draft will be considered for Executive Committee review and approval by December 18th and officially published for comment on or before December 22, 2020.

Region 8 Board Orientation Manual

Rob King informed the Board that the updated Region 8 Board Orientation Manual will be released to all Board members by March 31, 2021. Rob also announced that DWD was in the process of developing an online Workforce Board training module to compliment regional training for new Board members. More information will follow on this training once officially released.

Infrastructure Agreement (IFA) MOU

Shannon Laurent provided Board members with an update about the PY'20 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Board and partner agencies. We are working closely with DWD to establish appropriate cost sharing allocations and will be meeting with all partner agencies to finalize MOU.

CARES Act Update

Shannon provided an update on CARES Act activities within the region. The current Next-Level Jobs Workforce Ready Grant (WRG) program will be temporarily expanded through 12/31/2020 including new certifications being added to the current list of eligible programs to meet the immediate, regional and emerging workforce needs. Additionally, the funding cap per individual has been raised from \$5,500 to \$10,000. Region 8 was awarded \$582,000 in WRG funds. Shannon reported that Region 8 is one of the State's most successful regions in implementing the CARES Act funding. Since July 7th, Region 8 has obligated \$513,000 to provide tuition assistance to 161 customers.

The Employer Training Grant (ETG) will also be temporarily expanded through 12/31/2020 with the maximum amount of funding available to an employer raised from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and \$5 million being allocated specifically for Minority, Women and Veteran owned businesses. Region 8 was awarded \$944,000 in ETG funds to reimburse employers for training new employees and/or upskilling of incumbent workers. To date, 33 companies have completed online applications for a potential obligation of approximately \$954,000 to train around 251 workers. Of the 19 companies approved so far, seven (7) are Women, Minority or Veteran Owned businesses.

JAG-TANF Funding

Shannon informed the Board that Region 8 will receive a PY'20 contract for the funds that were left over from the PY'19 JAG-TANF contract with no new funds provided this program year. Region 8 will receive funds in the approximate amount of \$95,000.

Scott Adams moved to approve funds in the amount up to \$95,000 to Vincennes University for JAG-TANF activities. Michelle Ellis seconded the motion. Elizabeth Green abstained from the vote, all other Board members voted in favor and the motion was approved.

WorkOne Report

The WorkOne report was distributed to the Board for review. Susan Neal highlighted the report. Susan provided updates on regional WorkOne office operations, RESEA, 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.

Financial Reports

Carla Crowe with Crowe LLP, the Board's Fiscal Agent, distributed and presented the financial report for the period ending September 30, 2020. Carla reviewed adjustments to the Budget and Expenditures. \$187,500 RESEA funds were added to budget. Carla noted that 20% of the budget was expended through September 30, 2020.

Brian Shockney moved to approve the financial report and budget. Scott Adams seconded the motion. Elizabeth Green abstained from the vote, all other Board members voted in favor and the motion was approved.

Region 8 Request for Proposal

Vincennes University staff exited Zoom meeting for this discussion. 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 2021 through 2025. Two organizations submitted letters of intent to bid, with 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, 2024 with a one-year extension through June 30, 2025 that may be exercised by the Workforce Board based on performance.

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, 2021 through June 30, 2024 with a one-year extension through June 30, 2025 that may be exercised by the Board based on performance. Jeff Pipkin seconded the motion. Elizabeth Green 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.

Workforce Board Meeting Dates (2020-2021)

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

- February 24, 2021 (Zoom)
- June 23, 2021 (TBD)

Other Business – Public Comments

With no further business, Gene McCracken 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 1:30 PM

Prepared By: Rob King