

NORTHWEST INDIANA WORKFORCE BOARD MINUTES
Center of Workforce Innovations
March 19, 2015

Present:

Debi Baughman, Thomas Coley, Adam Collins, George Douglas, Kris Emaus, Rayanna Henderson, Keith Kirkpatrick, Mary Lewis, Kristine Lukowski, Karen Morlan, Dan Murchek, Gary Olund, Arlene Pearson, Arnold Ransom, Barb Sacha, Bob Schaefer, Ben Scheiner, Linda Woloshansky

Absent:

Maria Becerra, Ric Frataccia, Melvyn Harding, Tom Hargrove, Judy Stanton, Gary Miller

Proxies:

David Broad, Frank Cardello, Joe Medellin, Dennis Wimer

Staff:

Sue Bublitz, Crissy Dooley, Barb Grimsgard, Robyn Minton, Tammy Stump,

CALL TO ORDER – 2:10 pm

Adam Collins welcomed and thanked everyone for attending today's meeting and introduced new Board member Rayanna Henderson. Ms. Henderson gave a brief introduction of herself and her work at Porter Health Care System. The entire Board introduced themselves as well.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda, including the minutes of the last Board meeting, the dashboard, and performance information was presented to the Board for consideration.

Motion: A motion was made by George Douglas and seconded by Keith Kirkpatrick to approve the consent agenda as presented. **The motion passed.**

2. REPORTS

Youth Employment Council Report

Keith Kirkpatrick reviewed the history of the Youth Council, Work Ethic Posters, and Work Ethic Certificates. The Council is working on creating a one page sheet focusing on what an employer commits to when taking on a youth. The target market of the Council's efforts will be local Chamber members. Keith is moving forward with creating articles in the Times of NWI and will follow up after summer.

Because of the changed Youth program guidelines as defined by WIOA, the Youth Council would like to issue a new RFP for youth Services.

Motion: A motion was made by Gary Olund and seconded by George Douglas to approve issuance of a Youth Services RFP as presented. **The motion passed.**

Region 1 Works Council

Kris Emaus reported that the Works Council continues to work on their strategic action plan and is now developing a marketing plan that promotes CTE with assistance from Barb Grimsgard. The Council has also secured a \$10,000 grant from local foundations that will match a pending grant from DWD. As recommended by the State, the Works Council is seeking out new members that represent agriculture and manufacturing. Included in the Board materials is a hand out that can be used as a reference tool for hiring youth and a Flyer from the state regarding a career day in April.

INWIBA & CLEO Reports

The state has put workgroups into place that address each area of WIOA. These workgroups have passed all suggestions, questions, and input on to the Commissioner's office for consideration.

The Chief Local Elected Officials in our 7 County region have been deciding who and how many people should be on the NWIWB. They have stated that they like the composition and the overall number of members, however the Mayors of the larger cities like Gary and Hammond, may require additional input. Many NWIWB members have their term expiring in June of this year so Linda has already reached out to them and is seeking re-nominations.

3. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on February 18th. Adam Collins stated that the Committee reviewed the CWI Audit and commended the staff because there were no findings.

The WIOA required bylaw updates were also considered and a copy of the proposed changes are provided in the Board packet. Discussions focused on updating language, retaining the Youth Employment Council, and the addition of an optional seat for employers with over 1000 employees.

Motion: A motion was made by Gary Olund and seconded by Mary Lewis to approve the changes to the Bylaws. The vote is tabled until next Workforce Board meeting.

Member Gary Olund requests that Board decisions requiring 30 day consideration be sent out prior to the Board meeting and not delayed until the following meeting.

Youth Provider List

Tammy Stump requests that Western Governor's University be added to the approved Youth Provider List and explains the benefits of its online learning environment.

Motion: A motion was made by Bob Schaefer and seconded by Mary Lewis to add Western Governor's University to the Youth Provider List. **The motion passed.**

On the Job Training Policy

Robyn Minton requested that the On the Job Training (OJT) Policy be changed to reflect a minimum pay of \$14.50 per hour or \$30,160 annually as a way to meet the common measures as established by federal and state guidelines. The Board members request more information from Robyn since this would affect a number of employers currently participating in this program. Vote tabled until further information is presented and considered. The Board would like to see an OJT report that shows the companies participating, the wages being paid, and the gap this change in policy would make.

Workforce Board Commitment

Linda Woloshansky states that many Board members are currently doing things in their own communities that promote economic and workforce development and presents a document titled "Board Member Annual Commitment". It encourages and promotes community involvement in a tangible document.

READY NWI

As the Quiz suggested, Indiana students are requiring less remedial education when they move on to post-secondary schools and this is partly due to the READY NWI initiative. READY NWI, along with other organizations, continues to work with k-12 institutions and higher education to decrease the need for remediation and allow for further career pathway discovery that includes CTE. 27 schools in our region have signed a commitment to follow READY NWI recommendations.

Public Layoffs

The Tin and Gary Works plants are laying off employees. Some reports say as many as 800 workers will be effected, others state 200 and higher. We are working with them to find out what positions they are and if those affected can be placed with other employers.

5. DATES TO REMEMBER

The next WIB Meeting will be on May 21, 2015.

Closing Notes

Adam Collins thanked all the members for joining today's meeting. Linda thanked Frank Cardello who, although not in attendance today, has been interviewing the CPT program candidates to find those with potential. She also tanks Bob Schaefer who participates in a lot of organizations in NWI and always speaks positively about the WIB and to all the support staff for continuing to do a good job. She appreciates the Board's remarks on the CWI Audit.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.

David Broad, Secretary

Crissy E. Dooley, Recording Secretary