

**NORTHWEST INDIANA WORKFORCE BOARD MINUTES**  
**Center of Workforce Innovations**  
**May 21, 2015**

**Present:**

Debi Baughman, Frank Cardello, Adam Collins, George Douglas, Kris Emaus, Rayanna Henderson, Keith Kirkpatrick, Mary Lewis, Joe Medellin, Gary Miller, Dan Murchek, Gary Olund, Arnold Ransom, Bob Schaefer, Ben Scheiner, Judy Stanton, Linda Woloshansky, Dennis Wimer

**Absent:**

Maria Becerra, Ric Frataccia, Melvyn Harding, Tom Hargrove, Kristine Lukowski, Arlene Pearson

**Proxies:**

David Broad, Thomas Coley, Karen Morlan, Barb Sacha

**Staff:**

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

**Guest:**

Kathy Jaworski, Aco Sikoski

**CALL TO ORDER – 2:14 pm**

Adam Collins welcomed and thanked everyone for attending today's meeting.

**1. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

**2. REPORTS**

National Association of Workforce Boards

Bob Schaefer attended the National Association of Workforce Boards Conference in Washington DC at the end of March. During the conference the work done by the boards received a lot of praise and the presenters encouraged all boards to continue driving the issues, results, and programs that matter. Topics included the efforts to hire disabled individuals, how local markets are evolving, and the importance of building partnerships with the education and business communities. Mr. Schaefer and Roy Vanderford held two sessions reviewing the work of READY NWI, Made in LaPorte County, and other local efforts. Bob also had the privilege to meet the National Executive Director of JAG.

Region 1 Works Council

Kris Emaus reported that the Works Council will be participating in a coalition building workshop at Winona Lake. If successful we will bring the presentation group here to Region 1 and provide a similar presentation so we can begin to build a coalition to work together for more clearly defined outcomes and coordinate resources. Next Thursday the Works Council is hosting the "21 under 21" event and awards. The contest took submissions from CTE Directors for outstanding CTE students. The reception will be held at Ivy Tech and there are currently 80 RSVPs. This event and its awards are part of the Works Council's effort to generate awareness.

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to discuss.

Bylaw Update

The Board is presented with the updated Bylaws for a second reading. The highlighted changes include updated WIOA language, the retained Youth Committee/Youth Employment Council, and the addition of an optional seat for employers with over 1000 employees.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Judy Stanton and seconded by Garry Miller to approve the changes to the Bylaws. The motion passed.

#### 4. NEW BUSINESS

##### Youth Employment Council Report

Keith Kirkpatrick states that there are major shifts in Youth programming under WIOA. The focus is changing from a majority of in school programming to a majority of out of school programming and allows youth services to be provided to individuals up to the age of 24.

In an effort to provide work experience and training to our region's young people Mr. Kirkpatrick passed out a flyer asking individuals and businesses to invest in a youth this summer by providing work opportunities. The letter will be emailed to the workforce board. Members of the Youth Employment Council have also discussed this and other great ideas with the Porter County Community Foundation. There may be a possibility to roll this effort into an existing program to provide positive youth employment, options for early intervention, and drug abuse education with parent engagement. Board members caution that Workers Comp may not cover work for individuals under the age of 18 and to review the laws for working with youth.

Keith reviews the Youth Services RFP and the rate and review process. There were 3 submissions, Workforce Development Services (WDS) and JobWorks who are current providers and Goodwill Industries who submitted for the first time. There are two recommendations from Youth Council to the Northwest Indiana Workforce Board. The first recommendation is to retain JobWorks to do both in and out of school youth services. The 2<sup>nd</sup> recommendation is to have Goodwill Industries provide out of school services to Lake, LaPorte, and Porter Counties. These two recommendations were made during the Youth Council meeting coming to the Workforce Board as a motion.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Keith Kirkpatrick and the Youth Committee to retain JobWorks as a provider of in and out of school youth programs throughout the entire region.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Keith Kirkpatrick and the Youth Committee to have Goodwill Industries provide out of School JAG programs to Lake, LaPorte, and Porter Counties while allowing JobWorks to continue to work on an experimental JETS project.

Tammy Stump defines JETS as a program designed to prepare youth for business and industry success by using basic education and the high school equivalency prep in addition to instructional courses in Customer Service, Blueprint Ready, Introductions to Manufacturing and many other learning opportunities.

Keith Kirkpatrick reminds the Board that WDS has provided services to the Workforce Board for a number of years and that approving these motions will mean that WDS is no longer a service provider. It is noted that the discussion and recommendations from the Youth Committee are based solely on what was contained in the proposals.

There has been a lot of feedback to WDS regarding a lack of compliance and lack of data/information which is required by the state. This data, a required part of the program, is not being submitted and is therefore putting our Region in jeopardy. The Board discusses the submissions of Goodwill, JobWorks, and Workforce Development Services.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Keith Kirkpatrick and the Youth Committee to retain JobWorks as a provider of in and out of school youth programs throughout the entire region and to have Goodwill Industries provide out of School JAG programs to Lake, LaPorte, and Porter Counties while allowing JobWorks to continue to work on an experimental JETS project. Judy Stanton seconds the motion. Vote taken, one abstention by Gary Miller. **The motion passed.**

##### Executive Committee

George Douglas reviewed the Annual Board Commitment and asked the Board members to indicate their areas of interest and turn it in at the end of the meeting. He also asks that the Workforce Board consider continuing the working partnership between the Board, READY NWI, and the Region 1 Works Council. The hope is to continue to work together and align resources.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Frank Cardello and seconded by Arnold Ransom to approve the continuation of the existing staff support for READY NWI and the Region 1 Works Council. **The motion passed.**

Conflict of Interest Form

Adam Collins presented the Economic Statement of Interest form that was included in the Board books. Please complete and turn it in at the end of the meeting.

Resolution to Accept Funding

To support the work of the Board, CWI applies for Grants that require Board approval, so each year we ask that the Board move to accept funding.

**Motion:** A motion was made by George Douglas and seconded by Gary Olund to accept funding. **The motion passed.**

Chief Elected Officials & Northwest Indiana Workforce Board Agreement

The agreement between the Chief Elected Officials and the Workforce Board has been revised according to the WIOA legislation. The Chief Elected Officials met earlier this week and approved the agreement. Mrs. Woloshansky explains the changes.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Judy Stanton and seconded by George Douglas to approve the Agreement. **The motion passed.**

Policies

The Board policies that do not require changes due to WIOA have already been approved. The Board has 5 policies in front of them that require updates. The first policy defines the priorities of services. WIOA requires that individuals receive priority if they are/receive one or more of the following: Veterans and spouses of veterans, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients, persons who meet the 70% lower living standard, food stamp recipients, and who have a basic skills deficiency. The Priority of Service designations do not have a hierarchy.

The other four policies before the Board are youth policies and are focused on Work Experience, Occupational Skills Training and Providers, Support Services, and the Additional Assistance Eligibility for Youth and Young Adults.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Gary Olund and seconded by Frank Cardello to make the new and updated policies effective July 1, 2015. **The motion passed.**

Appointment of Nominating Committee

All Board Officers' terms will expire at the end of the program year. Deb Baughman, Gary Olund, Arleen Pearson, and Arnold Ransom have all agreed to be on the Nominating Committee.

**5. STAFF REPORT**

Dennis is not leaving DWD he is just stepping off this particular Board to help pass on the knowledge he has gained from our region and pass it on to others. Thank you for your service, Dennis. Bonnie Maxey has been nominated to serve on this board because it is out of her region and Dennis believes it will be good exposure for her.

Linda Woloshansky highlighted the Industry Sector Report Process that the Board has discussed in the past. This process as outlined in the booklet.

At the request of Dennis CWI has been providing Data to DWD for the National Emergency Grant for the US Steel layoffs in an effort to obtain these funds.

Manufacturing Day will be on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. READY NWI is turning Manufacturing Day into a week, and Congressman Visclosky wants to hold a Manufacturing Summit at the end of the week to support this effort. Made in LaPorte will affect 1,000 youth. We have already been reaching out to the schools and employers and have registered our participating communities on the Baldrige website.

Funding totals have been released. Overall Indiana has had lower unemployment than the rest of the country which led to reduced funding, but because our unemployment and poverty levels in the region has been higher than that of the rest of the state, our funds were only reduced by about 1 million dollars to 6.2 million.

Fifth Third Bank is going to be working with us in the Gary WorkOne for their Empowering Communities campaign on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. This program will focus on financial planning assistance and credit applications. The WorkOne staff is organizing a Job Fair to coincide with this effort.

Indiana University Northwest will be coming to the Hammond or Gary office the help Veterans transition into the labor force, discussing PTSD, and addressing issues they may have at home. This will be a week long effort.

The Times has really picked up on all the work that has been occurring on the Workforce Board. Every Sunday, they are featuring someone in a work place to talk about their career and the pathway they took to their current job. The Times will create a website that focuses on career education and employment, reflecting the work that is being done by this Board and the Works Council. They are also covering the "21 under 21" event at no cost.

#### Closing Notes

Joe Medellin went to the DEI conference and introduced the key note speaker, thank you. The speaker has offered to do an employer forum for free when it is needed. George Douglas was featured in an article about summer youth hiring. A copy is included in your board books. Thank you to Bob and Keith for going to the NAWB conference. Ben Scheiner and Galfab were recognized by DWD because they have been hiring WorkOne customers. Thank you again to Dennis Wimer for his service to the region. Thank you to those that made nominations to the Board. We will have some new Board members attending the meeting in July.

Keith Kirkpatrick added that he is looking at TANF and SNAP to help fund in school JAG.

#### **6. DATES TO REMEMBER**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.

David Broad, Secretary  
Crissy E. Dooley, Recording Secretary