

NORTHWEST INDIANA WORKFORCE BOARD MINUTES
Center of Workforce Innovations
May 25, 2017

Present:

Debi Baughman, Frank Cardello, Jim Clarida, Adam Collins, George Douglas, Ric Frataccia, Keith Kirkpatrick, Karen Kopka, Mary Lewis, Kristine Lukowski, Joe Medellin, Gary Miller, Gary Olund, Barb Sacha, Bob Schaefer, Ben Scheiner, Judy Stanton

Proxies:

Rich Gamblin, Arlene Pearson

Absent:

Thomas Coley, Kim DeQuis, Kris Emaus, Angela Hampton, Clausell Harding, Alishea Hawkins, Dan Murchek, Chris Smith

Staff:

Crissy Dooley, Robyn Minton, Tammy Stump, Linda Woloshansky

Guests:

Unknown Person, Aco Sikoski, Kathy Jaworski

Board quiz.

CALL TO ORDER

1. CONSENT AGENDA

George Douglas presented the consent agenda to the board for consideration.

Motion: A motion was made by Gary Olund and seconded by Mary Lewis to approve the consent agenda. **The motion passed.**

In addition to the annual third party audits, the Department of Workforce Development's (DWD) monitoring, and the Department of Labor (DOL) monitoring happening the week of June 5, 2017, the NWIWB staff (CWI) also monitors. The results of the latest monitoring were presented to the executive board are in the packet. The Executive minutes also show the adoption of the DWD policy that was released after the procurement.

2. NEW BUSINESS

Resolution to Accept Funding

George presented the resolution to accept funding to the board.

Motion: A motion was made by Frank Cardello and seconded by Karen Kopka to approve the resolution to accept funding. **The motion passed.**

Modification of Youth Contracts

George Douglas presented the recommendation to modify the youth provider contracts. Board Member Karen Kopka asked if there any concerns with extending the youth contracts since a reduction in funding is possible. Linda Woloshansky stated there are provisions in the contracts that allow for adjustments if there is a decrease in funding.

Motion: A motion was made by Judy Stanton and seconded by Mary Lewis to accept the modification recommendation for the youth provider contracts. **The motion passed.**

Nominating Committee

Each year a committee is created to nominate the new program year's NWIWB officer slate. George has spoken to Ric Frataccia, Barb Sacha, and Adam Collins who have agreed to serve in this respect and present the slate at the next meeting in July. George asked if any additional members would like to serve on the nominating committee. No other members volunteered. George thanked Rick, Barb, and Adam.

3. REPORTS

Youth Employment Council

Keith Kirkpatrick thanked the Board for welcoming Mike Baird who presented the Youth Council report at the March 2017 meeting. Aco Sikoski and Mike Baird have been an asset to the work ethic program because of their efforts to go out and visit different community organizations and make them aware of the program. In 2 months, they solidified the PowerPoint presentation, visited three rotary clubs, two Kiwanis clubs, and two chambers. Keith presented the earned Work Ethic Certificate to students at Lake Central High School where the faculty made a big deal out of the recipients receiving certificates.

Over 140 certificates were earned within seven schools in Lake, LaPorte, and Porter Counties. The 1st jobs campaign was expanded.

Aco Sikoski, the guest from Ivy Tech, stated that after each presentation the audience would always ask where they could get a list of students that were awarded the work ethic certificate. Keith said that the NWIWB is not in a position to provide and track this information because of the time and materials required but also because of safety concerns. Board member Adam Collins asked if it is possible to supply the list of employers who are interested in hiring students that have received the work ethic certificate. Tammy Stump responded that some schools have job boards that students are able to access.

George Douglas referenced an interesting youth employment article that is relevant to this conversation. He will forward it to Crissy Dooley for disbursement via email after the meeting.

Mary Lewis commended the Youth Council for a job well done, and their ability to overcome many obstacles to achieve success.

Works Council

Deb Baughman reported that the 21 Under 21 event was a success and keynote speaker, Tony Sindone, connected to the youth. Each year that the event takes place the students seem to get better and better. Many of the young students came with their families. It was easy to see the parents were so very proud to have their young person recognized.

Adult Education

The newly created competitive process for the \$2.38 million grant to cover adult education services across the region was completed. CWI received the award and will be contracting with a number of current providers for services. The intent of the HSE program is not only to have the students receive their HSE but move people to a credential, a post-secondary institution, into training, or a new/better job.

The NWIWB members congratulated CWI on this earned success.

4. OLD BUSINESS

State of the Workforce Report

Immediately after the State of the Workforce and Economic Indicators Breakfast, attendees received a Survey Monkey to evaluate the event. With a high response, the evaluations rated the event either meeting or exceeding expectations. Linda Woloshansky thanked Bob Schaefer for taking the report,

making sense out of it and presenting essential items. Linda also acknowledged the panelists Tony Sindone, Don Babcock, Marlon Mitchell, Peggy Buffington, and Leah Konrady. She also recognized the Forum's Indicators Report which was included in the SotW report as collaboration.

George and Linda referred the Board to the action items listed at the back of the State of the Workforce Report for discussion. Talking points included:

- Increase the number of high school and college graduates
- Ramp up post-secondary credentials
- Find ways to have other partners weigh in on the action items as part of the community
- Engage more employers to build skills for today and tomorrow
- Complete a skill set analysis

George mentioned having the Workforce Partnership discuss the action items and work out how the list should be accomplished. Keith Kirkpatrick said that there were a lot of new people in attendance and he would like someone to review the list to see what target demographics were hit.

Linda Woloshansky thanked Mary Lewis and Mary noted that Roy Vanderford did an excellent job.

5. PRESIDENT & STAFF REPORTS

State Legislation

Linda reviewed several impactful legislative developments.

Indiana Senate Bill 198 requires:

- Certification from an eligible training provider
- DWD labor market data to be used to guide education policy making
- Realignment of career and technical education instruction and funding to increase enrollments

It also makes approximately 4 million in funds available to Have customers complete their degree Allow an employer to have an employee credentialed Increase certification in a high-demand, high wage fields

Indiana House Bill 1001 increases funding for the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program and expands Work Indiana.

Indiana House Bill 1003:

- Replaces the ISTEP test after June 30, 2018
- Requires each student to demonstrate college or career readiness through a pathway established by the state board in consultation with DWD and CHE
- Requires an assessment to help students understand their college and career readiness and holds schools accountable for this preparation.

This bill states that 25% of graduating students need to be college and career ready. This can be determined through the SAT and the PSAT. Currently, the PSAT has a benchmark built into it so if students reach that benchmark that are already considered college ready. Another way they qualify as college and career ready is to have participated in a dual credit program.

Aco Sikoski discussed how Ivy Tech has begun their "Intrusive Career Counseling." Ric Frataccia stated that Valparaiso students are required to go through career clusters and that k-12 should not be the only institution be held accountable for issues regarding career cluster knowledge. Post-secondary and employers need to participate in awareness efforts.

Funding

Funding for the next program year will be increased by approximately \$650,000 because of the region's consistently high unemployment rate. In preparation of the budget, which will be presented at the next

Board meeting in July, we will be conservative in planned expenses until we see what next years' federal budget will look like. Significant reductions may be imposed beginning October 1, 2017. If there is no reallocation of funds then planned expenditures would be increased accordingly.

Board Member Gary Olund requested that we pay explicit attention to the federal budget being proposed. Much of the proposed changes will affect the people we are trying to help. Gary Olund further stated that an entire nationwide program devoted to energy assistance may be eliminated. Judy Stanton added that legal services, like the ones the NWI Volunteer Lawyers provide might have their funds cut as well.

George Douglas requested a 30-second platform/talking point list that addresses the needs of the customers that may be affected by these budget cuts. He also encouraged people to follow up with their legislators.

Industry Sector Strategies

The manufacturing sector strategy has had remarkable results. Our region's Skill-UP Grant has been a success in Pulaski County due to efforts there to retrain current workers in industrial maintenance. A number of employers, have teamed up to retrain existing workers in industrial maintenance. One company has opened up their location for training. The local economic development corporation moved equipment for this training from high school to the site. Linda Woloshansky thanked Ivy Tech for fine-tuning the training to the participating employers' needs.

In June, similar sector efforts will be taking place in healthcare. The Legacy Foundation, in Lake County Indiana, requested that we begin conversations with local community-based organizations to help find training options for them as well.

Building the One-Stop System

Robyn Minton said that discussions continue regarding the renegotiations for lease agreements and to garner efficiencies in the one-stop system. The Department of Workforce Development has reduced their number of staff in the WorkOnes leaving the same amount of work to be completed by fewer people. To fill the gap, the offices have begun to use senior interns. While this effort has proven useful, it is important to note that with the proposed federal budget this program may also be eliminated. As One-Stop Operator, we have been working with partners to negotiate costs, but most of them do not have funding and those that do have funding, it may be cut. Because of this reason we are meeting with DWD to discuss. Meetings with required partners continue to occur every other week to rework the MoUs/Agreements.

Ms. Minton also stated that staff has been prepping for the DOL monitoring that will take place the first full week in June.

Robyn stated that no offices are closing. WorkOne will still be in each community. However, staff are being reallocated as needed.

Closing Notes

George Douglas thanked the Board members for attending and hoped that everyone has a great long weekend. He acknowledged the contributions of Bob Schaefer and Judy Stanton for their contributions for numerous years to workforce development.

6. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned.

Gary Olund, Secretary
Crissy E. Dooley, Recording Secretary