

NORTHWEST INDIANA WORKFORCE BOARD MINUTES
Center of Workforce Innovations
November 16, 2017

Present:

Debi Baughman, Adam Collins, Frank Cardello, Jim Clarida, Kim DeQuis, Ric Frataccia, Rich Gamblin, Clausell Harding, Keith Kirkpatrick, Karen Kopka, Mary Lewis, Gary Miller, Joe Medellin, Barb Sacha, Ben Scheiner, Brenda Walters

Proxies:

Mike Barnes, George Douglas, Kris Emaus, Kristine Lukowski,

Absent:

R. Luis. Gonzalez, Dan Murchek, Gary Olund, Arlene Pearson, Africa Tarver, Chris Smith

Staff:

Sandra Alvarez, Crissy Dooley, Robyn Minton, Linda Woloshansky, Jennifer Zatarski

Guests:

Keith Hall, Kathy Jaworski

Board quiz.

CALL TO ORDER

Mary Lewis thanked Keith Kirkpatrick for being the Quiz Master and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

Mary Lewis asked if there were any updates or comments regarding the minutes.

Motion: A motion was made by Frank Cardello and seconded by Barbara Sacha to approve the consent agenda. **The motion passed.**

The financial numbers were updated to include the 20% that was previously withheld based on anticipated reductions in funds.

Robyn Minton reviewed the business services dashboard. The business services team tries to connect the job seekers with employers.

Motion: A motion was made by Jim Clarida and seconded by Rich Gamblin to approve the financials. **The motion passed.**

2. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss

3. OLD BUSINESS

State of the Workforce Action Items

The State of the Workforce Action Items chart has been updated to include what sources and resources will be utilized to reach the identified objectives. Linda Woloshansky requested volunteers to work with Sandra Alvarez to assess and update the employer engagement form. Joseph Medellin, Frank Cardello, Karen Morlan, and Rich Gamblin volunteered to help revamp the document.

4. PRESIDENT & STAFF REPORTS

Northwest Indiana Workforce Partnership

George Douglas has represented the NWIWB in this group and has identified Next Level Jobs as a program the team should support. The flyer included within the Board packet has been circulated to employer groups, community, and faith-based organizations, and other associations to ensure this information is put into the hands of employers and job seekers. Newspaper articles featuring this program will also be published. In Northwest Indiana, twenty-four employers have applied for funds. However, four have completed the process and are eligible for grant funds. 13% of applicants or approximately 1300 individuals are from NWI and have made inquiries into individual grant funding. 11% of the total used funds have been applied in our region.

Ben Scheiner, Adam Collins, and Frank Cardello would like a list of certifications.

Blair Milo, Secretary of Career Connections and Talent, will be speaking about the Next Level Jobs program at the January 25, 2017, meeting.

Sector Strategies

Approximately 83 employers, 35 schools, and 3000 participants were touched by Manufacturing Day events that took place from the end of September into October; we are working to have Newton County participate more in next year's Manufacturing Day.

A videographer was secured to create a promotional film that will be used to promote next year's Manufacturing Day. There were two days of filming in Starke County and the City of Hobart. The video included interviews with economic developers, teachers, employers, and students.

The Healthcare Consortium held their 3rd meeting and had 68 people in attendance. 21 of those people represented employers. Attendees talked about building the pipeline and career pathways.

For the Construction & Trades Industry, there is an event on November 28, 2017, from 2 pm – 4:30 pm Central. Without public attendance, we currently have about 1000 students scheduled to attend.

Regional Economic Development Plan

The Northwest Indiana Forum has taken the lead in the creation of a regional economic development plan and have asked that the NWIWB support this project. The Forum released a competitive RFP and has since opened a dialogue with a consulting group. The Forum has requested the Board's support because workforce development will be a part of this plan and it will become increasingly important for the Board to participate in the overall objectives.

Motion: A motion was made by Ben Scheiner and seconded by Jim Clarida to support the creation and participation of the Forum's Regional Economic Development Plan. **The motion passed.**

The Forum may reach out to the Board members to gain insights or to connect with additional resources.

5. COMMITTEE/COUNCIL REPORTS

One Stop Center Certification

Jim Clarida reported that the Certification Team went to Hammond Office. DWD requires that one full-service office must be certified by the end of the year with all offices being completed by March 31st. Some staff were interviewed, and all seemed very professional, knowledgeable, and passionate about their work. Only one issue was found, and a corrective action plan was created and quickly put into place. The Certification Committee is sending a letter to DWD stating they are certifying the Hammond Office as meeting standards. The Portage office is scheduled for review next.

Youth Employment Council

The work ethic program continues to be promoted to employers. One of the struggles the Council has faced is moving the program forward for both the students and employer demand at the same time. Volunteers have made presentations to local employer groups like Kiwanis and Rotary. Although the Work Ethic Certificate will not be verified through education check, the program is leaning towards having the students self-advocate.

The JAG Career Development Conference is scheduled for January 26, 2018. Keith Kirkpatrick requested volunteers. Ben Scheiner, Debi Baughman, Mary Lewis, Barbara Sacha, Clausell Harding, Jim Clarida, and Kim DeQuis volunteered.

Ben Scheiner remarked on how the event is such a good experience to participate in because of the students.

The Youth Team is also beginning the RFP process. The March 2018 meeting will have youth provider recommendations to present to the Board.

Closing Notes

Prompt Ambulance is splitting into three companies. The Vice Presidents that have worked with the company will be taking over 2 of them. Gary Miller and his wife hope to retire.

There are two new Board members: Africa Tarver of the City of Hammond and Luis Gonzalez of Ivy Tech.

Blair Milo will be attending the January 2018 meeting.

The next meeting is January 25, 2018.

Keith Hall from First Robotics spoke to the Board regarding the First Tech Challenge Qualifying Tournament at Griffith High School. The event starts at 7 am on January 14, 2018, and ends at 6 pm. Please consider First Robotics as a STEM solution. He also encouraged people to talk to students and principal. It is located at Griffith High School, 600 North Wiggs Street, Griffith, IN 46319 U.S.A.

6. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned.

Gary Olund, Secretary
Crissy E. Dooley, Recording Secretary