

Job Center Board
March 25, 2021

Call to Order

Chris Casey called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The following members and staff were in attendance:

Roll Call

Daniel Bates	Alice Bunjan –remote	Chris Casey – remote
Tonya Flannery – remote	Barb Fraser – remote	Richard Gloede – remote
Val Harris – remote	Mike Kelly – remote	Terry Lane – remote
Dirk Muffler – remote	Timothy Preston – remote	Jennifer Russell – remote
Bob Sancamper – remote	Betty Scheldt	Mike Sherer –remote
Dave Thomas - remote	Dr. Kenneth Trzaska – remote	Jo Wilson – remote

Chairman Report

Chairman Bates started the meeting by asking if there were any questions or comments regarding the January 28, 2021 meeting minutes. There being none:

Motion: It was moved by Chris Casey and seconded by Tonya Flannery to approve the January 28, 2021 JCB Meeting Minutes as presented. All votes aye. **Motion Carried.**

Partner Reports

Val Harris, Lewis and Clark Community College, Adult Education – Lincoln Land has a new Adult Education Director, Mr. Steele. Mr. Steele, Dirk Muffler and Val have all been busy preparing Grant Applications for the year and trying to decide whether graduation ceremonies will be in person or not. Lewis and Clark is looking at doing more in-person instruction a little bit this summer and more in the fall while maintaining their virtual instruction as well and doing some creative partnering in virtual and in-person learning to allow more people to access their programs.

Alice Bunjan, Lewis and Clark Community College, Perkins Post-Secondary –The SNAP program that offers food assistance has lifted the work requirement for students that are Pell eligible due to the fact that COVID has shut down many businesses. Lewis and Clark is starting a few new programs, diesel and pharmacy tech.

Dr. Kenneth Trzaska, - Lewis and Clark Community College, President – The new President attended to give us an update on new things going on at the college. He is working to re-evaluate the strategic plan, working with his team to measure outputs to see where improvement is needed and refine what is being done. Four key directives framing the strategic plan are to expect enrollment and retention improvement, invest in programs and curriculum development, build a transparent and inclusive campus culture and broaden community and educational collaboration.

Chris Casey, Private Sector Board Member - Chris informed everyone that he is now engaged with a wedding date of August 21st. He is also going to be starting his own business in Hillsboro to run a property management group.

Tim Preston, DORS – They are needing referrals. The agency has a lot of federal money to spend, but not enough people to spend it on. Most of the work they do is remote.

Jennifer Russell, U of I Extension – The Extension has been working with the Carrollton Square Initiative to study downtown development. The group was just organized and they have about 200 people that are interested in the project. One of the items they are exploring is daycare in the community. Jennifer's team of educators who work throughout the state started a program many years ago called LGE (Local Government Education) which is a webinar based program, usually at noon, always taped and archived. That data goes out to about 4000 people. This group has been approached by many people on topics that is of interest to community leaders. A big part of the focus was on broadband initiatives. Other topics include telemedicine, food systems and redistricting. She has also been working with the CEO program with high school seniors. Jennifer also wrote a grant to connect researchers on campus in the area of tourism development and utilize this research project to impact local businesses in rural communities to interface their businesses with tourism.

Barb Fraser, IDES – IDES is still having employees work from home. She is still making contact with workshop participants every month. The State is offering virtual job fairs. Employers are still struggling to find qualified applicants. The extension for unemployment is now going to September. IDES is still doing employer service programs. The fraudulent claims are mostly under control. There is a major employment source that will be closing in Litchfield so about 275-300 people will be out of a job.

Tonya Flannery- City of Litchfield – Schutt Manufacturing is the business that may be leaving Illinois. They have not received anything official yet. Litchfield has been working with them for many years to stay in Litchfield to no avail.

Dirk Muffler, ROE 40 – GED Orientations will begin in April,

Mike Kelly, Illinois Valley Economic Development Council – LHEAP for energy assistance is increased. They received over 700 applications. They have been busy assisting people who are facing homelessness and the weatherization program. There's been an increase in meal delivery.

Bob Sancamper, Labor – Work has begun to start. They are patching 67 South of Macoupin Creek in Greene County. Carrollton is redoing their sidewalks and curbing. Shell refinery has shut down. It is looking to be a good year for construction.

Dick Gloede, Private Sector Board Member – Tourism is picking up in Shelby County but they are having a hard time finding people to work at the businesses.

Chairman Daniel Bates asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the PY 21 MOU draft budget. There being none:

Motion: It was moved by Dick Gloede and seconded by Chris Casey to approve the PY 21 MOU draft budget as presented. All votes aye. **Motion Carried.**

Fiscal Report

Fiscal Officer Kristy Swearingen reviewed the Fiscal Report as of February 28, 2021. December 31, 2020, which was included in the meeting packet. Without the traffic coming into the office because of COVID, the money has not been spent that usually is. We have not hit the 80% for adult or youth, so a waiver has been applied for. Several grants will be closing out soon. We requested more money in our trade program to finish out one person's training.

Staff Report

Betty Scheldt gave the Staff to the LWIB report. The PY 21 MOU draft budget must be submitted to the state by April 15, 2021. The partners and Kristy have been meeting to discuss the new budget. The final MOU and budget for PY 21 must be submitted to the state by June 30, 2021. The RFP for the One-stop Operator is available on West Central's website. Chris Casey is responsible for sending out the requests for a copy of the RFP and receiving them when they are finished. Job Center Board members will have to be recertified by October 14, 2021. The applications will be going out in June or July. A chart with upcoming deadlines was included in the meeting packet. Chairman Bates suggested that a letter be sent to members that never attend and do not assign a proxy to be replaced.

Director's Report

Mike Sherer reported on the items included in the meeting packet which included a one page summary on the auditor's results of Findings and Questioned Costs for the year ended June 30, 2020. The agency was monitored by the state a month or so ago, but we have not heard anything back yet. Mike stated that he appreciated staff's assistance in getting documents ready for the monitoring. Also in the packet were flyers on the programs that funding is still available and the eligibility requirements to enroll.

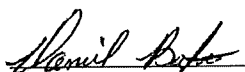
Motion: It was moved by Val Harris and seconded by Chris Casey to approve the Fiscal/Staff//Director reports as presented. All votes aye. **Motion Carried.**

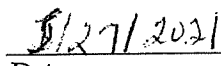
The next JCB Meeting will be Thursday, May 27, 2021.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Motion: It was moved by Dick Gloede and seconded by Val Harris to adjourn. All votes aye. **Motion Carried.**


JCB Chairperson


Date