

Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2024

In Person

Dan Bates
Ben Beckwith
Chris Casey
Richard Gloede
Dr. Val Harris
Lindey Hays
Robert Heape
Matt Jones
David Lacy
David Mansfield
Chuck McEvers
Marsha Mueller-Boehler
Jennifer Russell
Betty Scheldt
Stephanie Stahlhut
Nick Williams

Online

Vicky McElroy
Dirk Muffler
Trevor Lawson

Chair Dan Bates called the meeting to order at 5:52 p.m. Roll Call was taken by self-introductions.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Bates asked if there were any corrections or comments on the minutes from the August 22, 2024, Workforce Development Board Meeting as provided in the meeting packet. There being none:

Motion: It was moved by Dick Gloede and seconded by Dr. Val Harris, to approve the August 22, 2024, Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes as presented. All votes aye. **Motion carried.**

Staff Reports

Betty Scheldt reported that Tim Golemo will be doing the EO Monitoring in the One-Stop Offices on December 9th through the 11th.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Ben Beckwith was called on to give the Fiscal Officer's Report. The report was included in the meeting packet. Ben reviewed current grants, pending and upcoming grants, key financial metrics, budgets, obligations, overhead, and year-to-date projections. Ben had two voting items that needed to be approved. He asked for approval on the participant mileage to remain at \$.50/mile with a maximum of \$60 per day from Jan. 1, 2025 – March 31, 2025 and will reassess at the February meeting. The second item was to approve a budget transfer of up to \$100,000

from Dislocated worker to Adult with a reassessment at the February 2025 meeting to see if an additional transfer is necessary. Chair Bates asked for a motion to approve both items

Motion: A motion was made by Chuck McEvers, seconded by Dr. Val Harris to approve the participant mileage rate and the transfer of \$100,000 from Dislocated Worker funds to the Adult funds as presented in the meeting packet. All votes aye. **Motion Carried.**

Program Manager's Report:

Chris Casey presented to the board changes to three policy letters for approval. The letters were included in the meeting packet with the changes to be made in red print. The first change was to Policy Letter #7 regarding selective service. The changes ensure compliance with the US Department of Labor issued guidance on Selective Service requirements for WIOA Title I programs. The second, Policy Letter #11 is regarding Adult and Dislocated Worker Follow-Up Services. The change was for additional language in the Dislocated Workers follow-up policy. The third, Policy Letter #11-1 is regarding Youth WIOA Follow-Up Services which outlines leadership development and supportive services. The ISS Youth Plan includes follow-up services after exiting. Chair Bates asked for a motion to approve all 3 Policy Letter Changes as presented in the meeting packet.

Motion: A motion was made by Dr. Val Harris, seconded by Chuck McEvers to approve the changes to Policy Letters #7, 11 and 11-1 as presented. All votes aye. **Motion Carried.**

Chris then reviewed the LWIB Program Oversight Report included in the packet. As of November 11, 2024, there are 91 active participants; 88 are in the exited/follow-up stage and 32 individuals have completed the follow-up stage, for a total of 211 total participants served. Chris explained the graphics included in his report: Overview of Enrollment Status of Participants, Current Enrollment by county and WIOA Category, Exit/Follow-up by County and WIOA Category, Completed Program by county and WIOA Category, Breakdown of Enrollments by Program Area, Number of Participants by Education Provider. Breakdown of Enrollment by Providers, Percentage of Enrollments by Department of Labor Category, Overview of Paid Work Experience by County, Overview of Career Specialist Caseload, county Breakdown of Career Specialist Caseload and Overview of Past Core A Services. The remaining charts were statistics for the website. These reports included Number of Page views/Visitors since May of 2023, Breakdown of Page views/Visitors by Month, Average Number of Site Per Visit and a Year-to-Date Overview.

Executive Director's Report

Matt Jones started his report by thanking board members for the great turn-out. He thanked Marsha for the meal preparation and Betty for the meeting preparation and Ben & Chris for the great reports. Matt explained he had a few voting items to discuss. The first regarding the relocation of the Litchfield Job Center from 108 E. Columbian to 311 South State Street in Litchfield (South Litchfield Township Office). The lease agreement is being completed. The reason for the move is to save money in the long run. The prior site had more space than we needed and cost more money to rent. Chairman Bates asked for a motion to approve the move from 108 E. Columbian to 311 South State Street.

Motion: A motion was made by Dr. Val Harris, seconded by Stephanie Stahlhut to move the Job Center from 108 E. Columbian to 311 South State Street in Litchfield. All votes aye. **Motion Carried.**

The second voting item was approval to have a West Central Development Council Annual Board Open House on December 18, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Refreshments and light snacks will be provided. A flyer was included in the meeting packet. Chair Bates asked for a motion to approve the WCDC Annual Board Open House as presented.

Motion: A motion was made by Dick Gloede, seconded by Dr. Val Harris to approve the WCDC Annual Board Open House on December 18, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. All votes aye. **Motion Carried.**

Matt then reviewed the LWIA 21 Staff Organizational Chart. It has been updated to remove Connie Pitts since she has officially retired. He reviewed the status of the Workforce Development Board membership. Added to our membership roster are Sarah McConnell (replacing Tonya Flannery) and Lindey Hays (replacing Debbie O'Dell). We still need a replacement for Jim Timpe. Matt then overviewed the other documents in the meeting packet including the Preliminary Outcomes of the Performance Measures, the Core A Services, IDES Report on the Unemployment Stats for September 2024, the Labor Market Report, the Workshare IL Program, LWIA 21 Workforce Development Board National Apprenticeship Week Proclamation, Participant Success Stories and Manufacturing Week.

Committee Reports

Business Services Team – Robert Heape reported on the Business Services Team Committee Meeting held at 3:00 p.m. before the WDB Meeting. Chris Casey was at Graham Correctional Center to represent WIOA at the Re-Entry Resource Fair and Robert will be going to the Jacksonville Correctional Center tomorrow. A joint workshop for Businesses with DRS and WIOA is being planned.

One-Stop Partner Committee – Dr. Val Harris reported on the One-Stop Partner Committee Meeting held at 3:30 p.m. Discussions included the customer satisfaction surveys and referral process. We are going to wait for the IWDS 2.0 update to come out to see what kind of process they include in the new system. Dr. Harris will set up a meeting on December 13th for more discussion on the Service Integration Goals.

Policy Committee – Chris Casey reported a meeting was held a few weeks ago to discuss the state language required to be included in three policy letters. They will need to continue meeting to work on upcoming policy changes from DCEO.

Youth Committee – Chuck McEvers reported on the Youth Committee Meeting held at 4:30 p.m. There was a brief discussion on issues with High School Diploma/GED classes. Jennifer Russell shared statistics regarding social isolation among young men and the increase in their chances of suicide because of that. North Greene is working on a project called “The Anxious Generation.”

It encompasses a study on young people and how their attention spans are getting smaller and their ability to socially interact is getting less and less because of electronics. We had conversations about possibly collaborating on Career Pathways for alternative settings like dual credits, etc. We are planning a meeting on January 8th at 3:30 p.m. for more discussion on these topics.

Matt made an announcement that Annie Dorr, our Regional Manager at DCEO, is retiring at the end of December.

Partner Reports

Trevor Lawson, IDES – IDES still has gotten no word on the closure of the Viper Mine in Williamsville. It will be the first CEJA WARN notification submitted in Illinois. If he hears any updates he will contact Matt.

Vicky McElroy, Labor Rep. – In 57 counties which includes 16 locals, there are 670 apprenticeships. All locals are taking applications on the first Tuesday of each month and their open online for two weeks. Solar fields and wind farms are starting. Locals are building their lists for spring jobs. The age has changed from 18 to 17. They must have proof of age and either a high school diploma or GED. They run a lot of classes, three to four each week at all four facilities.

Robert Heape, DRS – There has been some significant changes made at DRS. There is no longer an income limit on what DRS will pay for individuals with a disability. In the past there was a financial analysis in eligibility. If a person made too much, they wouldn't pay for college or technology. The second change is the CTP programs at colleges for people with intellectual disabilities. It helps them and leads them to employment at the end through work experience, social skills and job skills. These are federally recognized programs throughout the United States. Blackburn and Lewis and Clark provide these programs. DRS just started funding these programs and without asset limitations.

Jennifer Russell, U of I Extension – Jennifer recently toured the Alton Works Wedge Building. They are looking at a medical district between hospitals in the region and mental health to become a resource for youth mental health. In Greene County there is a new boutique opened called Pretty in Pink and they are doing well. Jennifer has been working with schools on the Real Colors Program that teaches kids communication skills, teamwork and understanding their own temperament. They are needing more money for the programs. She discussed the My Hometown is Cool program. This involves students from 5th grade up to high school. It is four lessons to help them understand the strong points of community, then they do a video of how cool their community is and things that could make it cooler. She just came back from a conference on Pairing Youth with County Government.

David Mansfield, Private Sector – Harvest is over and it's muddy from all of the rain.

Stephanie Stahlhut, Illinois Valley – They received a grant from DHS called the Barrier Reduction Grant for Employment Barriers. The only guidelines are they either have to be employed or are looking for employment; then they get Medicaid or TANF. Illinois Valley also

assists with rental assistance, gas, car repairs, school, tools and uniforms. Illinois Valley is in the process of purchasing land in Jersey County for a new facility.

Dr. Val Harris, Lewis and Clark Community College – The college is winding up their classes. They end on the 19th of December and will start up again in January. Last year the college served 429 students and met or exceeded all the state targets except for the median wages earned. It's Area Planning Council time. She will be sending out surveys for the plan that is scheduled for February. She updated everyone on the CEJA grant. They have started training people. Fifteen to sixteen finished the solar training on December 13th. There will be a Career Fair on the 11th of solar employers so the students will hopefully become employed in the industry. Five of six people have completed the Climate Workers Construction Training. Lewis and Clark will be hiring a coordinator for a non-credit training class. CDLB training classes have started this week. It is a four-week training. They will be starting a Human Services degree around mental health and Drone training will start in February. They are continuing with Avionics, Phlebotomy, and Home Health Care Training. Youth Build students have completed the home they built in Alton from the ground up and they have someone moving into it.

Chuck McEvers, Private Sector – The Day Care program is moving forward. Contractors have been in to inspect the floor. He has attended a few Skills USA Conferences. It is like a clearinghouse of all the different businesses, clubs and industrial arts and they focus mainly on the trades and they are a licensed apprentice provider with the State.

David Lacy, IDES – IDES has been taking walk-in appointments in the local offices. They have been busy with layoffs.

Nick Williams, Private Sector – It's been a good year for harvest, but slow in the banking business. Interest rates are coming down, but they are still high.

Dick Gloede, Private Sector – A new housing development is starting in Shelby County. They are doing a downtown revival. There is a very active group raising money for the Shelbyville area. So far they have raised about a million dollars.

Lindsey Hays, Private Sector – The CNA program had several students and a few of them did apply for positions.

Nick Williams asked if a person can still get a CDL from the Illinois Secretary of State or do you have to go to a school to receive your license? The reply was you must attend a school for training first.

Chair Bates informed the board that there is a new boutique in Carlinville called the 1917 Boutique. It is a home décor type store. Above it is a bed and breakfast.

Next Meeting Date

The next Workforce Development Board meeting will be on February 27, 2025. A meeting notice will be sent out as a reminder. All committees will meet that same day at the usual times. Meeting notices will be sent out for those as well.

Adjournment was at 7:16 p.m.

Vice William. Rios
Chair

27 Feb 25
Date