

Mid America Workforce Investment Board Meeting
February 9, 2023
Meeting Minutes
Via Zoom

Members Present:

Cristina Fernandez	Eric Brammerier	Tony White
Mike Reed	Ashley Holmes	George Evans
Larry McLean	Mereadith Shivers	Lial Field
Donna Richter	Larry Unverfehrt	Ken Kenney
Paul Ellis	Edmond Brown	Carol Foreman
Chris Klay	Lynette Drake	Dawn Swift
Richard Sauget Jr.		

Staff:

Rick Stubblefield	Lee Reese
Linda Vanderpluym	Cindy Layman

Guest:

Bryan Ellis

Chairman Rich Sauget called the meeting to order at 8:34 AM. Lee Reese conducted roll call and a quorum had been established. Rick Stubblefield introduced Bryan Ellis, Downstate Workforce Development Regional Manager of Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity.

Lee presented the Systems Development & Oversight Committee report. The committee last met on January 24th via Zoom and the minutes are in the packet. The main points of discussion were: budget negotiation is underway, the Orientation at the One-Stop will now have IDES, SWIC, and Voc. Rehab presenting their information again, there have been staffing challenges with the re-opening of the One-Stop such as Caritas workers maxed out on hours they can work and new workers have not been identified yet, and status of the One-Stop partners returning to the One Stop and their activities in their own offices. There will be a meeting at the One-Stop soon to discuss the One Stop staffing issues. Next, Paul Ellis presented the Marketing & Economic Development Committee Report, noting that the committee met via Zoom on January 25th and the minutes are in the packet. Under the guidance of the Marketing Plan that was approved at the last Board meeting, this committee is taking action to get the word out about WIOA services, especially Paid Work Experience and Incumbent Worker Training. In addition, efforts are being made to expand the membership of the committee and Paul asked that Board members let him know about anyone that they would recommend to be on the committee. Larry McLean presented the Youth Council report from the Zoom meeting on January 26th. Larry reported that Ken Kenney presided due to some technical difficulties Larry was experiencing and thanked him for that. The Council was introduced to a new staff

member, Sandy Billhartz, Youth Compliance Specialist, and welcomed her. Reports show a slow start in terms of enrollments and services, but this was expected. It is anticipated that SWIC and the Workforce Development Group will get the numbers where they need to be. There are some job fairs in the near future for both youth and adults. Lastly, the Council is recommending a revision to the Supportive Services Policy for SWIC to mirror the policy the Workforce Development Group is utilizing. This is a consent agenda item. Chairman Sauget reported on the Executive Committee's Zoom meeting on February 2nd. The committee heard the reports of the committees and reviewed action items for the consent agenda. One such item was the Incumbent Worker Training project proposals. He referenced an email that the Board members should have received from Rick regarding the financial status of the Workforce Development Group and provided Rick an opportunity to expound upon the situation. Rick explained the circumstances surrounding the deficit in spending and actions that are being taken to rectify the situation. He also shared that we have job openings for the Youth program, the Monroe County office, and the Clinton County office. Paul inquired about the types of businesses that would be a good fit for Paid Work Experience sites and for Incumbent Worker Training. Rick provided a response and encouraged Board members to reach out to him or Lee for more information. Rick invited Bryan Ellis to comment. Bryan provided a response from the State's perspective regarding services, policies, and the Workforce Development Group's performance. He requested that the Board assist with referrals of businesses and job seekers. Bryan concluded with thanking the Board for their time and commitment to the area. Larry inquired about the end requirements/expectations for Paid Work Experience, Incumbent Worker Training, and other work-based learning programs. Rick explained eligibility for the different programs. For WIOA Partner updates, Dawn Swift reported that IDES is meeting and assisting people by appointment only. To assist Dislocated Workers, there is an approved referral form that is now in use and will be given to all customers.

Lee presented the Operations Report, highlighting the performance report in the packet. At the time the report was run, we were meeting or exceeding in 8 of 15 measures. Lee ran that report again the morning of the MAWIB meeting and it increased to 11 of 15 categories. Staff members were attending training with Jim Potts from DCEO. The Quarterly Services Report indicates being at the same level as last year at this time. The financial reports were presented by Rick and Linda Vanderpluym. Linda noted that a year-end calculation indicates a \$300,000.00 deficit. A request was submitted to move funds around to cover this and it was just recently approved. As part of the One-Stop Operator update, Lee indicated there is a letter that needs the Board's approval to submit to DCEO regarding a revision to the MOU. There is a list of training programs that need approval as part of the Consent Agenda. The training providers are already approved. These are additional programs that need to be added. Incumbent Worker Project proposals submitted in the packet and are Consent Agenda items are, as follows:

- Roeslein Modular Fabrication, Red Bud (Randolph County) - \$3,300.00
- Velocity Metalworks (formerly AAA Tool & Machine), O'Fallon (St. Clair County) - \$17,339.00
- RBI Tech Support, Inc. (Red Bud Industries), Red Bud (Randolph County) – \$43,732.00
- MAC Medical, Millstadt (St. Clair County) - \$32,170.00
- HTS Coatings, Madison (St. Clair County) - \$17,853.00

A Supportive Service policy was part of the packet as well. The Policy was revised to increase the rate of mileage reimbursement to the Federal rate and there was an increase to the childcare assistance amounts. Revisions to the policy were based on guidance from Deb Waldrop and Bryan Ellis of DCEO. Larry inquired about any issues when

funding is not as plentiful as they are currently. Rick explained that reimbursement was based on availability of funds to do so. It was noted that due to current circumstances issues, including Incumbent Training Projects, needing attention may come up between meetings. It was requested to add to the Consent Agenda that the Executive Committee has the authority to act on the board's behalf between meetings. Lee highlighted some success stories from the last quarter. Chairman Sauget requested a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented, Items 1 – 7, which consisted of:

1. Approval of Minutes from the October 13th MAWIB Meeting
2. Approval of SWIC Youth Supportive Services Increase Amendment
3. One-Stop MOU Revision Approval
4. Approval of New Training Programs
5. Approval of 5 IWT projects
6. Approval of LWIA 24 Supportive Services Policy
7. Authorize Executive Committee to Approve Projects Between Meetings

Mike Reed made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, it was seconded, and the items were unanimously approved.

There being no comments from visitors nor Board Members, Chairman Sauget asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Mike Reed and seconded. The meeting was adjourned.