

## Mid America Workforce Investment Board Meeting

April 13, 2023

### Meeting Minutes

Via Zoom

#### Members Present:

Eric Brammeier	Mark Hinrichs	George Obernagel
Lynette Drake	Ashley Holmes	Donna Richter
Paul Ellis	Ken Kenney	Richard Sauget Jr.
Cristina Fernandez	Chris Klay	Mereadith Shivers
Carol Foreman	Vicky McElroy	Dawn Swift
Matt Gomric	Larry McLean	Tony White

#### Staff:

Rick Stubblefield	Brenda Boggs	Sandy Billhartz
Linda Vanderpluym	Monik Patterson	Bonnie Forker
Lee Reese	Cindy Layman	

#### Guest:

Bryan Ellis                      Chelsea Qualls

Chairman Rich Sauget called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM. Lee Reese conducted roll call and a quorum had been established.

Lee presented the Systems Development & Oversight Committee report. He summarized the contents of the meeting minutes from 3/20, which are included in the Board packet. He also shared that yesterday there was a partner meeting to negotiate the One Stop budget. As a result, an Outcomes Report was being created. Paul Ellis began the report regarding the Marketing & Economic Development Committee Report sharing that there has been an addition of one member from Mascoutah to the committee and a couple more members to be added soon. Paul reported he had had an opportunity a week ago to visit with Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski and workforce development was a topic of their discussion. He advised the Board that as of May 3, he would be retired. Lee added a summary of his lunch meeting with Congresswoman Budzinski. Members of the Board wished Paul well in his retirement and Chairman Sauget expressed gratitude for Paul's service to the Board. For the Youth Council report, Larry McLean referred Board members to the minutes of the Council meeting found in the packet. Larry highlighted that there have been challenges to bring the Youth program in house, some was expected but not staff turnover. He acknowledged that the challenge of the size of the caseload brought in house was potentially larger than expected and due to lapse in contact with participants, it made it difficult to reconnect with some of the youth and resulted in negative exits. Performance is a real concern as it relates to the Measurable Skills Gain, but all challenges mentioned are being worked on. It was stated that the Paid Work Experience sites list was growing and pleased to see the quality, as well as the

quantity, of employers. Lastly, Larry mentioned a couple of action items for the consent agenda. One was to adopt the proposed Youth Needing Additional Assistance policy. The other was a recommendation to approve SWIC's request to revise their paperwork incentive amount so that it parallels the in-house policy. Chairman Sauget reported on the Executive Committee's Zoom meeting. The committee heard the reports of the committees and reviewed action items for the consent agenda. It was reported that the consent agenda items were approved. The closing of Wal-Mart in Cahokia Heights was mentioned and at the time of the Committee meeting, there was no traction on being able to connect with affected workers. Lee interjected that contact had been made and a Rapid Response was scheduled for April 19. For WIOA Partner updates, Lee called on each partner to report out. Meredith Shivers of Adult Education reported High School Equivalency graduation is May 17 at 6:00 pm at SWIC Belleville campus in the main gym. Cristina Fernandez stated she really didn't have an update. They are fully open, conducting as needed interviews either in-person or over the phone for SNAP, medical, and cash programs. Ashley Holmes stated that Vocational Rehabilitation is open and they are assisting their customers by appointment but are not seeing the customers in person. Dawn Swift reported that IDES is meeting and assisting people by appointment only.

Lee presented the Operations Report, highlighting the performance reports in the packet. Lee reiterated that Measurable Skills Gain especially for Youth was the biggest concern. Some of this is attributable to the negative exits without receiving transcripts or other proof of education completion. Staff are identifying possibilities of attaining high school transcripts whenever possible for current case load and look at other ways to overcome performance. He commended staff for their efforts. The Quarterly Services Report indicates we are up considerably compared to this time last year. Lee noted that staff are really stepping up. He also shared that there is one new Career Specialist starting Monday for Youth program. There will be another Career Specialist for Monroe County starting soon. Interviews have been conducted to potentially add one more Youth Career Specialist and another Career Specialist at the Belleville office. Rick addressed the financial reports. He stated that as noted in previous meetings that we had a lot of ground to make up in spending funding from grant 201 as well as obligating 80% of funds for 202. A lot of work has been done with DCEO to strategize and implement means of doing so. Made some great strides so far but still a lot to happen in the next 60 days. Rick thinks we will hit the mark regarding grant 201 funds being spent. A slightly bigger challenge is making sure we have obligated 80% of the current grant. Some work is happening towards a Summer Youth program. One difficulty with the 80% obligation is that funds for Paid Worker Experience cannot be counted until a check is written as opposed to OJT where funds are obligated up front. Rick asked the Board to reach out if they know of any opportunities for OJTs. Similarly, Incumbent Worker Training projects are beneficial. There is only a certain amount that can be allocated to that line item. In addition to the projects on the consent agenda, there are a couple of items that will be presented most likely to the Executive Committee prior to the next Board meeting and prior to June 30 but we're getting close to having funding spent out. There will also be negotiations with SWIC regarding their contract. Rick is optimistic we will reach our goals. In the process of making these great strides, next year's budget will be coming out. So, there is still a large amount of work left to be done. Rick acknowledged Board members have reached out to try to assist

and expressed appreciation. He is also hopeful that we will be able to benefit from assisting Wal-Mart employees, which goes towards our Dislocated Worker numbers. Rick let the Board know that there's a big balancing act when it comes to our activities and the movement of money and told the Board that Linda Vanderplyum and Jennifer Johnson have been working hard to keep things going. Rick then asked Bryan Ellis of DCEO if he wanted to make any comments. Bryan stated that he is noticing the progress being made and is appreciative of it. He noted the huge lift that has been occurring. As part of the One-Stop update, Lee indicated there has been an increase of those attending orientations. The referral process between WIOA and IDES is going well since some of the IDES staff are now seated near WIOA staff. There was a meeting of the partners to go over the budget and that is moving forward. Chairman Sauget inquired if any Board members had any questions about the Incumbent Worker Project proposals submitted in the packet and are Consent Agenda items. Rick noted that in the Executive Committee meeting an additional project was alluded to and that it would be presented shortly to the Committee for approval to move forward but it wasn't quite ready at this moment. Additionally, the Executive Committee will be asked to approve some Youth contracts. Chairman Sauget inquired to the dollar amount for the not yet presented Incumbent Worker proposal. It was reported that it was \$64,000. He requested it be noted in the minutes that the amount was within the range previously discussed and is reasonable, but if it would become outside the general scope, the proposal may have to be brought to the Board at the next meeting. This is a normal thing that has occurred in the past and the Executive Committee will take this proposal under advisement and will act upon it accordingly. Incumbent Worker Training proposals for the Consent Agenda were:

- Roeslein Modular Fabrication, Red Bud (Randolph County) - \$13,909.00
- Ace Grease, Millstadt (St. Clair County) - \$15,312.00
- Red Bud Industries, Red Bud (Randolph County) – \$59,888.00
- Kohlen Concrete, Germantown (Clinton County) - \$6,825.00

Chairman Sauget requested a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented, Items 1 – 4, which consisted of:

1. Approval of Minutes from the February 9<sup>th</sup> MAWIB Meeting
2. Approval of 4 IWT projects
3. Approval of Youth Needing Additional Assistance Policy
4. Approval of SWIC request to increase Paperwork Completion Incentive from \$50.00 to \$100.00

Tony White 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 Larry McLean and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 AM.