

Mid America Workforce Investment Board Meeting

October 12, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Belleville One Stop

Members Present:

Cristina Fernandez	George Obernagel	Mike Reed
Larry McLean	Rick Parks	Richard Sauget Jr.
Matthew Gomric	Donna Richter	Vicky Watts McElroy
Ashley Holmes		Tony White

Staff:

Rick Stubblefield Lee Reese Linda Vanderpluym Brenda Boggs Cindy Layman

Chairman Rich Sauget called the meeting to order. Lee Reese conducted roll call and a quorum was not established. Chairman Sauget suggested that those in attendance still go through the agenda and to have members advise the Executive Committee of their approval of the consent agenda items. The Executive Committee would then act according to that guidance. There was no public comment.

The Board received a packet containing the minutes from each committee meeting prior to today's Board meeting. Lee presented the Systems Development & Oversight Committee report. Highlights of the 9/26/23 meeting included that methods of operation have not changed, and that Orientations are occurring at full capacity. A 2nd orientation session is being considered. Adult Education shared some new programs being offered. Belleville School District 201 will have a Career Expo at the CAVE on November 14. The event will be in the evening to give parents/guardians an opportunity to attend. The Marketing & Economic Development Committee met on 9/27/23. The Committee was asked to reach out to assist in recruiting staff for the Workforce Development Group. The Apprenticeship Expansion Grant has been extended until December 2024. There is a State Supplemental Funding Grant that has been applied for. LWA 24 has applied for approximately \$64,000. An application has been submitted indicating how the funds would be used and we are awaiting approval. For the Youth Council report, Larry McLean informed Board members that there was not a quorum for the Council to meet. Chairman Sauget reported on the Executive Committee's meeting held on 10/3/23. One item of discussion was the new One Stop Operator, ScaleIT. The Quarterly Systems Report has reverted to a previous format for better reporting of numbers. Election of Officers for the Board is coming up and the calendar for next year's MAWIB meetings was included in the packet. Chairman Sauget encouraged everyone to make note of the upcoming dates. For WIOA Partner updates, Ashley Holmes commented that she is working to get a table at the CAVE Career Expo. She thinks it would be good for DRS to be represented for students and for families. Cristina Fernandez stated she didn't have anything new to report for Department of Human Services.

Lee presented the Operations Report, highlighting the performance reports in the packet. Lee shared that the Youth program has a good plan in place to capture credentials and Measurable Skill Gains. The Quarterly Services Report was reviewed. The report has been revised at the request/suggestion of some Board members. It now reflects quarterly numbers from this year and the numbers from the same quarter of last year. Lee called attention to the Financial reports. Rick explained Grant 201 was completed and this would be the final report for that grant. Linda Vanderpluym explained that spending from Grant 203, which began July 1, hasn't started due to waiting for the State to approve the budget in their system. Rick shared that expenditure of Grant 202 is going well and doesn't have a great concern about it like he did with the 201 grant at this time last year. Kudos were given to the Youth Program staff for their successes thus far and the strides made in spending the Youth funding. There was nothing additional to discuss for One-Stop update due to everything being covered under Committee reports and Partner Updates.

Next on the agenda was the election of officers. Due to lack of quorum, this could not be acted upon. Larry McLean interjected that he did reach out to everyone regarding their interest in being an officer and that the most common response received was that everyone currently in those positions were doing a great job and should remain. Right now, the plan is to re-elect those currently serving at the next Board meeting unless someone desires to compete for an office.

A few new training programs were presented for approval. Cindy Layman was asked to share about the programs. First Institute has a welding program that is being offered inside some of Illinois Department of Correction facilities for those that are nearing release. There are participants who will return to this LWA after release, so we are desiring to fund their training costs and then assist with employment and supportive services, as needed. The other training provider is Southern Illinois University – Carbondale. The programs are Technical Resource Management and Industrial Management. A student from this area has expressed interest in receiving financial assistance with completing the Technical Resource Management program.

Next, it was shared that WIOA policy will allow a 2-person committee to approve training programs between Workforce Board meetings. It was requested that Lee and Cindy be named to this committee. It was inquired about the process and explained that at the next Board meeting after a training program was given approval by the 2-person committee, it would be brought to the Board for ratification. It was explained that programs need to be in demand and the performance of the program is evaluated.

Another agenda item is the request to increase Individual Training Agreement spending caps. The request is to increase the maximum for a 1-year program to \$17,000 and increase the maximum for a 2-year program to \$20,000. This request is being made due to increases in tuition over the last few years. The current policy of \$14,000 and \$17,000 has been in place since 2018.

Cindy was asked to share about a couple of Incumbent Worker Projects that were being proposed. The first is for BJC Healthcare- Memorial Hospital with Midwest Career Source providing training for Patient Care Technicians. The employees can also add training for Emergency Room. The request is to start by training 4 employees. Total cost is \$10,515.00. The other proposed project is for Universal Air Filter with IMEC providing training for Robotic Adhesive Dispense System. They will train 7 employees and total cost is \$21,303.00.

Chairman Sauget requested a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented, Items 1 – 6, which consisted of:

1. Approval of Minutes from the July MAWIB Meeting
2. Approval of MAWIB 2024 meeting calendar
3. Approval of training programs
4. Approval of a 2-person committee to temporarily approve training programs until Board approval, per WIOA Policy 7.3.2 #3 (Lee Reese & Cindy Layman)
5. Approval to increase Local Program spending caps
6. Approval of Incumbent Worker Training Projects

Larry McLean made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the Executive Committee to ratify, it was seconded and it was unanimously approved.

There were no comments from visitors. Chairman Sauget asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM.