

**Mid America Investment Board
Executive Committee Meeting
(Zoom)
February 2, 2023**

Present:

Rich Sauget, Jr.
Tony White
Ken Keeney
Larry McLean
Paul Ellis

Staff:

Rick Stubblefield
Lee Reese
Cindy Layman

Chairman Rich Sauget Jr. called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. After hearing no public comment, Chairman Sauget presented the 10/06/2022 minutes for review and discussion (to be voted on as a part of the Consent Agenda).

Lee Reese reported for the Systems Development & Oversight Committee. Lee reported that on January 24 there was a meeting and methods of operation have not changed and negotiations for the One-Stop have begun. He reported that budget negotiations began on January 31. On the 31st, a discussion regarding getting the Orientation session back in person with all partners presenting. This is moving forward with partner staff having been identified as participating.

Paul Ellis presented for the Marketing Committee. Paul reported that the committee is working to implement the Marketing Plan that was approved at the last Board meeting. Paul mentioned that the committee has added some new members – Donna Richter, Meredith Shivers, and Doug Stewart who is with the Village of Caseyville. Paul mentioned that he is still actively recruiting area Economic Developers for additional membership. One area of focus for the committee is to find opportunities to share information regarding Paid Work Experience and other programs that are available.

Larry McLean presented for the Youth Committee. Larry shared that Ken Keeney assisted with the meeting due to Larry experiencing some technical difficulties and Larry was appreciative. Larry reported that the committee was introduced to Sandy Billhartz, the new Youth Compliance Specialist. Larry stated that there is an addendum for the Supportive Service policy that needs to be on the consent agenda. The revised policy would allow SWIC to model IGD's policy for supportive services. Larry also reported that enrollments are a little behind for SWIC and the Workforce Development Group, but this is typical for this time of year. Evidence of such included a list of upcoming job fairs and a list of several Paid Work Experience opportunities.

Operations Report: Lee reported that for performance measures we are meeting or exceeding in 8 out of 15 areas. One measure of concern is the Dislocated Worker Measurable Skills Gain. Lee stated that staff is working very hard on strategies to get this performance measure to MEET. Lee called attention to the quarterly services report in the Committee's packet. Nothing of concern currently. Lee stated the group is where they need to be to get the needed results. Rick Stubblefield reported on the financial reports. Rick mentioned that currently the program is behind on spending. He had reached out previously to Chairman Sauget to make him aware. Funds from last year's budget are all obligated but need to be paid out by June 30 and it appears that will occur. The next challenge is getting 80% of the current grant obligated by June 30 to avoid losing funding. Rick mentioned that one reason for this challenge is a grant from the State for Workforce Equity Initiative that SWIC received which resulted in 104 students being able to benefit from that grant and not need our funding. Eligibility for that grant is based on low income and doesn't require the same amount of paperwork nor testing that WIOA requires. He stated that one way we are trying to work with SWIC and those students is to coordinate for Paid Work Experience when healthcare students are at the point of taking their clinicals. There's also efforts to work with Mount Sinai on a project and work with 160 Driving Academy to assist those interested in attaining their CDL but have fines that need to be paid. Those fines would be covered by a grant in place from DHS. Rick mentioned that Deb Waldrop and Bryan Ellis of DCEO have been meeting with the Workforce Development Group and providing guidance to get things back on track. Rick added that he plans to send a letter to all Board members and County Chairmen asking to please keep the programs and services in mind and refer anyone they think could benefit, especially for work-based learning opportunities. Currently, the Workforce Development Group is short staffed. The Career Specialist in Monroe County recently resigned and then the Career Specialist in Clinton County announced her resignation. There is still an opportunity for a Youth Career Specialist as well. Larry inquired whether signing an OJT contract obligates funds or if it's not until payment is made. Rick confirmed that an OJT contract does obligate the funds but entering a Paid Work Experience does not. Rick hopes that IF we were short on obligating funds, the State would take in consideration who we have in the program and grant a waiver based on those participating. Tony White inquired how much funding is in jeopardy of being reallocated if the 80% obligation wasn't met. Rick explained it would be the difference of what is obligated and the amount that makes 80%. Rick mentioned that coming up on the agenda is discussion regarding some Incumbent Worker Projects. He shared that an additional project with Red Bud Industries is in the pipeline, but we don't have all the particulars yet. It was requested that this information be shared with the full Board and request permission for the Executive Committee be able to act on approval between Board meetings. Chairman Sauget thought that would be permissible and it is something that has occurred before. The Committee was in favor of adding the request to the Consent agenda. Lee mentioned that there is an approval letter in the packet that needs to be approved to be put on the Consent Agenda for the Board meeting. The MOU was previously approved and submitted to the State. They requested some revisions and a letter needs to accompany the submitted revisions. Next, Lee called attention to the need for some additional

training programs to be approved by the Board and approval needed to be added to the Consent Agenda. He noted that the Training Providers were previously approved but there are participants interested in these programs. Larry inquired about the amount that can be spent on programs. Lee replied that we can spend up to \$14,000 for a one year or less program and up to \$17,000 for up to 2 years. Lee then moved to some Incumbent Worker Training proposals that need to be added to the Consent Agenda for Board approval. Cindy Layman provided a summary of the projects for: Roeslein and Associates, previously approved by the Executive Committee; Velocity Metalworks, formerly AAA Tool and Machine; Red Bud Industries; MAC Medical; and HTS Coatings. Another item for the Consent Agenda is the LWIA 24 Supportive Services policy. Lee explained that the desired changes are to transportation assistance reimbursement costs and childcare reimbursement costs. The transportation assistance would reflect the federal reimbursement allowance. Larry asked a couple of clarification questions about what transportation covers and about CHASI and childcare reimbursement. After no further questions or discussion, Lee called everyone's attention to the 4 success stories in the packet. Paul inquired about how we share these stories, and it was stated that these stories are posted on Illinois workNet website as well as Apprenticeship Illinois, when appropriate.

Rich Sauget, Jr. asked for a motion on consent agenda items #1 - 6. Motion made by Paul and was seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Having no other business, Larry made a motion to adjourn the meeting that was seconded by Ken. The motion carried unanimously.

The next MAWIB meeting will be February 9th @ 8:30 AM (via Zoom)