

**Mid America Investment Board
Executive Committee Meeting
(Zoom)
March 30, 2023**

Present:

Rich Sauget, Jr.
Tony White
Ken Keeney
Larry McLean

Staff:

Rick Stubblefield
Lee Reese
Cindy Layman

Chairman Rich Sauget Jr. called the meeting to order at 8:35 am. After hearing no public comment, Chairman Sauget presented the 02/02/2023 minutes for review and discussion (to be voted on as a part of the Consent Agenda). Motion to approve minutes as printed was made by Larry McLean and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Lee Reese reported for the Systems Development & Oversight Committee. Lee reported that on March 20 there was a meeting for Methods of Administration, the One-Stop was short staffed, but one person has been hired to assist in various capacities including answering the main phone line. It was shared that IDES has moved some forward-facing staff to the middle of the center near WIOA staff to meet with the public and hand off referrals in real time. This has greatly helped with the number of dislocated worker customers served. He reported that a tentative budget has been created but a negotiation meeting was postponed due to SWIC representation not being available. Preliminary budget is due to DCEO by April 15. Ashley Holmes reported to the Committee that staff will be at the One Stop 3 days a week and this has led to some referrals. Cristina Fernandez shared with the Committee that DHS funding their clients were receiving that was increased due to COVID are returning to regular allocated amount. Donna Richter reported out to the Committee that they will be hosting tours of apprenticeship sites during the summer. Lastly, Lee gave an update on the oculus devices going out to area schools and Rick is working on a grant to expand this to additional middle schools in the counties we serve. Anheuser-Busch/InBev desires to partner with us to have access to military members transitioning out of Scott Air Force Base.

In Paul Ellis' absence, Lee presented for the Marketing Committee. A new member has joined the Committee, Kari Speir of the City of Mascoutah. Paul was named Economic Developer of the Month. The Committee has been tasked with regular review of the Marketing Plan and requested that action be taken to implement. Articles were shared regarding Soulcial Kitchen and its partnership with Leadership Council and the Daycare worker shortage effect on workforce.

Larry McLean presented for the Youth Committee. Larry shared that in relation to performance there was good news and bad news. Numbers are not great but historically that has been the case at this time of year. Larry shared that staff expressed concern with the Measurable Skills Gain performance measure. Lee interjected that some training had occurred related to Measurable Skill Gains at the

recent staff meeting and that 2 new staff members has been hired. Larry commented that the list of employers where Paid Work Experiences are occurring or will potentially occur is impressive and complemented staff on their efforts. He then drew the attention of the Executive Committee to two items that need to be approved to be added to the Consent Agenda. One is the Youth Needing Additional Assistance Policy and the other is the request by SWIC to increase the dollar amount of one of the incentives.

Operations Report: Lee reported that for performance measures we are meeting or exceeding in 11 out of 15 areas. One measure of concern is the Youth Measurable Skills Gain. However, after staff training earlier in the week it was determined that obtaining report cards could help with this measure and Lee has offered his assistance with contacting superintendents if needed. It was noted that the number of people served is close to where we were last year and it appears the opportunity to increase the numbers continues to grow. Rick Stubblefield reported on the financial reports. He pointed out that it is necessary to have 100% of 201 grant funds spent by June 30. If projected obligations occur, this will be met. The next challenge is getting 80% of the 202 grant obligated to avoid losing funding. Rick mentioned we are gaining on that goal and believes we will be relatively close. The hope is that we will be close enough that we can have a conversation with DCEO and secure a waiver. It is anticipated that a new Career Specialist will be added in Belleville to help with volume and would be helpful should we find ourselves short-handed again. There was discussion regarding whether unspent funding becomes a performance issue in DCEO's eyes. It was confirmed that it does but since there has been DCEO involvement with us turning things around, this could be to our benefit regarding what has been accomplished versus what is on paper. For One Stop Operations update, Lee stated the Belleville office is open for business with a maximum of 15 people allowed in the building at a time. Normalcy has mostly returned to the One Stop. 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: Red Bud Industries; Kohnen Concrete; Ace Grease; and Roeslein and Associates. Rick added that one more project was received late from Gundlach Company but needs to be reviewed a little more before presenting. He requested that it be permitted to review the project and then present to the Committee to be added to the agenda before the Board meeting. Members of the Executive Committee were agreeable. Lee mentioned that there weren't any success stories this time around highlighting individuals served but he wanted to acknowledge the hard work the staff has put in to get things turned around.

Chairman Sauget asked for a motion on consent agenda items #1 - 4. Motion made by Ken and was seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion regarding upcoming layoffs at Walmart in Cahokia Heights was had and assistance referring those workers was requested. Efforts to recruit those employees was also shared. No other business being presented, Larry made a motion to adjourn the meeting that was seconded by Ken Keeney. The motion carried unanimously.

The next MAWIB meeting will be April 13 @ 8:30 AM (via Zoom)