

**NORTHWEST INDIANA WORKFORCE BOARD MINUTES**  
**Center of Workforce Innovations**  
**January 16, 2025**

***Present:***

Audra Peterson, Adrienne Carrol, Lori Tubbs, Liz Negron-Haniford, Justin Mount, Martina Tovar, Mikie Stogsdill, Jim Clarida, Anna Ortega, Debi Baughman

***Absent/Proxy:*** Karen Kopka, Chris Bebee, Kevin Comerford, Aco Sikoski, Adam Collins, George Douglas

***Staff:***

Lisa Daugherty, Erin Sizemore, Tammy Stump, Kathy Neary, Jen Grabowski

***Guests:***

**CALL TO ORDER**

Lori Tubbs called the meeting to order.

**Consent Agenda**

Ms. Tubbs asked the Board Members to review the items on the consent agenda.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Jim Clarida and seconded by Mikie Stogsdill to accept the consent agenda as presented. All were in favor. **The motion passed.**

**1. Board Business**

Dashboard/Performance

Ms. Neary highlighted some changes that have been made to the report. Based on a request, this report was changed to indicate program year. Prior program year versus current program year to date. This report reflects the year to date from July 1<sup>st</sup> to the end of December and then also a reflection of the previous year.

**Goal #1 Increase skills of current workforce to align with economic development strategies and key industry clusters** CWI proposed the Think BIG (Beauty in Gary) Initiative to the Gary Common Council. Aimed at training 100 individuals across a scope of 2 years. The Gary Common Council approved appropriation of over \$1.6 million in ARPA funds for the initiative

**Goal #2 Improve employer access to qualified workers and awareness of training resources:**

Convened with Howmet Industries in La Porte IN to assist with leveraging their job profiles to implement Work Keys as a pre-employment and professional development for employees and consider internal career pathway mapping.

**Goal #3 Ensure Youth in NWI are positioned for continued education/learning and workforce success:**

CWI successfully launched “Bridging the Gap” for student success Initiative. Through the Intermediary Capacity Building Grant CWI has served students providing career assessments, career discovery sessions, college visits and career fairs. As a follow up the Indiana Career Explorer link will be emailed out as well as some examples of Assessment results.

**Goal #4- Encourage and support an entrepreneurial spirit:** Partnered with Goodwill and Ivy Tech for Gary City Council presentation of Think BIG proposal.

**Goal #5 Assure compliance and efficient operations of a workforce development system:** Provided input to Congressman Mrvan about Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) reauthorization drafts.

#### Workforce Division Performance Negotiation Levels

Every 2 years all the regions in the state negotiate with DWD on where they think they will fall in performance. DWD negotiates with DOL to get the number in the document that Ms. Sizemore provided. The state has performance indicator goals. Employment 2Q, Employment 4Q, Median Earnings, Credential Rate and MSG. Within those indicators it gets broken down between Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth and Wagner Peyser.

#### 2024 Audit Report

Ms. Sizemore let the Board know the audit report showed that this was a clean report with no findings. CWI has been assessed as low risk.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Jim Clarida and seconded by Mikie Stogsdill to accept 2024 Audit Report as presented. All were in favor. **The motion passed**

#### **2. Old Business**

No old business to report on.

#### **3. Reports**

##### Youth Employment Council

Ms. Stump gave the Board an update on the work ethic survey that was created to ask schools participating in work ethic what employers they currently work with or would want to work with. The survey will also be sent to the Business Services Team to distribute to the employers they work with. Also discussed was expanding the regional work ethic initiative beyond in school youth. The Next Gen Expo will be held at the Dean and Barara White Center in Merrillville In. on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Stump spoke about the Regional Career Development Conference that will be hosted at the JW Marriott Hotel in Indianapolis April 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> 2025. Typically, withing our budget, we are able to send 2-3 students. Because the conference is being held in Indianapolis this year DWD would like for us to send as many as possible. We are targeting about 10 individual participants. Ms. Stump asked the board if anyone would be interested in becoming a sponsor. The approximate cost would be \$900 per student. Which would include transportation, hotel accommodations and the conference.

##### President's Report

Ms. Daugherty DWD accepted and approved the Plan for the program year 2024-2027. The 300 page document will be emailed to the board to view. The move to the new Hammond WorkOne location has been completed. The Portage WorkOne will be moving to the Trustee's office on Airport Rd. In regards to the Michigan City office, once IT is ready they will be moving into the Elston facility. This will not be the long term location in Elston but as a temporary part of the building as our permanent space is being renovated. The Gary WorkOne has been certified as a comprehensive site.

Ms. Daugherty talked about the Board members whose terms are expiring and asked for a nominating committee to present board candidates at the March meeting.

#### Save the Dates

**NWIWB meeting March 20, 2025**

#### **ADJOURN**

Ms. Tubbs adjourned the meeting.

Jen Grabowski, Recording Secretary