NORTHWEST INDIANA WORKFORCE BOARD MINUTES
Center of Workforce Innovations
Ivy Tech, Valparaiso Campus
July 16, 2026

Present:
Martina Tovar, Chris Bebee, George Douglas, Aco Sikoski and Lance Halsey

***Absent/Proxy*:** Lori Tubbs, Kevin Comerford, Anna Ortega, Audra Peterson, Adrienne Carroll, Natalie Aponte, Mikie Stogsdill, Marcel Marcos, Jim Clarida, Jim Campbell and Andrew Francis

Staff:
Lisa Daugherty, Erin Sizemore, Tammy Stump, Dominique Smiley and Becky Fry

Guests: Denise Wright

CALL TO ORDER
Chris Beebe called the meeting to order.

Consent Agenda
Mr. Beebe asked the Board Members to review the items on the consent agenda.

Motion: Without a quorum no motion could be made. The Board Members present agreed to continue with the reports and to vote on motions via email after the meeting.

a. Minutes & Financial Report

Motion: The meeting minutes from the May 21, 2026 meeting and the financial report will be sent out for a vote via email following the in-person meeting.

b. Board Membership

Ms. Daugherty explained that the Workforce Board has been out of compliance for an extended period of time. The Indiana Department of Workforce Development requires a specific make-up of Board Members from local businesses, educational institutions and government/ economic development organizations. More than 50% of the Board must be from local businesses. Education representatives must have at least two seats with one being from an adult basic education provider. Workforce must comprise at least 20% with a minimum of 2 seats from labor and one from apprenticeship. Government and economic development must have at least three seats with 1 each from economic/community development, Wagner-Peyser and Vocational Rehabilitation. Board members may fulfill multiple roles for the make-up.

Ms. Daugherty discussed how we could update the Board membership to put the composition into compliance. One way would be to remove a member. The suggestion was to remove Mikaela Stogsdill as she has only attended one Board meeting since joining. Additionally, she has been non-responsive to phone calls, emails and text messages for the past few months.

Motion: The Board Members present agreed that a motion to remove Mikaela Stogsdill from the Northwest Indiana Workforce Board will be sent out for a vote via email following the in-person meeting.

1. **Board Business**

Dashboard/Performance
Ms. Wright reviewed the dashboard performance and NWIWB Goals.
Ms. Daugherty discussed the focus on quality enrollments and the use of multiple assessments and testing to determine job readiness as well as the checks and balances that are in place to ensure that clients are moving through the system and that processes are followed.

2. **Old Business**

No old business to report on.

3. **Reports**

Youth Employment Council

Ms. Stump reported that there was no meeting in June. Aco Sikoski will be joining Martina Tovar as a Co-Chair. New meeting invitations for the upcoming year have been sent out. The goal of the Council is to position youth for success in the job force. The first meeting is August 26. The agenda includes a review of goals and objectives. One goal is to increase participation of the Board, area employers and training providers.

President's Report
Ms. Daugherty gave an update on the CWI growth plan. At the September meeting an overview will be provided as to the direction that CWI will be heading as a powerhouse integrator of community partners.

Ms. Daugherty and Ms. Smiley discussed the Boot Camp model that has been utilized in Gary and Michigan City to upskill job seekers with gaps in soft skills, work ethic and job readiness. In these boot camps it became apparent that the participants had barriers to employment that required more time to overcome than what was originally thought. The boot camp allowed closer relationships to be built through trust and cooperation which ultimately helped the participants to move through the process to securing a job faster.

ADJOURN
Mr. Beebe adjourned the meeting.

Save the Date
NWIWB meeting September 17, 2026

Becky Fry, Recording Secretary