

Minutes

Southeast Indiana Workforce Investment Board Meeting

February 6, 2025
10:00 am – 11:30 pm

Online via Zoom

Board Members Online: Patti Yount, Gary Norman, Stephanie Spillman, Luz Elena Michel, Sonja White, Daniel Noel, Kevin Turner, Shelley McClintock, Missy Cooper, Denise Smith, Bryan Robbins **Others Online:** Kurt Kegerreis, Margo Olson, Carla Crowe, Mike Perleberg, Sarah Lamping, Kristal Biehle, Jennifer Tyra, Karen Snyder, Shanell Clayton, Bev Smith, Brittany Dyer, Konnie McCollum, Charlotte Gunter, Mike Gumbleton, Amanda Getzendanner, Stephanie Perkins, Mariah Brison

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved by email vote.

CHE and Mentorship Program - Jennifer Tyra

Jennifer gave an update on the CHE Grant. There are 12 JAG Specialists enhancing their schools by providing college and career exploration opportunities to non-JAG students. There are three Youth Career Coaches working in schools in the served area. There is one full time PK-12 Career Coach working all across Region 9.

In the high school it is planned to be leveraging out JAG specialists to work with students 9-12 as career coaches and assisting with counselors with career fairs and career discovery meetings. For the middle school it is planned to have JAG students work on a project-based learning project where they will guide middle schoolers in planning for high school, based on current interests and career inventories. In the Elementary School it is planned for Career Coaches and work-based learning students to work with elementary students to provide college and career readiness coaching and activities.

The Youth Career Coach at Madison went to the elementary school in the 5th grade classroom and did a Financial Literacy Activity. At the end of the activity, she had a community member come in and talk about Entrepreneurship. This was a four-day activity. The Switzerland County High School JAG Specialist helped put together a Career Fair. The Milan JAG Specialist also helped put together a Career Fair at Milan High School. The Franklin County High School JAG Specialist set up mock interviews with not only JAG students but other students that attend the school. She was also involved in putting together a FAFSA Workshop. The Madison High School JAG Specialist took the students to tour the University of Louisville.

One student at South Ripley High School is working in the elementary with the speech

teacher. She applied for the Peer Career Coaching and will be doing lessons with the speech kids but also other small groups of kids on Career Development and Career Exploration. There is also one student at Madison High School who has already started working with students. Then there is another student that they will be speaking with next week that is interested in becoming a Peer Career Coach.

They are serving 2146 students throughout Region 9.

Ivy Tech Lawrenceburg and Batesville - Missy Cooper

Missy Cooper gave an update about Ivy Tech. Ivy Tech in Lawrenceburg and Batesville are in the beginning stages of being able to offer CPR for different groups such as community members, employees, and employers. They are doing 8 training classes for Batesville and Lawrenceburg Staff.

They are also hosting a beginner to AI Class. This class is a 2-hour class. Lawrenceburg's class will be on April 3rd. Batesville's class will be April 1st. For the Lawrenceburg class, they partnered with the Lawrenceburg Chamber of Commerce. For the Batesville class, they partnered with the Batesville Chamber of Commerce.

Missy and Brittney Dyer from Madison Ivy Tech are working together to work with Serve Safe. So hopefully by May, they will be able to offer Serve Safe Classes.

READI - Gary Norman, Bryan Robbins, Mike Perleberg, Sarah Lamping

Gary Norman gave an update on READI for Ripley County. They are navigating through READI 2.0. Things are going well with this.

Bryan Robbins gave an update on READI Decatur County. They are working on wrapping up READI projects. They are hoping to have those wrapped up by the end of the year. They are in the process of submitting READI 2.0 projects and getting those approved. JAG programs in Greensburg are doing quite well, to the point they need another instructor. North and South Decatur are also doing well.

Mike Perleberg gave an update on READI in Dearborn County. They are working through local approval. They already received READI funding for the largely secured 176 Unit Apartment project. Recently in Dearborn County, they were honored to be named the Stellar Pathways community by the Indiana Office of Community & Royal Affairs in December. Now they are starting to fill out applications for housing. They are also working on two manufacturing projects.

Sarah Lamping gave an update on the READI in Batesville. They will be announcing an expansion to one of their local industries soon. They are in the process of preparing for INVets training to take place with our HR developers and directors throughout our corporate partners here in the city to get them signed up for the INVets program. They have an outstanding Bulldog READI Program going in the high school down to the preschool.

Executive Staff Updates - Kurt Kegerreis

Kurt gave an update on the Executive Staff. Region 9 is on a winning streak for the past 12 months with the anticipation of 2025 having a lot of change to it. This is a testament to the team and to their participation. It's a testament to the partners and the relationships that are being built.

There is a lot of change that is happening on the State and Federal level. There is a lot of staff turnover, vacancies, and uncertainty going on right now. For the Executive Staff, we are focused on the work ahead of us. The most pressing thing is the direct Department of Labor SCSEP Grant. It has been going on since November.

Over the Christmas break, there was a major push to reauthorize WIOA. It didn't get reauthorized. It ended up being a part of a bill that has a lot of support. It is very clear that there are going to be changes coming to our system. There is going to be a Legislative Day on February 13th. Kurt plans to attend alongside his colleagues from the other 11 regions. Kurt will be highlighting both JAG and the CHE Grant.

In the SCSEP Grant, we are actively enrolling older adults who are living in or near poverty, 55 years or older to work subsidized positions at nonprofits. We are really just getting started with the enrollment and getting the network setup for the jobs.

The Region also has \$500K of Apprenticeship money. We have really good conversations happening with employers. We have Apprenticeships happening with our FSSA and SAMHSA Grant, trying to get recovery managers for recovery housing. We have been having great conversations with our mayors about potentially getting apprenticeships within the city staffing infrastructure. They are having conversations about getting the younger people from JAG into the apprenticeships so they can get their training and get into the city work.

The Pathway Home 6 Grant has been put on hold, but if it is available to bid on, the Region will most likely apply for this grant.

The Region also needed to move the North Vernon office because the other office was sold. Mayor Gerkin offered a promising new space. It is right across the street from the Sheriff's Office. We were able to move into it at the beginning of January. The cost is less than our last office was.

River Valley Resources - Shanell Clayton

Shanell gave an update on River Valley Resources. The H1B Grant served 168 people surpassing the original and updated goal. This grant was designed to address and alleviate workforce shortages in rural areas. Region 9 was recognized for outstanding work and asked to assist other regions to meet their goals. Region 9 gained additional funds and updated their goal of 148. Their first goal was 98. In total there were 168 served with 97 of those receiving certificates and 108 being employed.

The QUEST Grant served 290 people surpassing the original and updated goal. Region 9 received funding for 250 participants. They received additional funding for 25 participants. The WorkOne offices really pulled together to make this happen.

JAG had their CDC Competition. More to come on that at the next meeting. All youth staff will be certified Career Coaches by March 2025. There is an Expansion request for fall of 2025 to add another JAG program to Greensburg.

Senator Houchin has postponed her podcast at Milan High School due to scheduling conflicts. Angel Tunny and Shelby Williams will represent JAG at the Day of the child event in Indianapolis on 2/17. Three WIOA work experiences have been approved and scheduled to begin. April 15th at Dearborn County there is a Job Fair sponsored by Ivy Tech, Dearborn Chamber, and WorkOne. Senator Houchin could possibly attend.

River Valley Resources - Konnie McCollum

The Adult Education has partnered with the ABA Grant. We are doing a pre-certified welding program for adults. The existing pre-certified apprenticeship program for construction is steps away from going to Decatur and Dearborn County Jails. The FSSA Grant is going to bring a new peer recovery program to Madison Correctional center. This will take care of about 27 individuals.

With the SCSEP Grant On March 1st, we were given the names of offenders at Madison Correctional. We are going to meet with them to get them prepared and ready by the time that they are able to get out.

We have a group of excited Hanover College Interns who have reached out to us and we have decided to do a video project to highlight all of the programming going on.

Budget

Carla Crowe gave the review of the budget through December. The total funding available is just over \$9.3M. Overall planned expenses are just over \$8.9M. Planned carry-in for PY24 is \$353,234. \$60,539 of that is WIOA funds and the rest are unrestricted and unobligated funds.

The second page of the report shows revenue received so far and the budget compared to actual expenses. The benchmark is 50%. The current overall grant usage is 30%. In actual expenses, the Executive Staff expenses are 42%. The Service Provider is at 30%. The WorkOne expenses are at 38%. The Board expenses are at 53%. The overall expenses are at 31%. The overall WIOA expenditure rate is at 40%. In school and out of school rates are at 76% and 24% respectively. Current direct client services are at 19%. The third page compares our current program year to last program year.

Financials were approved by email vote.

Adjourn