

Minutes

Southeast Indiana Workforce Investment Board Meeting

April 3, 2025
10:00 am – 11:30 pm

Online via Zoom

Board Members Online: Denise Smith, Bryan Robbins, Stephanie Spillman, Sonja White, Dustin Bentz, Trudie Dillman, Kevin Turner **Others Online:** Kurt Kegerreis, Margo Olson, Charlotte Gunter, Carla Crowe, Kristal Biehle, Jennifer Tyra, Karen Snyder, Shanell Clayton, Brittany Dyer, Konnie McCollum, Mike Gumbleton, Amanda Getzendanner, Austin Clark, Mariah Brison

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved by email vote.

READI - Bryan Robbins

Bryan Robbins gave an update about READI. The READI Region met with the governor and some of the representatives at the state house. They had 45 minutes with the governor. They were meeting on SB-1. There were many mayors there. They also wanted to highlight the READI program. While there, Bryan did promote the JAG Program and talked about how it's being put under new funding. They did not seem to realize that this was happening. He told them about Kurt's Stats and the success of not only our region but also the state as a whole.

Other than that, local businesses are wanting him to meet with them to talk about tariffs and what is going to happen. He is trying to set them up with foreign trade zones. There are some opportunities there for some savings. He is going to try to engage them to come down to talk with him about some regional companies.

Batesville Tool & Die - Sonja White

Sonja White gave an update about Batesville Tool & Die. They were nominated by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce for a Workforce Development Award. They did not win it but they were honored to be recognized for their CO-OP Program and all the Workforce Development incentives they are trying to accomplish at Batesville Tool & Die.

Ivy Tech Madison - Brittany Dyer

Brittany Dyer gave an update on Ivy Tech of Madison. Over the last month they have noticed one of their employers had reduced a number of their employees. Ivy Tech in

Madison is committed to helping. First, they are hosting a Community Resume Workshop on April 16th, specifically for those affected. They are also hosting a Resource Fair on April 29th for the entire community.

Executive Staff Updates - Kurt Kegerreis

Kurt gave an update on the State of the Region. He gave credit to the team that they anticipated uncertainty in 2025. They knew the governorship and the president was going to change one way or another. They wanted to make sure that they had done as much as possible to anticipate that.

Kurt showed a graph looking at the board budget from June 2015 to June 2024. Their budget had ranged from \$3.9M to \$4.5M from June 2015 to June 2020. Coming out of COVID they started to see some real growth in the budget. By 2024, the COVID money had expired, but the budget was \$8.5M, due to hard work and diversifying because they pictured 2025 changing. Kurt had never encountered this much growth in about an 18-month period until now. It was very intentional and collaborative by this Board.

The notable strengths that Region 9 has is that it is entering 2025 stronger and more diversified than ever. JAG has more than doubled, with over 900 students in SEI. Career Coaching Pilot is a major success. Robust Apprenticeship opportunities. Major new Senior Worker Grant with USDOL.

The notable challenges that Region 9 has are Leadership and staff and capacity. An erosion of core funds and support from State and Federal sources. Reduction of core staff, infrastructure, and programming support for the overall system. The system is underprepared for the next economic downturn.

The prospective changes on the Federal level are that there is general uncertainty. The anticipated WIOA Reauthorization has a proposed 50% training mandate. It will require a comprehensive overhaul of the system. The conclusion of everything is that they will have to be proactive with the changes for PY26. Staff will have to work with the local elected officials and partners to make sure there is a good contingency plan in place.

The Prospective changes on the State level are the Department of Workforce Development is now under the Department of Commerce. RESEA funds are reverting to DWD. Rapid Response is changing, which is the emergency bucket of funds for when employers are laying off.

There are a lot of prospective changes to JAG. The Indiana House's proposed budget is moving JAG from DWD to Dept of Education. This adds JAG to the "Freedom and Opportunity In Education" block grant with numerous other programs, and no obligation to fund. The obligations appear to far outweigh available funds. This does not appear to account for other established funding mechanisms and set-asides. Kurt is looking forward to going to the Department of Education to discuss options, as the funding remains up in the air.

River Valley Resources - Shanell Clayton

Shanell gave an update on River Valley Resources. She had Charlotte Gunter talk about a success story out of the Lawrenceburg WorkOne. Isaac started sleeping on a relative's floor with his fiancé and a baby due in early March. He went to the Lawrenceburg WorkOne in December of 2024. He had been involved in the justice system for 4 years and received public assistance. He decided he wanted to make a change and talked to 160 Driving academy and talked about getting his CDL license. In early January, he got married and soon became homeless and lost his driving insurance. He needed SR-22 high risk driving insurance. The WorkOne was able to utilize QUEST supportive service dollars. Staff were able to get into contact with the Heart House in Aurora to secure housing for him and his wife. They had the baby two days after they secured housing then things just began to fall into place for Isaac and his family. He ended up being able to get his CDL. Isaac had to restart the training 6 times. While working through all the obstacles he was able to overcome them. Now his wife wants to get her CDL to be able to become a team on the road in hopes to eventually own their own trucks.

Some key accomplishments that RVR has done is their community service in the affiliate offices are going well. CHE has served 3,078 total students to date. JAG has exceeded enrollment expectations by 36 students. They have a total of 916 enrolled and they only needed 880. Region 9 has the largest enrollment in the state, which is even above Region 1 who has 22 programs. SCSEP has also increased the enrollments.

Some announcements that RVR had to share is they have gained two Case Managers. Sharon Helms from Greensburg WorkOne is retiring this month. On April 23rd there will be a Job Fair at RR Donnelly. There will also be a Dearborn County Job Fair on April 15th.

Budget

Carla Crowe gave the review of the budget through February. The total funding available is just over \$9.3M. Overall planned expenses are just a little under \$9M. Planned carry-in for PY24 is \$387,671. \$292,695 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 67%. The current overall grant usage is 40%. In actual expenses, the Executive Staff expenses are 58%. The Service Provider is at 39%. The WorkOne expenses are at 55%. The Board expenses are at 10%. The overall expenses are at 41%. The overall WIOA expenditure rate is at 52%. 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