

Minutes

Southeast Indiana Workforce Investment Board Meeting

April 6, 2023
11:00 am – 1:00 pm
HYBRID
Southeastern Career Center
901 US 50, Versailles, IN 47042
and
Online via Zoom

Board Members in Attendance: Patti Yount, Sonja White, Kent Stroud, Tracy Bear, Luz Michel **Board Member Online:** Gary Norman, Joshua Kuhn, Jon Bond, Brandon Briner **Guests in Attendance:** Kurt Kegerreis, Brad Wood, Margo Olson, Kirk Kuhn, Bev Smith, Chris Henry, Kristal Biehle, April Pearson, Sarah Lamping, Charlotte Gunter, Mike Perleberg, Gage Pace, Judy Anderson, Stephanie Perkins, Amanda Getzendanner **Guests Online:** Lissa Griffin, Carla Crowe, Beth Meguschar, Karen Snyder

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved by email vote.

Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority – April Pearson

April Pearson presented about the Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority (IHCDA). IHCDA's mission is to provide housing opportunities and promote self-sufficiency to strengthen communities. According to the 2022 IHCDA Point in Time count, Indiana has an estimated 3688 people experiencing homelessness. Part of April's job is to identify youth who are living without fixed, adequate, regular housing and to help eliminate barriers to essential wraparound resources. In Region 9, one of the largest barriers is transportation.

Southeastern Career Center – Tracy Bear

Tracy Bear gave an update on the Southeastern Career Center (SCC). The SCC currently serves 9th – 12th graders. They have 23 programs that serve 11 high schools. The Veterinary Science program will be added next year. Current enrollment is 857 students, with enrollment for the next school year expected to exceed that. The SCC offers dual credit programs with Ivy Tech and Vincennes University. In the last school year, there were over 700 certifications earned by students, with this school year predicted to be higher.

Decatur Plastics Products – Kent Stroud

Kent Stroud gave an update on Decatur Plastics. The bus project is underway. It is already running at capacity, with no promotion. There are 10-11 people riding it for 3rd shift alone. They

have also hired more interpreters/bilingual staff. These new staff posted a job alert on Facebook, and they received 350 applications in 3 days, with 200 showing up to the office to apply in-person.

One Dearborn – Gage Pace

Gage Pace gave an update on One Dearborn. They held an event with INVets. INVets went to two business and held a lunch and learn for over a dozen other business. They are trying to get veterans to relocate to Indiana. Local businesses were interested in being featured as prospective employers for those who move to the area.

Executive Staff Update – Kurt Kegerreis

Kurt Kegerreis gave the Executive Staff report. Region 9 continues to have a lower UI rate than the State. The UI rates as of January 2023 shows the Region at 3.3%, Indiana at 3.5% and the US at 3.9%. As budgets should be coming soon, Kurt is not optimistic as allocations are based on UI rates.

With a new DWD Commissioner, and new leadership of the Governor’s Workforce Cabinet, Kurt is working hard to make sure the work in Region 9 is not overlooked. He has been connecting with representatives at the State and Federal levels, who are all responding positively to the work being done in the region.

The “Working Hungry” documentary will be shared after the meeting.

Internal monitoring of RVR is underway. The Region will also be monitored by DWD in May. Another housekeeping item in process is the Service Provider/One-Stop Operator procurement. Kurt is looking for Board members who would like to be involved with the selection process. Jon Bond has been nominated by the Executive Committee to replace Chip Orben as Vice-Chair of the Board. As a Board Member of RVR’s, he will not be involved with the procurement. There will be a resolution for the Board to approve his nomination.

Stephanie Perkins gave an update on the development efforts in the region. The region is trying to develop opportunities to continue with the work that is covered by current grants that are about to expire. The region applied for the FSSA Matching grant. This grant helps the same population as the Opioid grant, with less eligibility restrictions. This would be a 2-year grant for \$2M.

Another that was recently applied for is the BJA grant. This grant helps incarcerated populations. It would be used to maintain and expand the Televerde project, which currently has an 85% credential rate. This would be a 3-year grant for \$900K.

Another FSSA grant that the region plans to pursue is the FSSA – Behavioral Health grant. This grant helps behavioral health and mental health workers. It would help with peer recovery training, which has become very in-demand in Region 9. This grant will be submitted by the end of the month, but there has not been an amount set that is being applied for.

DWD received the Quest grant last year, and reached out recently to Region 9 to do a pilot, along with Region 1. This would be a dislocated worker grant, but with a much expanded eligibility criteria. While the region would start with a generous chunk of funding, there is also the ability to ask for more ongoing, up to \$4M.

The region will be receiving the ABA grant from DWD. This will be an extension of the ASE grant, but with more technical assistance. It also increases the amount that can be used per participant. The region will be able to help businesses who already have apprenticeships.

The region is waiting word on two other grants. The first is from Honda. This will be to support JAG. Honda continues to reach out with questions, but should have a decision by the end of the month. The other is from Duke Energy. The grant was submitted to help with participants affected by substance misuse. There are no restrictions on eligibility, which makes this a highly desirable grant.

Kurt recognized Kirk Kuhn, who will be retiring from RVR soon. He has been doing exemplary work with the Business Services Team, and will be greatly missed by the region.

River Valley Resources – Brad Wood

Brad Wood gave an update on River Valley Resources. Program funding is at 70% spent, with 162 clients in training. While most of the WIOA programs are on track, there is a dip in the Dislocated Worker grant. RVR has projects in the works to bring those numbers up. Brad presented the VOS count, which shows how many clients are coming into the offices.

Brad highlighted the Veteran Services staff. During the past quarter, they helped 25 veterans find employment, most of whom faced significant barriers. The starting wages ranged from \$15 - \$30 per hour. The team also met with a non-profit organization, Paws-ability. Their mission is to help provide a service animal, as well as training, to veterans in need. Region 9 partnered with Region 10 to bring Paws-ability to the statewide JVSG conference.

JAG is currently on track to meet 6 of its 6 required metrics. And despite losing one program mid-year, the Region 9 JAG still has 100% enrollment. The JAG students did extremely well at the State CDC. Region 9 received the most awards and scholarship dollars out of the state.

Budget Review

The financials were sent out for individual review, due to time constraints. The financials were approved by email vote.

Adjourn