

# **Minutes**

## **Southeast Indiana Workforce Investment Board Meeting**

**August 3, 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, Jon Bond, Kevin Turner, Kylie Foster, Denise Smith, Shelley McClintock, Bryan Robbins, Carol Brown, Tracy Bear **Board Member Online:** Gary Norman, Joshua Kuhn, Daniel Noel, Nicki Nolting, Josh Wilber **Guests in Attendance:** Kurt Kegerreis, Carla Crowe, Brad Wood, Margo Olson, Chris Henry, Kristal Biehle, Holly Wehr, Sarah Lamping, Lisa Hutson, Mike Perleberg, Sarah Abel, Mandi Carr, Jordyn Schouch, Lissa Griffin, Stephanie Perkins, Amanda Getzendanner **Guests Online:** Charlotte Gunter, Karen Snyder Deb Thomasson

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes were approved by email vote.

### **River Valley Resources – Brad Wood**

Brad Wood gave an update on River Valley Resources. The VOS counts dipped for office attendance in June, but virtual visits remain steady. There were 215 customers who took the customer satisfaction survey for the last quarter of PY22, with a 99% satisfaction rate. Of those, assistance with Unemployment Insurance was the top reason for their visit, followed by job search assistance.

WIOA enrollments for the year are at 80% of the regional goal. Dislocated worker grants enrollments are 210 for the Opioid grant, 45 for the Quest grant, 97 for the Employment Recovery grant, for a total of 352 enrollments.

The H-1B grant provides occupational training and supportive services. The goal for this grant is 98 enrollments, and the region is at 90. This grant does not end until January 2025. The Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG) served 42 veterans with barriers. 12 of those obtained employment with wages ranging from \$14-\$38/hour. Wagner Peyser assists individuals seeking employment, as well as employers seeking workers. In PY22, there were 1,362 users who received 6,921 services. RESEA assists UI claimants with reemployment services. Staff serviced 473 individuals with 1,445 services.

The Business Services Team assists Hoosier businesses in attracting and retaining top talent. There were 580 businesses served, with \$859,439 invested in or awarded to the regional business community. The Young Adult Services had 56 new enrollments in PY22. Of those, 20 participated in training, there were 49 Measurable Skill Gains earned, and 46 credentials attained. There were also 12 who received Work Experience opportunities.

There are currently 400 students enrolled in JAG. To be enrolled in JAG, students must have at least six barriers. On average, students in Region 9 have 11 barriers. In the last year, 60% have overcome at least one barrier. In 2022, out of 222 students, 219 graduated, with 178 in job placement or the military. There were \$1,775,514 in scholarships earned by the JAG students. Sealey Hyatt and Carol Schmidt were recognized as 2023 JAG National Outstanding Specialists, with several other Region 9 JAG specialists receiving awards. Region 9 is exploring another possible JAG expansion. Kristal Biehle presented JAG success stories.

### **Budget Review**

Carla Crowe gave the review of the preliminary budget through June 30. The total funding available was just over \$7.2M. Overall planned expenses are just over \$6.7M. Planned carry-in for PY23 is \$478,534. \$234,425 of that is WIOA funds and the rest are unrestricted and unobligated funds, to help carry into the next program year. The federal government is on a different fiscal cycle than the Regions, so 20% of the budget is held back to cover the first 3 months of the following program year.

The second page of the reports shows the revenue received so far and the budget compared to actual expenses. The benchmark is 100%. The WIOA grants are currently 69% spent. The Workforce Ready grant expires on September 1, but is 98% spent. The Executive Staff expenses are at 98%. The Service Provider is at 59%. This is below the benchmark because many of their contracts go beyond June 30. The WorkOne expenses are at 97%. The Board expenses are at 100%. The overall WIOA expenditure rate is at 69%. In school and out of school rates are at 23% and 77% respectively.

The third page is a comparison between this program year and last program year. Financials were approved by email vote.

### **Hiviz – Lisa Hutson**

Lisa Hutson, a prospective Board member, gave an update on Hiviz. Hiviz is a custom apparel and uniform company, that has a focus on women's apparel, but does offer for all. The concept is uniforms that workers feel comfortable in. They are receiving large contracts from corporations. They are located in Batesville.

### **Ivy Tech – Carol Brown**

Carol Brown gave an update on Ivy Tech. There is a new paramedic science program at the Madison campus. Hanover College and Ivy Tech will have a nursing partnership that launches

this fall. Ivy Tech is looking to partner with IDOC to bring more educational opportunities to the correctional facilities.

### **United Way – Karen Snyder**

Karen Snyder gave an update on United Way. United Way has been working to bring awareness of 211, a social services hotline. There will be an event held on September 20 about 211 and how it works.

### **JobCorps – Joshua Kuhn**

Joshua Kuhns gave an update on JobCorps. JobCorps be looking for support from communities to avoid proposed federal budget cuts. JobCorps is available to anyone who could benefit from a residential training facility/trade program.

### **Southeastern Career Center – Tracy Bear**

Tracy Bear gave an update on the Southeastern Career Center. There are currently 912 students enrolled for 2023 from 11 high schools. They have a new full-time Capstone Coordinator on staff, who will focus on community partnerships. There will be a career fair held on August 17. The Veterinary Science program started this week. Tracy is still looking for a Computer Repair/Networking teacher.

### **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 June 2023 shows the Region at 3.2%, Indiana at 3.7% and the US at 3.8%. This does not include those not looking for work.

A survey was sent out to all Board members and Stakeholders to make sure that the Region is moving in the direction the Board and Stakeholders desire. The results show that the Board generally understands the needs of the employers. Expanding programming for vulnerable and underserved populations should be the highest priority, followed by Outreach and Education with local and regional employers, and tackling barriers to employment. There was little deviation between stakeholders. Some stakeholders felt there should be more employer input in the Board meetings. Also, that the remote option is convenient, but still compromised.

Region 9 still needs workers. This is a long-term issue triggered by COVID. There is an increased public and private response to this. Looking at people who are a part of vulnerable populations opens a whole new pool of talent.

The Region held its annual All-Staff meeting on July 21<sup>st</sup> in North Vernon. JAG expansion may include freshman/sophomore programs. There is a lot of development outside of the box, including basic needs, mental health, and addiction. The INWBA Symposium will be held October 25<sup>th</sup> at Muncie's Horizon Convention Center. Kurt met with Commissioner Faulk. He also met with US Representative Houchin, who is on the WIOA Reauthorization committee. He

highlighted that the funding formula does not reflect the employer need. Also how workforce services are measured. Kurt was invited to the UI Recommendation Engine Project. There will also be QUEST Grant activities coming soon. There will be a corrections roundtable put together before the end of the year.

**Adjourn**