

Minutes

Southeast Indiana Workforce Investment Board Meeting

October 5, 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: Jon Bond, Denise Smith, Shelley McClintock, Bryan Robbins, Sonja White, Joshua Kuhn, Lisa Hutson **Board Member Online:** Gary Norman, Daniel Noel, Luz Michel, Carol Brown **Guests in Attendance:** Kurt Kegerreis, Carla Crowe, Brad Wood, Margo Olson, Chris Henry, Holly Wehr, Shannon Schmaltz, Jessica Ogden, Deb Cole, Stephanie Perkins, Amanda Getzendanner **Guests Online:** Charlotte Gunter, Karen Snyder, Julie Himes, Clarice Patterson, Lissa Griffin, Mike Perleberg, Bev Smith

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved by email vote.

River Valley Resources – Brad Wood

Brad Wood gave an update on River Valley Resources. Total clients case managed year-to-date were 963, with 311 of these being new enrollments, and 243 of those being JAG students for the new programs beginning in January. The VOS counts dipped for office attendance in between August and September, but Brad attributes that to several job fairs held in August. Dislocated worker grants enrollments are 102 for the Quest grant, 41 for the Performance Support Grant, and 100 for the H-1B grant, for a total of 243 enrollments. The Workforce Ready Grant just started on July 1, and there are already 8 clients enrolled.

Hector Moreno and Jordan Griffin, both JVSG reps for Region 9, received awards from the State for Outstanding Performance in providing services to veterans with barriers. Year-to-date, Hector has serviced 97 veterans and provided 729 services, and Jordan has serviced 45 veterans and provided 912 services.

JAG Expansion is underway. “Right Size Wage” requests have been sent to RVR’s HR, and additional expansion funding has been requested from DWD. Sandy Wehner will be transitioning from WIOA Youth to full-time JAG by January 2024. A data support/classroom support position will also be added. A freshmen/sophomore program will be added at both Seymour and Lawrenceburg High Schools, and a 9-12 program will be added at both Crothersville and Switzerland County High Schools. All four programs are slated to start in January. There are meetings in process with Madison Consolidated High School, Greensburg

Community Schools, Decatur County Schools, and Rising Sun High School about possibly adding programs in the fall.

The JAG Leadership Development Conference was held on Friday, September 29th at the Lawrenceburg Ivy Tech Riverfront Campus. 65 students from across the region attended. During the conference, students were given the opportunity to hone their communication and leadership skills through team building activities.

There are currently 360 students enrolled in JAG. From last year, 117 students carried in, and there are 243 new enrollments for the new programs. On average, JAG students face 11.4 barriers per participant. The top 3 of these barriers are: inadequate or no work experience, lacks marketable occupational skills, and lacks motivation or maturity to pursue education or career goals.

Deb Cole, a case manager from RVR, introduced Shannon Schmaltz and Jessica Ogden of the Ripley County Courts Addiction Drug Services (CADS) program. Shannon is the director of CADS, while Jessica is a former inmate who has been in recovery for 3 years and 11 months. Shannon discussed the CADS program, and what is entailed with going through the program. She began working with Deb during Phase 3 of CADS. Deb helped her with resume building and started looking into CNA training. Unfortunately, Jessica was not able to participate in the CNA due to not being in recovery long enough. She instead became a certified peer recovery coach with One Voice in Dearborn County and also became a Support Recovery Specialist with the CADS program. Jessica stated that she could not have succeeded without the support from Deb.

Budget Review

Carla Crowe gave the review of the preliminary budget through August 31. The total funding available was just over \$5.6M. Overall planned expenses are just over \$5.3M. Planned carry-in for PY23 is \$294,422. \$222,652 of that is WIOA funds and the rest are unrestricted and unobligated funds, to help carry into the next program year.

The second page of the reports shows the revenue received so far and the budget compared to actual expenses. The benchmark is 16%. The WIOA grants are currently 13% spent. A large portion of the NextLevel Jobs grant has already been obligated, although it doesn't show on the financials. The Executive Staff expenses are at 15%. The Service Provider is at 15%. The WorkOne expenses are at 16%. The overall WIOA expenditure rate is at 13%. In school and out of school rates are at 32% and 68% respectively.

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

The Hiviz – Lisa Hutson

Lisa Hutson gave an update on The Hiviz. The 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. Lisa started the business in January 2022. She had to jump through hoops to

become a Women-Owned-Certified Business. She looked at where apparel could fit in business and realized that women are often still wearing men's uniforms, and there were very little in maternity wear. Cargill facilities are now using The Hiviz to show employees that they matter. The Hiviz is now in a 17K square foot factory. Lisa says it's a priority to pay a fair wage, 100% of benefits for employees, and offering a 401K. The Hiviz is going employee owned to make sure the company remains socially aware.

JobCorps – Joshua Kuhn

Joshua Kuhn gave an update on JobCorps. Enrollment is hovering around 240 students. They are working with a federal contactor on infrastructure connections attached to the State infrastructure bill. They are reinvigorating their Y2Y campaign, which is Youth-to-Youth campaign, which is an anti-bullying, anti-drugs, anti-violence campaign. There will be a Community Relations Council meeting held on December 6.

READI Grants – Gary Norman

Gary Norman gave an update on the regions READI grants. He asked that everyone remain patient, as the READI timeline got pushed out. Jon Bond also mentioned that the 2nd round will not fund "programs."

DWD – Shelley McClintock

Shelley McClintock gave an update on DWD. On behalf of DWD, she thanked the region for all of the hard work on the JAG Expansion. Starting 4 programs in January is the most in the State.

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 August 2023 shows the Region at 3.3%, Indiana at 3.7% and the US at 3.9%. This does not include those not looking for work.

There are several upcoming events in Region 9. The INWBA Symposium will be held on October 25th in Muncie. It will be highlighting innovative regional strategies. On October 26, the Region is holding a Corrections and Employment Roundtable at the Southeastern Career Center. The plan is to highlight best practices and employment opportunities for ex-offenders. This will be a resumption of the Region's pre-COVID systems-building strategy. Also late in October, there will be a remote CTE Stakeholder meeting. It will convene the Region's three CTE providers, Southeastern Career Center, Madison Consolidated High School and C4 in Columbus. The CTE providers will give presentations on their schools.

The JAG Career Development Conference will be held at the same time as the February Board meeting. Kurt is proposing looking into doing a joint meeting, so that Board members can assist with judging. He wants to make sure that the CDC is not disrupted.

There are a few grants that are pending. The Region did receive an FSSA grant. There is also a SAMSHA grant that the Region will assist with. There are a few grant proposals still out waiting on funding decisions.

Kurt has started discussions with the local learning centers about possible options to make them more relevant. He is facilitating conversations about child care pilots or a transportation pilot, similar to the one the Region did with Decatur Plastics. This may help possible employees who just need help with the basics.

There are Regional Strategy Conversations going on with RVR. The Region needs to be able to balance all the difficulties and opportunities ahead.

Adjourn