

Minutes

Southeast Indiana Workforce Investment Board Meeting

December 1, 2022
11:00 am – 1:00 pm
HYBRID
Southeastern Career Center
901 US 50, Versailles, IN 47042
and
Dial-In Number: 669-444-9171
Meeting ID: 5375292442
Pin: 169767

Board Members in Attendance: Patti Yount, Kevin Turner, Denise Smith, Noah Shelton, Sonja White, Jenny Moss, Nickie Nolting, Kent Stroud, Tracy Bear **Board Member Online:** Gary Norman, Tara Burcham, Bryan Robbins, Joshua Kuhn, Jon Bond **Guests in Attendance:** Carla Crowe, Kurt Kegerreis, Brad Wood, Lissa Griffin, Shelley McClintock, Whitney Amuchastegui, Luz Michel, Kristal Biehle, Deb Thomason, Jane Angst, Clarice Patterson, Mike Perleberg, Stephanie Perkins, Amanda Getzendanner **Guests Online:** Sarah Lamping, Charlotte Gunter, Karen Snyder, Bev Smith, Richard Sewell

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved by email vote.

Ivy Tech – Kevin Turner

Kevin Turner gave an update on Ivy Tech's Achieve Your Degree (AYD) program, as well as best practices. Kevin previously was employed by Honda, and worked with Madison Precision Products (MPP). Pre-COVID, MPP hosted one of the highest local counts of interns, and were ranked 10th in the State for the percent of workforce participating in Ivy Tech's AYD program. MPP increased the scope of their AYD partnership, with the degrees accepted increasing from 8 to 18. The degrees were not just in manufacturing, but in degrees which were needed in the community, including nursing, with no retention requirement, making it very appealing to younger employees. In August, Ivy Tech had students from Madison Consolidated HS complete a survey during Work-based Learning Exploration Day. From this, it was found that almost 70% of students are taking courses in high school which award credits for college. It was also noted the bulk of students were open to considering career pathways, and hadn't decided on the direction they were headed. Of the students surveyed, 64% said they were going to have to work while attending college. Another question asked was what would expectations be of a potential employer, and Work and Learn and scholarship opportunities ranked in the top three.

Executive Staff Report – Kurt Kegerreis

Kurt Kegerreis gave the Executive Staff report. Self-directed Workforce Board Training is now available. This was developed by DWD, and is required for all new Board members, but is open to any who are interested. Feedback is encouraged.

Region 9 continues to have a lower UI rate than the State. The UI rates as of September 2022 shows the Region at 1.9%, Indiana at 2.2% and the US at 3.3%. These numbers do not include those not looking for work. The Region is definitely being affected by the “Great Resignation.” There remains a chronic need for workers. The emphasis remains on talent attraction, recruitment and retention.

The final phase of the Columbus move is in progress. The building is a great fit for the Region’s work. Renovations are scheduled to start after the holidays. Hopefully the move will be completed by the end of January.

There have been several leadership changes at DWD and the State. David Adams is the new Commissioner. Kurt has been spending a lot of time in Indianapolis making friends and telling the Region’s story. His goal is to make sure Region 9’s needs are not lost in transition. INWBA is working to let people know the regions are separate from DWD and DOL. There was a symposium on November 17 in Indianapolis. The conference highlighted what Boards do, separate from DWD.

Beginning in 2023, the executive staff will be working to evaluate the Region’s model, to make sure the Region is being budget-friendly. Also, assessing what is being done well, and what could use fine-tuning.

The Governor’s Workforce Cabinet (GWC) is expected to have a meeting in the Region in June 2023. Kurt will want to hear from the Board about what is going well in Region 9, and what needs to be addressed. The GWC just released priorities for the next legislative session. Found throughout the priorities is “Think globally, plan regionally, act locally.” One priority is the plan to create an Indiana Talent Agency, and everyone is trying to figure out what that is. Another item is Advocate for Employment-Based Immigration Reform. And while Kurt is not trying to be controversial, the Board’s purpose is to help employers find employees, and this population remains untapped.

Su Casa – Whitney Amuchastegui

Whitney Amuchastegui gave a presentation on Su Casa. Su Casa’s goal is to build a thriving and valued Latino community. They focus on Family Support Services, including translation and interpretation, free family and immigration legal consultations, and assistance with financial assistance applications. They also focus on Coaching connected to English en Casa, TIME, and CRH Doula programs. This focuses on workforce readiness, family stability, education and financial coaching.

Another program they work with is Vecinas da Enlace, which is a partnership with family school partners. There are 9 Vecinas in Bartholomew County, serving more than 400 families. It is also expanding to Seymour. They have helped implement after school programs for homework help. Access is an important part of their work. M.E.T.A.S was introduced to help students avoid the “summer slide.” It helps students maintain their NWEA scores.

Su Casa is working to preserve the health of local families. They are working to bring education and support regarding access, mental health, women’s health, and prevention. They are also working with Targeted Investment in Minority Entrepreneurs (TIME) to bring mentoring and financial support to the Latino Community. To date, \$170K has been invested in local businesses.

Over the last 10 years, the Latino population in the Region has more than doubled, which is growing faster than the national average. Bartholomew County alone has a similar Latino population In the Seymour Community School District, Latinos make up 37% of the student body. Of those served by Su Casa, 66% of them work in factories. Those served also tend to be younger. 84% of the population is under the age of 45.

Whitney also discussed the different classification of immigrants. Most that are documented are either Lawful or Naturalized Immigrants. Refugees and Asylees also typically have paperwork that allows them to work, they are documented immigrants. Employers are able to apply for the H2B non-immigrant visas for periods of time, these are not field specific. The H1B non-immigrant visas for specialty occupations.

The Governor’s Workforce Cabinet is beginning to explore immigration and how it can help to open “global talent pipelines.” Federal reform is a long-term solution, but anything the State can do helps open up more opportunities for the families that are already here.

Budget Review

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

Adjourn