

Minutes

Southeast Indiana Workforce Investment Board Meeting

December 7, 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: Bryan Robbins, Lisa Hutson **Board Member Online:** Patti Yount, Gary Norman, Jon Bond, Daniel Noel **Guests in Attendance:** Kurt Kegerreis, Brad Wood, Margo Olson, Chris Henry, Kristal Biehle, Angelina Tunny, Julie Thompson, Sealey Hyatt, Lissa Griffin, Deb Thomason, Amanda Getzendanner **Guests Online:** Carla Crowe, Mike Perleberg

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved by email vote.

JAG Presentation – Angelina Tunny

Angelina Tunny, a student in the South Ripley JAG program, gave a presentation on her trip to JAG Nationals in Washington DC. She was able to meet with Congresswoman Erin Houchin, who gave the JAG students a tour of the capitol. She was also able to meet the JAG national president, Janelle Duray.

JAG Expansion – Kristal Biehle

Kristal Biehle gave an update on the JAG Expansion for the region. The JAG expansion will be occurring in two waves. The first wave will have new programs beginning in Crothersville High School, Switzerland County High School, Lawrenceburg High School, and Seymour High School. These will be the second programs in Lawrenceburg and Seymour. Crothersville and Seymour will be starting on January 8th, and Lawrenceburg on January 2nd. The position in Switzerland County is still being interviewed for.

The second wave will have a program in Greensburg High School and a second program in Madison Consolidated High School. These schools have already committed, with Madison Consolidated's being a freshman/sophomore program. There is also currently interest from Rising Sun, North Decatur, South Decatur, Columbus East, and Medora. There has been no interest shown from Columbus North, Sunman Dearborn (East Central High School), Southwestern in Hanover, or Flatrock-Hawcreek (Hauser High School).

Deb Thomason stated how important and meaningful JAG is. A former JAG student told her, “I have my own advocate now. I’ve never had an advocate for me.” Bryan Robbins asked how to promote JAG to prospective students, and Angelina felt that promoting the field trips was a good way to garner interest.

The JAG Career Development Conference will be held in North Vernon on February 1, 2024. Kurt highly recommended that Board members judge at the CDC. The Board meeting that was scheduled for the same day has been cancelled to allow for judging. There are a few ways to participate. They are to score pre-judged competitions, judge in-person, or to attend the awards ceremony. The pre-judged events are Social Media, Chapter Brochure, Chapter Commercial, Cover Design/Digital Invite, Outstanding Senior, and Writing Skills. The in-person events are Career Presentation, Creative Solutions, Critical Thinking, Employability Skills, Entrepreneurship, Financial Literacy, Public Speaking, and Project Based Learning. Those wanting to participate were instructed to contact Julie Thompson.

River Valley Resources – Brad Wood

Brad Wood gave an update on River Valley Resources. Total clients case managed year-to-date were 450, with 119 of these being new enrollments. The Dislocated Worker enrollments are a little lower due to low unemployment. The VOS counts increased in October for office attendance. Brad attributed the influx to seasonal workers. The H-1B grant has 106 clients currently enrolled, with Indiana performing top in the country. The Quest grant has 116 clients enrolled, with eligibility for this grant being expanded. The region is exceeding goals for the Workforce Ready grant, with targets for completion at 80% and certification rate at 70%, and the region already at 100% for both.

Business Services Team (BST) received a WARN notice for WestRock in Bartholomew County. Layoffs started on October 15th. The BST held a Rapid Response orientation at Baxter. The BST promoted WorkOne services to 125+ employers, referred 90+ jobs in ICC to job seekers, and created 22 new INgage accounts for employers.

Hector Moreno, who is based in the Columbus WorkOne, was featured in the Columbus Republic for his achievements in serving veteran job seekers. Jordan Griffin, out of the Madison WorkOne, was invited to participate in the Canaan Community Academy Veteran’s Day celebration. Over 30 community veterans attended this event, and Jordan was able to connect with several seeking services. The Region’s JVSG team also attended Senator Mike Braun’s Veteran Days event at Camp Atterbury’s Museum.

During November, the TAA unit conducted 336 Engagement calls to workers impacted by foreign trade in Region 9. If a business closes its doors or reduces hours due to sending production/jobs overseas, that’s where TAA comes in. Two open house events were held for TAA, with 14 attendees resulting in 7 enrollments.

There are currently 31 new young adult enrollments as of December 1st. Six clients have successfully completed a WEX, to date.

The Hiviz – Lisa Hutson

Lisa Hutson gave an update on The Hiviz. There are some employees losing their jobs at Baxter due to jobs moving to Mexico. Lisa is keeping a list, to possibly hire on trained individuals. Lisa is working with Stitchworks, a non-profit in Indianapolis, to keep jobs in the area. She is looking to increase job orders to be able to hire on some of these individuals.

Budget Review

Carla Crowe gave the review of the preliminary budget through October 31st. The total funding available was just over \$6.2M. There was an adjustment from the prior period for JAG funding, and a new JAG Tanf allocation was received. Overall planned expenses are just over \$5.9M. Planned carry-in for PY23 is \$300,375. \$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 32%. Discussions are underway with DWD on the NextLevel Jobs allocation, as the region's numbers do not match DWD's. The Executive Staff expenses are at 32%. The Service Provider is at 24%. The WorkOne expenses are at 31%. The overall WIOA expenditure rate is at 25%. In school and out of school rates are at 26% and 74% respectively.

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

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 October 2023 shows the Region at 3.0%, Indiana at 3.3% and the US at 3.6%. This does not include those not looking for work.

The region held a Corrections Roundtable on October 26th. There was a nice delegation from around the region to share best practices and connect with partners doing similar work.

There are two new grants received by the region. The FSSA grant to assist with behavioral health workers and the SAMSHA grant, which has staff located in the Bartholomew County Probation facility, to connect with prospective clients. There was also an application placed for the CHE Intermediary grant.

There have been discussions occurring between the Board staff and RVR to make sure that WorkOne staff are aligned with the opportunities available in the region.

Kurt has begun strategic outreach with the Cincinnati Metro area. He is also conducting his annual commissioner tour.

Adjourn