

Workforce Development Board of Western Missouri, Inc.

Full Board Minutes

March 22, 2023

The Workforce Development Board of Western Missouri, Inc. met on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 via teleconference at 1:00 p.m.

Board members present were Gabe Jones, Alan Ayres, Kamber Fusco, Laura Wallen, Michael Rogg, Robin McHugh, Chris Connell, Suzie Brodersen, Kim Kendrick, Tommy Hampton, Chris Green, Joyce Furnell, Angy Littrell, Michael Schubach and James White. Bates County Presiding Commissioner; Jim Wheatley was also in attendance. WDB staff present were Missy Eidson, Tara Colter-Lappat, Sarah Wilson and Angie Bailey.

Board members not in attendance were Jim Kilby, Katie Stanley-Dietzman, Jessica Craig, Cara Canon and Tami Green.

It was determined quorum was present.

Chairperson Chris Connell called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Kim Kendrick made a motion approve the agenda. Mr. Alan Ayres seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Connell asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2023 Full Board meeting. Mr. Alan Ayres made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Joyce Furnell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chair Report: Mr. Chris Connell reported that the current program year is winding down and there are Adult/Dislocated Worker funds to be spent. The Executive Committee had a lengthy discussion last month and decided to allow submission of exceptions for training caps if the participant qualifies as a level 1 or 2 under priority of service and the training provider has a 90%+ employment placement rate or the participant can provide a letter guarantying employment upon successful completion of training. The exceptions will be approved or denied by the Executive Director on a case by case basis and reported to the Planning and Operations Committee at the following meeting.

Mr. Connell asked for a motion to approve the Selective Service Failure to Register Policy as presented. Mr. Michael Rogg made a motion to approve the policy. Ms. Joyce Furnell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Executive Committee Meeting: Mr. Tommy Hampton gave the report from the February 22nd Executive Committee meeting. The committee discussed proposed changes to the Annual Agreement from the Office of Workforce Development. The agreement will be issued soon and will be reviewed further. Equal Opportunity funding will increase from \$25,000 to \$35,000 in the upcoming year. The Youth Work Experience Policy was reviewed and a vote was made to make updates to reflect changes to the state's issuance. A meeting was held in Jefferson City with Senator Brian Williams to discuss potential investments of general revenue funds into the Public Workforce System. Each region submitted information regarding their respective regions and an overall funding request was submitted. The region mailed the same information to all Representatives/Senators covering the West Central counties to ensure they were aware of the request.

Equus Workforce Solutions: Ms. Lynette Saxton from Equus Workforce Solutions gave a presentation on services the organization offers as well as ways they are partnering with the Sedalia Job Center.

Committee Reports:

Finance and Audit: Mr. Chris Connell gave the report from the Finance and Audit Committee. The Committee reviewed financial reports and budget line item transfers for February and March.

The Committee recommends a vote to transfer \$137,264.97 of PY22/FY23 Dislocated Worker funds to Adult. Funds are 100% transferrable between the funding streams. Due to the low unemployment rates in the region we are not providing services to many dislocated workers. Ms. Kim Kendrick made a motion to approve the transfer. Mr. Tommy Hampton seconded the motion. Ms. Robin McHugh abstained. The motion carried.

Planning and Operations: Mr. Gabe Jones gave the report for the Planning and Operations Committee.

The following trainings have been added to the Local Eligible Training Provider list since the last meeting:

Center for Human Services – Direct Support Professionals Apprenticeship

Truck Dynasty – Truck Driver Training

An update was given on the Job Center Certifications. The Accessibility Audit has been completed in Sedalia and Nevada. The Job Center Certification Team will do their visit in Nevada on March 27th and in Sedalia on April 14th. The region is on track to submit the required information to the Office of Workforce Development prior to the May 30th deadline.

The Committee recommends a vote to approve the changes as presented to the Adult Work Experience Policy. Mr. Alan Ayres made a motion to approve the changes. Ms. Joyce Furnell seconded. The motion carried.

Contract Required Enrollments: Mr. Troy Roland reported the region has exceeded the Adult/Dislocated Worker enrollment goals. The Wagner-Peyser goals for Nevada are where they should be at this point in the contract. The Youth enrollment goals are lower than they should be however, there are several youth in the pipeline that will significantly increase those numbers in the near future.

Employer Engagement Committee: Ms. Kelly Vert gave the Employer Engagement Committee report. The Functional Leaders are currently in the process of meeting with Economic Developers across the region to understand how they can better engage employers in the area.

Job Center / One-Stop Operator Updates: Ms. Kelly Vert gave an update for the region. She also stated that currently all position in both job centers are filled.

Job Center Success Stories: Ms. Laura Kempf discussed two individuals completing Medcerts training. Ms. Eidson stated going forward a monthly featured success story from the region would be emailed out to all board members, elected officials and others.

Director's Report:

Job Center Survey Results: Seeker surveys were discussed. All of them were positive since the last board meeting.

Request for Proposals: Mr. Gabe Jones made a motion to award the One Stop Operator and the Staffing/Participant contracts to Eckerd Connect for the upcoming program year (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024) with the possibility of two additional one year extensions. Mr. Alan Ayres seconded the motion. Ms. Robin McHugh abstained. The motion carried.

Quarterly Performance Reports: The new format for Quarterly Performance Reports from the Office of Workforce Development were discussed and the Q2 QPR was reviewed.

Plan Modifications 10: This plan modification is for the Dislocated Worker to Adult funding transfer request voted on previously in the meeting. The 14 day public comment period will begin today. Once complete all necessary documents will be submitted to OWD for approval.

Miscellaneous: There were no miscellaneous items to discuss.

Mr. Chris Connell asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Kim Kendrick made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Alan Ayres seconded the motion. The motion carried.