

Workforce Development Board of Western Missouri, Inc.

Full Board Minutes

January 24, 2024

The Workforce Development Board of Western Missouri, Inc. met on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 via teleconference at 1:00 p.m.

Board members present were Gabe Jones, Alan Ayres, Kamber Fusco, Laura Wallen, Michael Murders, Robin McHugh, Jessica Craig, Chris Connell, Suzie Brodersen, Kim Kendrick, Chris Green, Nancy Grey, Angy Littrell, Michael Schubach and James White. WDB staff present were Missy Eidson, Tara Colter-Lappat, Tammy Tankersley and Sarah Wilson.

Board members not in attendance were Jim Kilby, Tommy Hampton, Joyce Furnell and April Godwin.

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 to approve the agenda. Mr. Chris Green seconded. The motion carried.

Mr. Connell asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2023 Full Board meeting. Mr. Alan Ayres made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Gabe Jones seconded. The motion carried.

Chair Report: Mr. Connell discussed the primary focus of the current program year which is improving turnaround time on approvals. This in turn improves the customer experience whether an individual or an employer. An internal tracking system was developed to track the number of corrections that are necessary. This has allowed for a deep dive into what is causing the delays and number of corrections needed for approvals to be completed for participant eligibility or funding requests. Frequent and open and conversations continue to be had with job center staff to address issues that have been identified and changes to processes have been implemented. The staff continue to work together to find ways to improve the process for everyone. A weekly report is also sent by Missy to all staff identifying the progress toward set goals on enrollments, return of correction rates and participant expenditures. All goals are on track for mid-point of the program year.

Committee Reports:

Finance and Audit: Ms. Kim Kendrick reported the committee reviewed budget line-item adjustments for November and December and reviewed financial reports. She also reported that Ms. Judy Ward from Hood and Associates had presented the final annual audit report. There were no issues found. The committee recommended the Full Board vote to approve the audit as presented. Gabe Jones made a motion to approve the audit. Mr. Gabe Jones seconded the motion. Ms. Robin McHugh and Ms. Kamber Fusco abstained. The motion carried.

Planning and Operations: Mr. Gabe Jones stated the committee reached a consensus to recommend the Full Board vote to approve the Transitional Jobs and the Sub-state Monitoring Policy as presented. Mr. Alan Ayres made a motion to approve the Transitional Jobs Policy as presented. Kim Kendrick

seconded the motion. Robin McHugh and Kamber Fusco abstained. The motion carried. Mr. Chris Green made a motion to approve the Sub-state Monitoring Policy as presented. Mr. Alan Ayres seconded the motion. Robin McHugh and Kamber Fusco abstained. The motion carried.

National Farmworker Program Presentation: Ms. Jeri Cochran gave a presentation on services offered through the National Farmworker Program and examples of how they partner with the Missouri Job Centers to braid funding and services.

Missouri Association of Workforce Development: Ms. Tara Colter-Lappat discussed her work on the MAWD board and shared benefits to employers and professional development opportunities that were available.

Job Center / One Stop Operator Updates: Ms. Kelly Vert and Ms. Laura Kempf gave updates on happenings in the West Central Region since the last Full Board meeting.

Job Center Success Stories: Ms. Kempf highlighted three recent success stories for the board.

Director's Report:

Job Center Survey Results: Ms. Tara Colter-Lappat reported 72 survey results had been received since the last meeting and all were positive.

PY24 Q1 & Q2 Monitoring / Performance Reports: PY24 Q1 & Q2 monitoring results were discussed as well as current performance results.

Local Plan Approval: The new Local 4-Year Plan will be brought to the board for approval during the March meeting. The region is awaiting data from MERIC to insert into the narrative as well as one MOU signature.

Eckerd Contract Renewals: Mr. Chris Green made a motion to approve renewal for another year for the Staffing contract #23-20-12 and the One-Stop-Operator #23-30-12 from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. Mr. Michael Schubach seconded the motion. Ms. Robin McHugh abstained. The motion carried.

Clinton SFCC Partnership: Ms. Eidson reported a meeting she had with Julie Carter (Office of Workforce Development Director) and Dara Bigler (Director of State Fair Community College Clinton Campus). All entities will be partnering to place a full-time staff person offering job center services on the Clinton Campus location. Current planning is underway.

Miscellaneous: There were no miscellaneous items to discuss.

Mr. Chris Connell asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gabe Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried.