



**Southeastern Wisconsin Workforce Development Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 16, 2021**  
**Kenosha County Job Center – Virtual**  
**9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

**Members present:** Dr. Bryan Albrecht, Laura Cesar, Susan Chandek, Derek D’Auria, Ron Frederick, Nicholas Galich, Waylon Gross, Tasha Jenkins, Brooke Infusino, Amy Mlot, Tom Reiherzer, Dave Riley, Lanetta Virgil, Matt Waltz

**Members excused:** Ken Fellman, Dave Gaspar, Alexa Haigh, Cheryl Kothe, Paul Moeller, Loretta Olsen, Cynthia Simonsen

**Others present:** Doug Bartz, Michelle Blanchard, Rebecca Freund, Jacquetta Gilman, Chris Isaacson, Ed Kamin, Terri Liesten, Beth Norris, Renee O’Day, Marilyn Putz, Karen Sotak, Tom Walsh

**LEO’s present:** County Executive Kreuser

**Call to Order:**

- Board Chair, Nicholas Galich, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Roll Call:**

- Rebecca Freund completed roll call.

**Citizen Comments:**

- No citizen comments.

**Approval of Minutes of August 4, 2020 Board meeting:**

- Matt Waltz made a motion to approve the August 4, 2020 Board meeting minutes as written with Dr. Bryan Albrecht seconding that motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

**Term Renewals:**

- Board Chair Galich mentioned that there a few Board members whose term has either expired or is about to expire. Those Board members have opted to renew their term.
- Doug said that he would like to share the list of those up for renewal and mentioned that we reached out to each one to confirm they would like to remain a Board member. The list is as follows: Dr. Bryan Albrecht, Derek D’Auria, Nicholas Galich, Brooke Infusino, Amy Mlot, Tom Reiherzer, and Matt Waltz.
- Tasha Jenkins made a motion to approve the term renewals for all those listed with Waylon Gross seconding.
- Motion passed unanimously.

**Operations Update – Doug Bartz:**

- March 2020 everything went virtual and we have shifted to make sure that services are still provided.
- We are looking to reopen some of the Centers so that job seekers can come in to search for work. Tasha will be leaving our area but will remain our contact until the State hires someone for her position. March 1<sup>st</sup> is the target date for part time services by appointment at the Racine Center due to the numbers – unemployment, building usage, staff availability, etc.... There will be some guidance on how that will work.
- Tasha said that job seekers can call to make an appointment to come in. We will be spacing out and practicing social distancing while cleaning those areas in between appointments.
- Doug said Thank You and Congratulations to Tasha.
- Monitoring - - we had our virtual Monitoring of services. Due to things happening in Kenosha and changes within DWD, our monitoring was rescheduled a couple different times. Our previous program liaison, Stephanie Elmer, was promoted and our new program liaison is Renee O’Day. We are expecting a report from the State within 45 days; it will be sent to County Executive Kreuser, Board Chairman Galich and Doug. We will then have discussions with our provider on what changes need to be made.
- Work Search Exemption - - The order was renewed and with that waiver in effect, we don’t have the same flow of people coming through the Job Centers. Doug said that is set to expire in July and we hope to have our Centers open but will be in communication with the State.

### **Fiscal Report (handout) – Presentation by Jacquetta Gilman, Kenosha County Fiscal:**

- PY 2019 formula funding – in Admin we are spending about 23,000 per month and will exhaust that funding with the February billing. Once those funds are exhausted, we will begin using PY 2020 funds.
- We are working on drawing down Dislocated Worker and Adult funds but will probably not spend the full PY 2019 funds by June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.
- We didn't fully expend PY 2018 funds for Youth and began using PY 2019 funds in July 2020.
- Jacquetta discussed in depth the funding levels for the Rapid Response, Windows to Work, Apprenticeship State Expansion and the COVID-19 Disaster Recovery Dislocated Worker Grants.
- Dave Riley made a motion to accept the Fiscal Report as given with Amy Mlot seconding.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Dave Riley asked what happens to the money when it is not fully expended. Doug said that any unspent funds get sent back to the State and then redistribute back to all the Workforce Boards. Last year was the 1<sup>st</sup> year that we've ever had to send funds back. There are 3 Job Centers that are possibly being opened with the prison system and we will be able to send personnel in to offer services to them.

Dave Riley asked if there are any special considerations due to the Pandemic. Doug said that he's not aware of any but that would come from DOL to the State.

Amy Mlot asked if the deadline would be extended and Doug said that we don't have direct contact with DOL and nothing has been sent down from the State.

Tom Reiherzer asked what the State does with those funds. Doug said that the State would have to get more involved to explain it all but basically, it goes back into the WIOA pot and gets distributed throughout Wisconsin.

### **One-Stop Operator (OSO) Report (handout) – Beth Norris:**

- Beth mentioned that there was a memo that was included with your packet.
- Holding partner meetings to see what's going on within the individual agencies and how we can work together.
- Electronic referral form has been getting tweaked but is working well.
- Will share more details about stories of resilience from job seekers that she's spoken with.
- Beth gave props to DWFS for collecting customer surveys and sharing success stories.
- Kudos to Tasha Jenkins for the workforce system highlights - - continuing to serve those unemployed via individual phone calls.
- Enhanced services are available for apprenticeships to get tools, books, etc...

### **SE WI WDA 1 Labor Market Information (handout) – presentation by Tom Walsh, DWD Economist:**

- Tom discussed the volume of unemployment claims that have been filed within the past year - - things are somewhat improving but we are not out of the woods just yet.
- Comparing our area to the State, the area has continued to stay a little higher than State levels when comparing weekly unemployment claims.
- Education and Health services have been hit - - - many workers, due to elective procedures being down, were out of work.
- 2023 is when employment levels will hit pre-recession levels.
- Ongoing workforce challenges: transportation, housing, and recruitment.
- Employers need to hire for learnability and job seekers need to have the ability to learn - - - more about critical thinking and problem solving.

Dave Riley said Thank You for the data, but it would be nice to see Kenosha data when showing the projections for recovery. Tom said that he doesn't have that available - - - it is part of the Metro area between Milwaukee and Chicago but does see it following the same trend - - around 3-4 years.

### **ASE (Apprenticeship State Expansion) Grant – presentation by Michelle Blanchard, DWFS:**

- This grant started in April 2020 but really just ramped up this program year.
- This grant is to assist with education, awareness, and interest of apprenticeships.
- Talking with employers to see what skills are most needed and/or missing so that can be relayed to the State.
- Sharing information with parents and students and recruiting individuals in high school and in that in between stage.

- Michelle discussed in depth the ways that they are getting the word out: virtual and in-person events, mailing, flyers, billboard advertisements, radio spots, increasing social media outreach, etc.....

County Executive Kreuser asked what percentage was in the Construction trades? Michelle said that she wouldn't know that off hand, but she assumes it's large. He then asked what's the percentage of success - - you are doing these events but how do a home run?? Michelle said when someone is interested, the coordinator meets with them and shares information and then they can connect them. He asked what would be the timeline for someone looking into being an Electrician?? Michelle said that it really does depend, but Matt Waltz could give us further information. Dave Riley said that if we can capture them while in high school, the process is quicker and allows us to get more people involved. County Executive Kreuser said that he would like to see the different timelines at a future meeting. Tom Reiherzer said there's a lot that depends on supply and demand. Matt Waltz said that he has been working with the State on career pathways on apprenticeships. A lot of people that he works with have a job but it's just not good enough, so it may take longer than someone who is ambitious and more flexible. He will work with Michelle and have something available to share with everyone a future meeting.

#### **Monitoring Update – Marilyn Putz:**

- Monitoring has been virtual but we continue doing what we normally would.
- Marilyn discussed the different monitoring events that have occurred.

#### **Other Items as Allowed by Law:**

- No other items discussed.

#### **Board Chair Comments:**

- Board Chairman Galich said that Renee O'Day had to jump off but he wanted to formally Welcome her to our area and the meeting.
- Board Chairman Galich said that he believes we have the right people and the right infrastructure and positive things are happening. Thank You to the staff for keeping things moving.
- Please be safe and take care of yourself and your family.

#### **Local Elected Official Comments:**

- Thank you to Nick from County Executive Kreuser for your Chairmanship and to the staff and those that gave presentations today. If you have any questions, even if you don't want to speak up at the meeting, please reach out to either Nick or County Executive Kreuser.
- Thank You for all the board members for their time today and be well.

#### **Next meeting:**

- The next SE WI WDB meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. This meeting is more than likely going to be virtual due to the pandemic.

#### **Adjournment:**

- Dr. Bryan Albrecht made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Matt Waltz seconded that motion.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.