



**Southeastern Wisconsin Workforce Development Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 8, 2021**  
**Kenosha County Job Center – Virtual**  
**9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

**Members present:** Matt Janisin for Dr. Bryan Albrecht, Tessa August, Laura Cesar, Susan Chandek, Derek D’Auria, Edgard Delgado, Ken Fellman, Nicholas Galich, Waylon Gross, Brooke Infusino, Tasha Jenkins, Cheryl Kothe, Amy Mlot, Paul Moeller, Tom Reiherzer, Dave Riley, Matt Stinebrink, Lanetta Virgil, Matt Waltz

**Members excused:** Ron Frederick, Dave Gaspar, Alexa Haigh, Loretta Olsen, Cynthia Simonsen

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

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

**Call to Order:**

- Board Chair, Nicholas Galich, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**Roll Call:**

- Rebecca Freund completed roll call.
- Edgard Delgado introduced himself - - he is taking over for Tasha Jenkins as District Director for Job Service.

**Citizen Comments:**

- No citizen comments.

**Approval of Minutes of February 16, 2021 Board meeting:**

- Cheryl Kothe made a motion to approve the February 16, 2021 minutes with Tom Reiherzer seconding.
- Motion passed unanimously.

**Operations Update – Doug Bartz:**

- As we are getting more comfortable with opening things up, Job Service has returned to the Job Centers as of June 1<sup>st</sup>. For the first week, there was close to 40 job seekers that were helped in Kenosha, around 60 in Racine, and Walworth doesn’t have Job Service staff, but operations continue out there.
- When enrolling Youth, we do have to see them in person so that they can TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education), so that is being done by appointment only and following guidelines for each County and the CDC.
- Participants are still being seen virtually but can also be seen face to face - - - whatever they are more comfortable with, we can accommodate.

**Fiscal Report – presentation by Jacquetta Gilman – Fiscal:**

- Program Year 2019 Admin funds have been fully expended. As of February 2021, PY 20 Admin funds are being utilized.
- It is anticipated that \$25,000 in Dislocated Worker funds will be returned to the State. While spending has been trending upwards, there were too many months impacted by Covid.
- In the Adult Program, funds will be spent down but we don’t believe we’ll meet the 35% training goal.
- \$100,000 is anticipated to be returned from the Youth Program funds. In 2018, there was more money allocated and that resulted in utilizing PY 19 funds later.
- Cheryl Kothe made a motion to accept the Fiscal Report. Tom Reiherzer seconded that motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

**Labor Market Update – Tom Walsh, Labor Market Economist - DWD:**

- The region and the State followed the same path regarding UI claims. Claims volume is still higher than those in 2019 but 2019 was relatively low.
- Industry areas that will change – Leisure and Hospitality: Tom Walsh says there’s a big demand for it now that we are working on solving the public health crisis. Education and Health Services: Health care took a hit on workforce. With virtual services for education - - what will it continue to look like - - Tom said he can’t say for sure but it’s something to keep an eye on.
- Ongoing workforce challenges: transportation, housing, recruitment, and child care.

Waylon Gross said that he would like an idea of how the extra Federal UI fits into the Labor Market situation. Tom Walsh said that it's hard to say but what we are seeing is based on the workforce challenges.

Tom Reiherzer said that the demand for construction is immense. Tom Walsh said he didn't highlight it but it's definitely gone up during the pandemic.

Doug Bartz commented that he also tracks UI. About a week and a half ago, there was 6,700 people filing for UI; whether a new claim or ongoing claim, within our three counties. There are many people not being counted because they are not claiming UI anymore. There are 30,000 jobs posted in SE Wisconsin that are unfilled. We are not alone with this issue - - all businesses are short staffed all around.

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

- Beth Norris said that the goal of the regional workforce system is to: Help individuals reach their highest potential; Help businesses compete on skills; and Ensure the economy has an optimal talent pool.
- Beth said that within the Region that she serves: there are 7 counties, 8 locations, 30 programs and approximately 60 organizations providing services.
- Beth discussed, in depth, opportunities and events that have been happening and how things are going.

#### **Contract Renewals – Doug Bartz:**

- Doug said that a memo was sent out to the Boards regarding allocations, but an exact amount and a letter of intent has not yet been received from DWD.
- There was an increase in funding - - 30% increase for Youth and Adult and 6% increase for Dislocated Workers.
- Doug asked the Board for permission to extend contracts to DWFS for Adult, Youth, Dislocated Worker, Disaster Recovery, and the Apprenticeship State Expansion Grant. He also asks to extend the contract with Racine County for Windows to Work which serves the prison population. He also asks to enter in to a contract with Milwaukee County and WOW (Waukesha, Ozaukee, and Washington Counties) for the One-Stop Operator, which is Beth, for \$25,000. He also asks to enter into a contract with Marilyn Putz for contract monitoring for \$5,000. At the next meeting, an update will be given on the status of funds and contracts.
- Tom Reiherzer made a motion that grants Doug Bartz permission to extend contracts, enter into contracts and report at the next meeting. Amy Mlot seconded that motion.

#### **Apprenticeship Timeline – Matt Waltz, WRTP & Michelle Blanchard, DWFS:**

- Michelle said that one of the questions that came up at the last meeting was how construction fits in to the larger number of registered apprenticeships within the State and the local area.
- As of the end of March 2021, registered apprenticeships in Construction had 74% in SE WI and 70% Statewide; 15% in SE WI and 18% Statewide for the Industry sector; and 11% in SE WI and 12% Statewide for Misc./Other which includes mostly Barber/Cosmetology/Funeral Director apprenticeships.
- Matt said that Wisconsin was the first state to have registered apprenticeship.
- Matt discussed, in depth, the career path to become a registered apprentice, mentioning that the timeline depends on the person and their current situation.
- Michelle shared two YouTube links regarding successful apprenticeship stories. She also shared that there is an apprenticeship page on our Southeastern Works website – [www.sewrks.com](http://www.sewrks.com).
- Michelle discussed the Gig Economy: Doordash, GrubHub, Uber Eats, Uber, Lyft, Rover, WagWalking, BarkleyPets, TaskRabbit, Handy, Thumbtack, Care, UrbanSitter, Tutor, Yup, and Brainfuser.
- Six flyers were created to discuss the Gig Economy for job seekers that want to make their own hours, or may have issues with child care, etc....
- If you have any questions or would like to discuss Apprenticeship or the Gig Economy further, please feel free to connect with Matt and/or Michelle.

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

- Marilyn said that she completed a monitoring of the One-Stop Operator and focused on five areas: startup activities which she found a good of those within our local area; communication – the OSO has found ways to communicate with each of the WDA's in ways that work for each of them; learning – many learning opportunities offered for different sectors in each area; board presentations – all customized to meet each Board's need; and metrics to measure the effectiveness of services. All in all - - provision of services is adequate and being met successfully.
- There will be one more monitoring of the OSO near the end of June..

**Other Items as Allowed by Law:**

- Doug said he doesn't have any other items but wanted mention that if any Board member has any topics that they would like to discuss or if there are any comments on keeping the meetings virtual or in-person. Please connect with Doug.
- Waylon said that keeping the hybrid model is good. Ken Fellman concurs with that and having that option open.

**Board Chair Comments:**

- Board Chair, Nicholas Galich thanks everyone for their work during these times. We didn't hit all the goals we wanted this year, but we did good considering the times we are in.
- Nicholas also mentioned that Cheryl Kothe is retiring from KUSD in July and he thanked her for her service. She's done great things with promoting workforce development in our communities. Cheryl said Thank You and she will definitely miss it but she knows everyone will continue doing great things.

**Local Elected Official Comments:**

- No Local Elected Official comments at this time.

**Next meeting:**

- The next SE WI WDB meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Adjournment:**

- Tom Reiherzer made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Cheryl Kothe seconding.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.