



Southeastern Wisconsin Workforce Development Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 11, 2024
Virtual Meeting - Zoom
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Members present: Matt Bieser, Laura Cesar, Susan Chandek, Derek D’Auria, Nicholas Galich, Alexa Haigh, Brooke Infusino, Matt Janison, Sean Levitt, Amy Mlot, Tom Reiherzer, Matt Waltz, Toni White, Aaron Williams

Members excused: Edgard Delgado, Stephanie Henderson, Loretta Olsen, Dave Riley, Tessa Springer, Matt Stinebrink

Others present: Doug Bartz, Michelle Blanchard, Rebecca Freund, Chris Isaacson, Beth Norris, David Rivera

LEO’s present: Kenosha County Executive Samantha Kerkman, Walworth County Board Supervisor Brian Holt

Call to Order:

- Board Chair, Nicholas Galich, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.
- Sean Levitt and Matt Bieser are new members to the Board; they both were given a couple minutes to introduce themselves. Welcome to the Board!

Roll Call:

- Silent roll call completed by Rebecca Freund.

Citizen Comments:

- No citizen comments.

Approval of Minutes of February 2, 2024 Board meeting:

- Tom Reiherzer made a motion to accept the February 2, 2024 Board meeting minutes as written. Brook Infusino seconded that motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Fiscal Report / Programmatic Activities – Fiscal by David Rivera – Programmatic Activities by Chris Isaacson - DWFS:

- David discussed the Fiscal Report and Chris talked about Programmatic Activities as of March 2024:
 - **Dislocated Workers:**
 - A budget transfer of \$160,000 from the Dislocated Worker to the Adult Program has been completed, bringing the updated budget amount to \$247, 574 - - there was an additional transfer but that will be next discussed at the next meeting. The transfer was made due to DW program being more eligibility restricted and there has been a significant increase in adult utilization this year.
 - As of March, \$159,579 has been spent, leaving a balance of \$87,996. Please note this is PY 22 money – PY 23 budget is \$403,568 but will not be utilized until PY22 funds are expended.
 - Chris Isaacson said there has been 12 Dislocated Worker enrollments this year; there has been 8 successful exits with employment.
 - **Adults:**
 - Average spending per month is around \$100,000 and as of March, the full budget of \$1,026,579 has been spent. As previously mentioned, there was an additional transfer of \$86,000 from the DW program.
 - \$727,921 is the budget for PY23 funds and Fiscal has sat down with DWFS to discuss expenditures so that funding doesn’t run out.
 - 232 new enrollments into the Adult program with 97 entering training; 66 successful exits with employment.
 - **Youth:**
 - As of December 2023, PY22 Youth funds have been expended and we have begun utilizing PY23 funds – budget set at \$832,976 and as of March, \$432,237 has been spent.
 - 90 Youth have been enrolled through May with 30 entering training and 22 placed into work experience making an average of \$16.93 per hour.
 - **Rapid Response:**
 - Rapid Response PY23 had a budget of \$56,201 and \$24,698 has been spent

- There have only been 4 notices of layoffs after 300-400 workers. We have tried to reach out to those workers and have created job specific job fair events.
 - **Windows to Work:**
 - Windows to Work budget was set at \$198,983 and have spent \$142,207, leaving a remaining balance of \$56,976 and are on track to use the remaining funds.
 - **ARES (Adult Reentry Employment Strategies):**
 - Budget was set at \$30,000 and we've utilized \$16,443. There was a no cost extension which extended to September 2024.
 - Working with Department of Correction to develop a partner list of different agencies that can provide support for people released from any type of custody.
 - **Worker Advancement Initiative (WAI):**
 - WAI had \$547,464 and as of March, \$495,477 has been spent.
 - **Workforce Innovation Grant (WIG):**
 - A budget of \$743,784 and as of March, \$51,964 has been spent.
 - Working with partner agencies on outreach and referral activities for students attending the 509 Program which is a GED Program via Gateway Technical College.
 - **QUEST National Dislocated Worker Grant:**
 - \$289,990 has been spent out of the budget of \$595,848.
 - This grant focuses on the childcare facilities with hiring and hopefully maintaining staff. 446 childcare centers have been contacted; there are 17 active work sites with 14 customers currently working in the field making an average of \$13.78 per hour.
- Tom Reiherzer asked if there were other training facilities besides Gateway being used. Chris said that we use training providers from the ETPL list that is approved by the State for WIOA funds to be spent and there are many facilities used depending on what training the customer is looking for. Doug stated that ETPL stands for Eligible Training Provider List and Gateway is utilized so much because they have so many options and have locations throughout our area.
- Derek D'Auria asked if we are working with any of the childcare providers in Walworth County and Chris said Yes. He also asked about the job fairs for youth, specifically in Walworth and Chris said that specifically for those in the 509 program, it was extremely low.
- Tom Reiherzer made a motion to approve the report with Derek D'Auria seconding that motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

One-Stop Operator Report – Beth Norris:

- Beth gave a short overview of her role as the One-Stop Operator (OSO); mentioning that she serves as a Liaison to the Workforce Development Boards and all the partner programs.
- Beth said that the 4-year pilot has come to an end and discussed activities that she has been working on.
- Customer Satisfaction Survey: 3.9 is the average rating throughout the Super Region (Kenosha, Racine, Walworth, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee & Washington Counties).
- Beth shared 2 QR codes with the Board to complete a survey on how they feel that things are going with the OSO Approach and with the Workforce System.
- Beth said for next year, she will be working on building on what's been working best and the transitional process as she is planning to retire after next year.

WIOA Update – Doug Bartz:

- **Contract Renewals:**
 - Doug discussed allocations stating that money is allowed to be spent during 2 years and that's why you are hearing about PY22 funds. We do not know our amounts for PY24 as of yet, which has made it hard for planning but we try to budget accordingly knowing that our funding continues to decrease. Doug said that we are fortunate enough to have carryover funds so that we can do continuous service without interruptions.
 - Our current contract runs out with DWFS, Racine County Department of Human Services and also with our OSO – Beth Norris as of June 30th and Doug asks the Board to authorize him to enter in to negotiations with the service providers knowing that we have money coming.
 - Doug says that we have about a 15.68% decrease in funding this year and mentioned that he's heard that allocations should be coming out within the next week or so and will report out numbers at the next meeting.

- Amy Mlot made a motion to allow Doug to enter PY24 services with DWFS, Racine County Department of Human Services and Employ Milwaukee for our OSO. Matt Janisin seconded that motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.
- **Regional Plan:**
 - Doug said that within WIOA law, we are required to have a regional workforce plan and this is a plan that is between WOW Works (Waukesha, Ozaukee & Washington Counties) and Employ Milwaukee.
 - We do have borders but employers, constituents and programs that work within the system don't care about the borders, they need people to fill jobs.
 - The Regional Plan essentially states that the three (3) Boards will work together as best as possible to provide services to all that come in for services in somewhat a succinct manner. There is no wrong door to access services, no matter where you are.
 - This plan also authorizes us to work with Beth, which has been noted as a best practice by the State.
 - Doug asks the Board for approval of this Plan and once approved; it will go to Kenosha County Executive.
 - Tom Reiherzer made a motion to accept the Regional Plan with Matt Bieser seconding.
 - Motion passed unanimously.
- Doug mentioned that if anyone has questions or wants further in-depth information, please feel free to connect with either himself, Rebecca and/or Chris to schedule a meeting.

Any New Updates:

- Doug shared some Unemployment information; stating that we've seen a couple major layoffs and some smaller ones too and those have had us on a roller coaster with UI numbers.
- Over 3,100 are active in Kenosha; 3,700 in Racine and 1,700 in Walworth County are looking for a job - - - this is not just people collecting UI. There are approximately 2,000 that are collecting UI.

Brooke Infusino asked if Doug could share the unemployment rate. Doug gave the update that Kenosha County unemployment is at 3.4%, Racine County is at 3.7% and Walworth County is at 2.9% for April.

Derek D'Auria asked Doug to send that UI information and also the information regarding layoffs as he'd find that helpful. Doug said that he would get that information out.

Board Chair Comments:

- No comments at this time.

Local Elected Official Comments:

- No comments at this time.

Next meeting:

- Next meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment:

- Derek D'Auria made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Reiherzer seconded.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.