



Southeastern Wisconsin Workforce Development Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 4, 2020
Kenosha County Job Center – North 2
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Members present: Dr. Bryan Albrecht, Tessa August, Laura Cesar, Ken Fellman, Nicholas Galich, Waylon Gross, Alexa Haigh, Tasha Jenkins, Brooke Infusino, Cheryl Kothe, Amy Mlot, Paul Moeller, Dave Riley, Lanetta Virgil, Matt Waltz

Members excused: Susan Chandek, Derek D'Auria, Ron Frederick, Dave Gaspar, Loretta Olsen, Tom Reiherzer, Cynthia Simonsen, Matt Stinebrink

Others present: Doug Bartz, Michelle Blanchard, Rebecca Freund, Jacquetta Gilman, Stephanie Elmer, Karen Sotak, Marilyn Putz, Beth Norris

LEO's present: County Executive Delagrave

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:

- Alfonzo Gardner – 1941 Brougham Lane, Mt. Pleasant, WI 53406. Mr. Gardner wants to understand the mission and the goals of the SE WI WDB. A letter was received regarding the youth summer program. He would like to partner with the Board and learn how he can help youth go in a better direction.
- Ola Baiyewu – 425 Main Street, Racine, WI 53403. Mr Baiyewu asked what the Board is doing to make sure that new professionals or newly hired are mentored to be successful. He would like to know what and/or who those mentors are.
- Amy Greil – 34118 Washington Avenue, Burlington, WI 53105. Amy works with UW Madison's division of extension and wanted to share an update on a workforce development project that they've been evaluating over the last several months. There was a new position created in 2019 to advance some work around post-prison reentry and employment for those individuals with criminal backgrounds. There was a number of focus groups and they are happy to hear that this work is making a difference in Kenosha & Racine Counties. There are roughly 14,000 individuals released in Kenosha & Racine between 2000 and 2018. Many are connecting to services but their employment is riddled with challenges due to the barriers that exist. In the focus group, they learned how much its valued to have connections in the region that can help inform service providers o the demands of the industry and how to bridge that divide. Happy to talk more about this with anyone else interested.
- Alfonzo Gardner asked that any reports that are put out today, can he receive copies. Doug stated that he would make sure all handouts get sent. Mr. Gardner asked for Amy's report too and Doug said that is something through UW Madison and that he would need to connect with Amy for that. Amy stated that she would leave her email in the chat box - - - amy.greil@wisc.edu.
- Board Chair Nicholas Galich said for anyone that asked questions, Doug Bartz, SE WI WDB Administrator will reach out and give you answers.

Approval of Minutes of February 4, 2020 Board meeting:

- Nancy Russell noted in an email to Rebecca that her name should be added to LEO's present and also the previous Walworth County Administrator's last name was misspelled. Rebecca made those changes.
- Dr. Bryan Albrecht made a motion to accept the meeting minutes with the noted changes. Matt Waltz seconded that motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

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

- Program Year 2018 Adult & Dislocated Worker program funds ended June 2020 and all funds have been expended and we did reach the 70% training goal. Youth funds were not fully spent due to COVID 19; \$261,000 was returned to the State.

- Program Year 2019 Adult & Dislocated Worker program funds are on track to spend down and we are on track to meet the training goal. There is also enough carry-over money to continue until the Program Year 2020 allotment is received.
- Jacquetta discussed the grants that are utilized throughout in depth.
- Tasha Jenkins made a motion to approve the Fiscal report as given with Matt Waltz seconding that motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Alfonzo Gardner asked for a breakdown of each County that used what money with which program. Doug stated that he would send this Fiscal report and coming up, there's a report that is broken down by County.

DWFS Provider Report (handout) – Michelle Blanchard, Projector Director:

- From July 1, 2019 through the end of June 2020 – 281 outreach events, 64 information session, met with 2,612 candidates with 269 were eligible for WIOA.
- Apprenticeship State Expansion Grant to serve businesses/employers, as well as, the public. This grant is mainly about getting the word out about registered apprenticeship and what it is, how it can benefit those looking for a solid career path and getting more employers on board with utilizing apprenticeships when it makes sense.
- National Emergency Disaster Recovery Employment Grant – this grant is available to help fund temporary disaster relief jobs for eligible individuals that have been affected by the COVID pandemic.
- Michelle gave a detailed update on virtual services, noting that there has been no interruption in services.

Alfonzo Gardner commented that for the information sessions, First Choice Pre-Apprenticeship programs should be included; Ola Baiyewu is the Program Coordinator. Mr. Gardner also suggests doing an article in the local minority newspaper.

Brooke Infusino asked if Michelle can give comment regarding the response from the participants of the events that are being held. Michelle said she didn't have numbers right in front of her. Regarding the reverse job fair, there were 4 employees on the Zoom call and 5 employers that were able to break out into separate rooms for interviews. There has been a great response from employers about getting assistance for virtual job fairs/recruitments. Staff have been utilizing social media more to spread the word. Tasha Jenkins commented that there was 170 bags were handed out during the drive through job fair that 44 employers provided information for. Michelle thanked Gateway for letting them utilize iMET Center for the drive through job fair. Further in-depth discussion was held regarding virtual job fairs, the cost and effectiveness of those.

- Michelle gave One-Stop Operator updates and discussed the Year in Review.
- Michelle introduced Beth Norris, Liason/One-Stop Operator and asked to introduce herself and explain her role with the SE WI WDB.
- Beth mentioned that a Memo from her was sent out with Board materials.
- Beth has a survey from the Virtual Job Fair and was unable to get it out beforehand but said she will follow-up by getting that out. There were 2,353 registrants, 1,277 in attendance with about 60 workforce staff and 133 education related attendees.
- Beth said that she is excited to work with Southeastern. One of her primary goals is communication, and you can expect that in different formats.
- Beth went through some of her primary goals but one of the most important things she wanted to leave with you all is that the future of the American Job Center system is going to need to come up with the optimal balance between remote virtual services and physical services. It is a critical time for us to look at how we deliver services and also how we connect to our customers.

Other Items as Allowed by Law:

- Marilyn Putz asked for approval of the revised Supportive Service Policy. In order to be in compliance with WIOA law, we needed to separate out Adult and Dislocated Workers vs. Youth supportive services.
- Dr. Bryan Albrecht made a motion to accept the revisions to the Supportive Service Policy. Cheryl Kothe seconded.
- Motion passed unanimously.
- Marilyn Putz discussed the Monitoring Overview in depth; giving highlights of what was accomplished for the year.

Board Chair Comments:

- Board Chair Nicholas Galich welcomed Beth Norris. He congratulates Doug, Marilyn, Rebecca, Michelle and Team on moving services virtually; it's not an easy task to do. He thanks every Board Member for taking time to participate in these meeting and providing feedback today.

Local Elected Official Comments:

- No comments.

Next meeting:

- The next SE WI WDB meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2020 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. Amy Mlot seconded.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.