



Southeastern Wisconsin Workforce Development Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 1, 2022
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, Edgard Delgado, Nicholas Galich, Waylon Gross, Alexa Haigh, Brooke Infusino, Amy Mlot, Paul Moeller, Tom Reiherzer, Dave Riley, Matt Stinebrink, Matt Waltz, Toni White, Aaron Williams

Members excused: Ken Fellman, Ron Frederick, Dave Gaspar, Loretta Olsen, Cynthia Simonsen, Tessa Springer

Others present: Doug Bartz, Michelle Blanchard, Alec Fischer, Rebecca Freund, Chris Isaacson, Ed Kamin, Beth Norris, Marilyn Putz, David Rivera, Karen Sotak, Nina Taylor, Tom Walsh, Jonathon Watts

LEO’s present:

Call to Order:

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

Roll Call:

- Roll call completed by Rebecca Freund.

Citizen Comments:

- No citizen comments.

Approval of Minutes of November 9, 2021 Board meeting:

- Dr. Bryan Albrecht made a motion to accept the November 9, 2021 minutes as presented.
- Matt Waltz seconded that motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Fiscal Report – presentation by David Rivera – Fiscal:

- Doug Bartz stated that Jacquetta has moved up within Human Services and then introduced David Rivera as he has been promoted as the lead.
- David Rivera said that as of December 2021:
 - Dislocated Worker funding for 2019 has been fully expended and about half of the 2020 budget has been spent;
 - Adult funding Program Year (PY) 2020, a little under \$100,000 is being expended monthly;
 - Youth funding, spending approximately \$87,000 per month on average and there has been a significant increase in work experience spending.
 - Please note that PY 2021 funds have been received but will not be used until PY 2020 funds are either used or time has expired.
- David discussed the other grants in depth.
- Dave Riley made a motion to accept the Fiscal Report as presented.
- Tom Reiherzer seconded that motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

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

- Tom Walsh stated that UI claims compared to the volume prior to the pandemic, using 2019 numbers, are coming back down to where we were prior to the pandemic.
- Trade, Transportation, and Utilities has done tremendously well during the pandemic; whereas Leisure and Hospitality is still struggling to bounce back.
- There’s a pretty big gap between companies hiring and the amount of people looking for jobs; employers are struggling to find employees.
- Over the next 20 years or so, there’s an expected 8% population growth. The over 65 population is determined to grow about 44% and the working population is expected to decline by about 1%. We need to keep up without having extra bodies in the labor force.
- Ongoing workforce needs continue to be housing, childcare, transportation and recruitment.
- Tom said if there’s a desire for him to dive deeper into any of the topics, please let him know, he’d be happy to switch it up and is open to suggestions.

Matt Stinebrink said like all retailers, it's been a huge struggle with finding employees. He asked if there was any statistics on government dependency. Tom said he doesn't have statistics on that, but it could be part of a bigger conversation but outside of his expertise. Beth Norris commented that there is a program, Foodshare Employment and Training program, which mandates 18 to 50-year olds who receive Foodshare to participate in this program but there has been a waiver since the pandemic started. Wisconsin Works program also has waivers, but they have seen an increase of people getting back to work. Beth said she would try to find some statistics. Nina Taylor said that the work requirements for Foodshare returns July 1st.

Operations Update – Doug Bartz:

- Doug said that we continue to be flexible; our Job Centers are open and we let our customers determine whether they would like to meet virtually or in-person. WDA 1 has been the most visited Job Centers within the State – with Racine and Kenosha being in the top 5 since reopening.
- Doug discussed the additional grants that we've received during the pandemic: Disaster grant which continues to be strong and has helped workers get back to work during the pandemic; the WAI (Worker Advancement Initiative) grant which is focused on a boot camp; the WIG (Workforce Innovation Grant) grant was announced in December – 5.6 million dollars awarded to Gateway to help participants obtain their GED and we are happy to be a partner with that.
- Doug mentioned that we have a new UI person was appointed to our Board and they will hopefully be attending our next meeting. He also mentioned that there is one vacancy that we are actively recruiting for in Walworth County.

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

- Beth said over the last 18 months, there has always been some agencies that provided in-person services at the Job Centers but there has been a transition to the hybrid model.
- Beth shared the score card that she completes to show her progress each quarter.
- If you have any questions or ideas for Beth, please feel free to connect.

DWFS Update – Michelle Blanchard:

- Michelle said that Work Experience continues to improve and is a focus. The goal of a work experience is to have a young adult work with the employer to show their skills and learn new skills and if the employer is able and interested, they can hire permanently.
- Michelle showed the growth over the past couple years with 6 month increments and discussed in depth what has worked to meet the goal.
- Michelle shared a success story - - the program was able to assist with accommodations for special needs, transportation and supportive services for tools that were needed for the job. Michelle gave a special shout to Wisconsin Truck & Boom, thanking them for being a worksite.

Dave Riley asked if we've ever taken the task of where these individuals know the definition of hard work because that is something that he asks an applicant. Michelle said there is a spectrum of work experience sites but one that comes to mind is the Dekoven Center where there is a variety of positions where when someone doesn't fit into a traditional job, they mentor them on work ethic.

Dave then asked how many youths are currently placed in a work experience over the past 6 months. Michelle asked Chris Isaacson to find that number and place that in the chat. (Chris put in the chat – 12 current workers placed with almost 3,000 work experience hours)

Tom Reiherzer asked what the driving force for these kids is to get involved. Michelle said that there are many youths come in not knowing what they want to do but they are able to explore careers, complete assessments, communication between the youth and their career planner.

Brooke Infusino asked how employers can access this population. If they are interested, they can reach out to our Business Services Team – Work Experience Coordinator and there is an agreement that they enter into about what their responsibilities are as a site.

Dr. Bryan Albrecht said that there was a presentation on demographics that might be good to share with everyone. There is a declining number of youth and graduates from our schools, so that will continue to squish the pipeline. At each technical college, there's a meeting with all the school districts so if there's information that people want to share any job openings, they can. If you are interested in connecting, Dr. Albrecht can assist with connecting you.

Matt Stinebrink has worked with KAC and BGC and places job openings throughout many channels and he is interested in working with Michelle on work experience. Michelle said that she will connect with further information.

- Michelle discussed in depth a resource breakdown by location regarding work experience funding; support for training and other items that are supported such as transportation; program operations costs that are associated with staff and office supplies.
- Michelle shared the CNC Machinist Boot Camp flyer that Doug discussed in his update regarding the WAI Grant. The first cohort will start mid-March at Gateway.
- Michelle talked about the WIG – Workforce Innovation Grant, stating that it is partnership with Gateway and it will help us address the biggest workforce challenges including the urgent need of getting educated workers into in-demand fields. This funding will cover a 4-week GED or a 16-week HSED program with expansion on work ready components and next steps into further education.

Dr. Bryan Albrecht thanked everyone that helped put the WIG together. Recruitment is going to be the big effort and making sure that the message gets out. Happy to be a part of it.

Brooke asked if there is any updates of Round 2. Dr. Albrecht they anticipate that happening soon but no word yet.

Other Items as Allowed by Law:

- No other items discussed.

Board Chair Comments:

- Welcome Toni White from WRTP and gave her the opportunity to introduce herself: Toni introduced herself and looks forward to bringing contributions to WDA 1.
- Welcome Aaron Williams from KUSD and gave him the opportunity to introduce himself: Aaron introduced himself and said he looks forward to tying in with workforce information and partnerships.

Local Elected Official Comments:

- No Local Elected Official comments currently.

Next meeting:

- Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Adjournment:

- Tom Reiherzer made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Dr. Bryan Albrecht seconding.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.