



Southeastern Wisconsin Workforce Development Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Kenosha County Job Center – Virtual

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Members present: 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, Aaron Williams

Members excused: Dr. Bryan Albrecht, Ron Frederick, Dave Gaspar, Alexa Haigh, Loretta Olsen, Cynthia Simonsen

Others present: Doug Bartz, Michelle Blanchard, Allie Dorshorst, Rebecca Freund, Jacquette Gilman, Chris Isaacson, Jeff Kehl, Patrick Metzer, Beth Norris, Cody Pearce, Marilyn Putz, Jamie Reed, David Rivera, Mary Rodman, Karen Sotak, Jessica VerHaalen, Tom Walsh, Jonathon Watts

LEO's present:

Call to Order:

- Board Chair, Nicholas Galich, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Roll Call:

- Silent roll call completed by Rebecca Freund.

Citizen Comments:

- No citizen comments.

Approval of Minutes of June 8, 2021 Board meeting:

- Matt Waltz made a motion to approve the June 8, 2021 SE WI WDB Meeting minutes. Amy Mlot seconded.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Fiscal Report – presentation by Jacquette Gilman – Fiscal:

- Jacquette stated that as of September 2021, we have fully expended PY19 Dislocated Worker funds and have exceeded the training goal. PY19 Adult funds were fully expended but the training goal was not met.
- Due to carryover from PY18, Youth funds for PY19 were not utilized till July 2020; spending was increased but we did return \$115,000 to the State and we did not meet the work experience goal.
- Jacquette went over expenditures for PY20: currently spending \$23,000 per month in Dislocated Worker funds; \$96,000 per month in Adult funds; and \$80,000 per month in Youth funding.
- PY21 funds are not being utilized as there is PY20 carryover funds.
- Jacquette discussed, in depth, the other grants that we have.
- Waylon Gross made a motion to accept the Fiscal Report and Ken Fellman seconded.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Doug Bartz stated that this is Jacquette's last meeting; David Rivera will be taking over.

Board Chairman, Nicholas Galich thanked Jacquette for all she's done for us.

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

- Tom Walsh said that unemployment spiked, like we've never seen before, when the pandemic began but we are getting back to where we were before the pandemic.
- Tom stated that Leisure & Hospitality is 36% behind what it was prior to the pandemic. He also mentioned the impact on Education support staff - - something to watch.
- Tom broke down labor force/employment and industry type by County.
- Tom discussed how this recovery will be different: telemedicine and virtual office visits; tele-education and remote instruction; ecommerce..... Tom says we need to be diligent in who we help and in what ways.

Dave Riley said that we saw the report from KABA and population in Kenosha is not increasing so the big question is, there are 3,100 people are unemployed, do we know how many positions are open in SE Wisconsin and as the Board, what we can do with the funding to plan and help fill those positions. Tom said that there is a high need in a lot of different areas; we need to address barriers that is preventing people from entering the workforce – transportation, childcare, and housing.

Dave Riley asked if the funds can help address those barriers. Doug Bartz said Yes, supportive services help enrolled individuals with all those barriers in all of the grants.

Operations Update – Doug Bartz:

- The SE WI WDB is up for renewal with the State and Rebecca will be sending out the Conflict of Interest Forms; Doug asked that you sign as soon as possible and return electronically.
- Doug said that there is a Workforce Innovation Grant that the State put out and we got together with major partners to determine what the greatest need in WDA 1 is and that is childcare. We partnered and supported that grant.
- There is a 501 GED Program that is currently ran out of Racine. We partnered on a grant so that program could expand throughout our region; there is approximately 32,000 people that do not have a high school diploma or GED.
- Doug discussed the WAI Grant – Workforce Advancement Initiative - - - We are still waiting to hear if we are eligible for this grant.
- SE WI is ranking high in visits for the Resource Room with Racine being #1 in the State. The people that are coming in need a little more assistance than what we've seen in the past. Edgard Delgado mentioned that technology is a high need.
- Doug said that we are continuing our hybrid model - - - each location has staff there every day and we are assisting the Resource Rooms as needed. We will probably stay this way for a while unless the State or Board tells us otherwise. It's been great to meet people where they are most comfortable.

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

- Beth stated that Southeast is leading Wisconsin with the visits at the Job Center.
- A memo was sent out regarding customer satisfaction report for the last program year. Top services utilized were: Job Center of Wisconsin, online tools and websites, job fairs and recruitments, and Business Services.
- Beth said they are looking at piloting a kiosk-based sign-in system in Walworth and Kenosha counties. It has been implemented in Milwaukee, Waukesha, and West Bend and it appears to be very helpful in identifying those that need special accommodations, speak another language, Veterans, etc...

Youth Incentive Policy – Doug Bartz:

- Doug reminded the Board that all policies must be approved by the Board.
- Doug discussed in depth the Youth Incentive Policy; stating some of the amounts have changed and a couple other incentive goals have been added.

Board Chairman asked Doug where this funding comes from. Doug said that these incentives would be paid out of youth funding.

Amy Mlot commented that the approval date is August 26, 2021 and asked if we would be backdating this to then. Doug said that this policy would go into effect the date when the Board approves it.

Matt Waltz asked if there was a minimum number of hours that someone would have to work to receive that incentive. Doug said, no, it's the goal of receiving a job and not dependent on the hours worked. Matt Waltz asked about obtaining a diploma - - he didn't see anything about earning an industry recognized credential. Doug said that we can add that in and then send to the Board electronically for approval. There was discussion held around the industry recognized credential and the decision was made to change the wording within the policy. Doug said that if the Board approves that he would forward to the State for final approval and the policy would go into effect once the State approved.

- Matt Waltz made a motion to accept the Youth Incentive Policy with the changes discussed. Tessa Springer seconded that motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Overview & Acceptance of PY21 Monitoring – Marilyn Putz:

- Marilyn gave an overview of our plan for Monitoring this year. Every quarter, a number of files will be pulled to verify accuracy and that federal, state and local policies are being followed.
- All policies will be checked by Rebecca to make sure that our policies are reviewed regularly and that we are in compliance. If anything should need to be changed, it will be brought to Doug and then to the Board.

- Marilyn gave an overview of who does what monitoring. She mentioned that she just completed a monitoring of the One-Stop Operator and has closed that out due to goals being met.

Board Chairman Nick Galich mentioned that it would be helpful to give your general conclusions of each monitoring. Marilyn said that we actually monitor the program operator each month by meeting with the Management Team and discussing staffing patterns, numbers, etc....

- Waylon Gross made a motion to accept the PY21 Monitoring Plan as written; Brooke Infusino seconded.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Disaster Recovery Grant (DWG) & WAI Grant Overview – Michelle Blanchard:

- Board Chairman Nick Galich made comment that we had hopes to discuss the WAI Grant but notice of receipt has not been sent out, so we will table this topic till a later date
- Michelle said that the purpose of this grant is to help respond to public health and economic emergencies stemming from COVID-19. The money received will fund temporary disaster-relief jobs focused on the provision of humanitarian assistance.
- Michelle discussed the scope of work and the progress in depth.
- Michelle said the successes lie in the partnerships. Cody and Mary joined us from City of Racine, as well as Jaime and Jessica from Salvation Army, to share their successes with the partnership.

Board Chairman Nick Galich thanks the participants, in one way or another, for being part of this program and for the work that is being done. The stories are very impressive, and he is happy that things are working out so well. Michelle agreed with that statement and she is happy that we've had the opportunity to implement this program in SE Wisconsin.

Other Items as Allowed by Law:

- No other items discussed.

Board Chair Comments:

- Board Chairman Nick Galich wishes all a Happy Holiday season and Thank You for your work through the pandemic, not only for the Board and the community but through your various occupations; it is very appreciated.

Local Elected Official Comments:

- No Local Elected Official comments currently.

Next meeting:

- The next SE WI WDB meeting is to be determined. Doug mentioned that the next meeting in 2022 will be virtual but we will try to get back to in-person or hybrid meetings.

Adjournment:

- Dave Riley made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Brooke Infusino seconded that motion.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.