



Southeastern Wisconsin Workforce Development Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 12, 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:

- Board Chair, Nicholas Galich, asked that all attendees enter their name into the chat.
- Silent roll call completed by Rebecca Freund.

Citizen Comments:

- No citizen comments.

Approval of Minutes of February 1, 2022 Board meeting:

- Amy Mlot made a motion to accept the February 1, 2022 Board meeting minutes with Paul Moeller seconding.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Fiscal Report – presentation by David Rivera – Fiscal:

- David said that as of February 2022: remaining balance for Dislocated Worker Program is \$244,883 – please note that this is Program Year 2020 funds and Program Year 2021 funds have not been utilized yet. The remaining balance for Adult Program is \$240,242 and the Youth Program has \$293,091 remaining. These funds will expire on June 30, 2022.
- David discussed each of the additional grants in depth.

Matt Waltz mentioned a possible typo on the Youth Program slide – it stated, ‘spent as of February 2021’. David said Yes, he apologizes for that error – it should be 2022. Matt Waltz asked if we anticipate spending down the Youth funds? Doug said that he is unsure if we’ll fully expend the Youth funds, but we are on track to meet the work experience goal, which is the most important thing. There is 75% for out-of-school and 25% for in-school youth and we have to spend in accordance; please note that the State has a waiver to enroll more than 25% but we have to be careful with that because that waiver may or may not be extended. Matt asked if we could remind the Board what it takes to enroll as a out-of-school youth (OSY). Chris Isaacson said that in order to be an OSY, the customer has to be between 17 and 24, graduated high school, not enrolled in school or any training/certificate programs at all and there are other requirements such as income based, disability, aged out of foster care, ex-offender, parent, and/or homeless.

Doug mentioned that over the years, WIOA funds have decreased by about 40%. Next year’s allocations are not out yet but it is projected that they will decrease by 10% and have been working to get other funding sources.

Michelle stated that for the Disaster Recovery Dislocated Worker Grant; it is required that 70% of the funds are spent on direct services (wages and fringe) to participants.

- Tom Reiherzer made a motion to accept the Fiscal Report and Derek D’Auria seconded that motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

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

- Tom discussed the Labor Force Participation rate, which is currently at 66.4% and continues downward due to the aging population.
- There are four buckets of underutilized talent:
 - Veterans;
 - Individuals with Disabilities;
 - Justice Involved Individuals; and
 - Under skilled/Currently Unemployed or Out of the Labor Market

- Employment barriers:
 - Childcare - Tom said that there are disruptions in childcare and is a barrier that needs to be acknowledged and addressed. The median wage earner will spend about 25% of their income on childcare.
 - Transportation – Very few utilize public transportation, a small chunk carpool, but majority choose to drive alone. If you don't have transportation, it can be a struggle to get to work.
 - Housing – Tom shared a graph showing how much income goes towards a mortgage or rent. Mortgage is reasonable – about half are spending less than 20% of their income on mortgage. Rent – HUD uses 30% as a reference of how much of your income should be spent on rent but people are spending over 40% and this is an issue.
 - Access to Internet – Many things have gone virtual/online and not everyone has access to an internet connection due to household income.

Derek D'Auria asked if the childcare costs were per child or per household and Tom stated that he would look further into the source and get an answer. In the chat – Tom Walsh responded to Derek D'Auria's question: Regarding Derek's question about the childcare cost. It is the average price that providers would charge. My understanding is that it is per child, but I can't find that clarification. "Each year, states report the annual prices that childcare providers charge for their services. This does not necessarily reflect how much it actually costs a provider to run a childcare business and it may not represent what parents actually pay for child care." There is a map and a download by county available here: <https://www.childcareaware.org/our-issues/research/the-us-and-the-high-price-of-child-care-2019/2019-price-of-child-care-by-county-wisconsin/>.

Contract Extensions – Doug Bartz:

- Doug is asking the Board for approval to extend contracts for the following; but please note that allocations nor notice of allocations has not yet been received for July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 but we are still operating on carryover:
 - **Dynamic Workforce Solutions** – Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth
 - **Beth Norris - One-Stop Operator** – Shared contract with Milwaukee and WOW (Waukesha, Ozaukee & Washington) Counties for a regional approach
 - **Racine County Human Services** – Windows to Work
 - **Marilyn Putz** – Program Integrity
- Doug stated that he will share allocation amounts at the next meeting.
- According to the law, this is the last year for extension as next year, contracts will be out for RFP.
- Derek D'Auria made a motion to accept the contract extensions with Tom Reiherzer seconding.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Board Membership Renewal – Doug Bartz:

- Doug Bartz stated that there are six board members that are coming to the end of their terms. He mentioned that he was able to confirm with three that they wanted to continue their term on the Board; those are as follows:
 - Laura Cesar
 - Dave Riley
 - Paul Moeller
- Tom Reiherzer made a motion to approve three Board membership renewals. Brooke Infusino seconded.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Windows to Work – presentation by Katie Kasprzak & Karen Goodwin, Racine County:

- Katie said that Windows to Work is a contract with Department of Corrections and discussed the criteria to be a participant in the program.
- Work with all areas but priority of service given to individuals releasing to Kenosha, Racine, or Walworth County.
- This is a pre- and post-release program designed to address criminogenic needs that can lead to recidivism.
- Karen discussed the group and individual sessions that are held prior to release; she also covered what they can assist with upon release.
- During Fiscal Year 2021, it was a challenge due to COVID but 20 individuals were released with 13 obtaining employment. Average was \$14.65 per hour – third highest wage in the State.
- 39 enrolled from RCI (Racine Correctional Institute) or RYOCF (Racine Youth Offender Correctional Facility) and 10 transfers accepted from other regions since July 1, 2021. There has been 27 new employments since then with an average wage of \$16.03.

Tom Reiherzer asked if this program is mandatory or voluntary and is it available to men and women. Katie said it is voluntary and we do take female transfers in from other regions.

Board Chair Nick Galich thanks Karen for her work throughout this program and good luck in her future endeavors. He also thanked Katie for her presentation.

Other Items as Allowed by Law:

- No other items discussed.

Board Chair Comments:

- Board Chair Nicholas Galich mentioned that we are looking into the hybrid model for Board meetings; Doug is looking into technology and hope to have things in place for August meeting.
- Board Chair Nicholas Galich recognizes County Executive Jim Kreuser and Walworth County Board Chair Nancy Russel for the great work that they've done over the years on our Board and in our Communities - - it is appreciated - - - Thank You to both of them.

Local Elected Official Comments:

- No Local Elected Official comments.

Next meeting:

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

Adjournment:

- Tom Reiherzer made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Matt Waltz seconding that motion.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.