



Southeastern Wisconsin Workforce Development Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 1, 2023
Virtual Meeting - Zoom
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Members present: Derek D’Auria, Nicholas Galich, Stephanie Henderson, Brooke Infusino, Amy Mlot, Tom Reiherzer, Tessa Springer, Matt Stinebrink, Katie Thiele, Matt Waltz, Toni White, Aaron Williams

Members excused: Laura Cesar, Edgard Delgado, Ron Frederick, Alexa Haigh, Matt Janison, Paul Moeller, Loretta Olsen, Dave Riley, Cynthia Simonsen,

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

LEO’s present: Walworth County Board Supervisor Brian Holt

Call to Order:

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

Roll Call:

- Silent roll call completed by Rebecca Freund.

Citizen Comments:

- No citizen comments.

Approval of Minutes of May 16, 2023 Board meeting:

- Tom Reiherzer made a motion to accept the May 16, 2023 Board meeting minutes as written.
- Brooke Infusino seconded that motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Fiscal Update as of May 2023 & Program Activities as of June 2023 – presentation by David Rivera – Fiscal & Michelle Blanchard and Chris Isaacson - DWFS:

- Board Chair, Nick Galich said that this is going to be a little different than usual – Fiscal and Program will be going back and forth together. Doug mentioned that per the survey, a decision was made to change things up by having Fiscal give an update on money spent and then DWFS discussing activities and participants.
- WIOA:
 - **Fiscal:** Program year 2021 – there was a transfer from Dislocated Worker funds to Adult funds. Updated budget amount for DW is \$386,612 – spent \$212,233; training goal is \$135,314 and there is \$86,823 obligated training funds. PY22 budget is \$407,574 and will not be utilized until PY21 funds are expended or expired. **Program:** Michelle stated that there were 32 new enrollments, 37 training services, 209 career services and 55 support services delivered for active cases. 12 new employments were entered.
 - **Fiscal:** PY 2021 new budget for the Adult program is \$1,041,561 - \$968,083 has been spent; training goal is \$364,546 and that goal has been met. PY22 budget is set at \$866,579 but will not be utilized until PY21 funds are expended or expired. **Program:** Michelle said there was 278 new enrollments with an average of 125 ongoing monthly cases and an average of 207 follow-up cases monthly. 69 new employments entered and 165 new credentials/measurable skills gain entered.
 - **Fiscal:** PY21 budget was \$1,132,920 and that amount has been expended as of May 2023. Work Experience goal was \$226,584 and the actual amount spent was \$239,071. PY22 budget is \$993,593 and \$166,322 has been spent. The Work Experience goal is \$198,719 with \$102,257 being utilized. **Program:** Michelle stated there have been 164 new enrollments with an average of 96 active ongoing cases monthly. 67 training services, 142 support services, 138 incentive services have been supplied to active cases. There has been 16 new unsubsidized employments; 27 individuals entered into a Work Experience and 66 new credentials/measurable skills gain entered.
- **Fiscal:** Rapid Response – July 2022-June 2023 – total budget was \$52,054 with \$42,019 spent. \$56,201 for PY22. **Program:** Michelle stated that Rapid Response is layoff aversion strategies to businesses throughout the year. There were 4 employers that served over 200 employees. Doug mentioned that Rapid Response activities are directed to employers laying off and as soon as we learn about it, our Team is out there connecting with them to assist with the transition.

Brooke Infusino asked if there was a layoff but there was no response from employer. Doug said that there is an order from the State of what needs to be done – first thing is to connect with the company to offer them services. If

there are 3 shifts, we might go out there during those 3 shifts and discuss all services that are offered through the Job Center. There is tiered money that we can reach into for further services. We do have other avenues through the State that we can reach employees of companies that do not respond.

- Windows to Work Program – July 2022 – June 2023 – total budget of \$198,983 – as of June \$199,643 has been spent. The budget for PY23-24 is \$198,983. Doug mentioned that unfortunately, nobody from Racine Workforce was available to join us as they are going through some staffing changes.
 - ARES (Adult Reentry Employment Strategies – August 2022 – September 2023 – **Fiscal:** Budget of \$30,000 - \$8,551 spent down leaving \$21,449 available. **Program:** Chris Isaacson stated that an outreach list of potential workforce partners that would benefit from reentry training was developed. Outreached to 77 organizations to commit to training slots for assisting reentry populations.
 - WAI (Worker Advancement Initiative) – October 2021 – September 2023 – **Fiscal:** total budget was \$547,464 with a remaining balance of \$135,127. **Program:** Chris said that there were 3 cohorts with a total of 45 participants – 309 supportive services and stipend payments were delivered, and 32 employments were reported after graduation.
 - WIG (Workforce Innovation Grant) – January 2023 – June 2025 – **Fiscal:** total budget of \$743,784 – spent as of May 2023 was \$7,723. **Program:** Chris said that this grant is a partnership between the Board, GTC and the YWCA to help people that are enrolled in the HSED (high school equivalency diploma) program. 76 graduates were reached out to with 10 of those being referred for WIOA services. Doug mentioned that there is about 30,000 people in SE WI that do not have their high school diploma or GED so the focus of this program is to really help people get their HSED to tie them into the workforce system.
 - Winning with Wisconsin Workforce – January 2023 – December 2023 – **Fiscal:** budget of \$20,000 and we used \$7,416. **Program:** This was designed last fall to be a quarterly event – Business Services is to hold an event for businesses within the WDA regarding the different services that are offered and to hear about Labor Market Information. The first event was held in March with 65 attendees. The second event was a statewide event in LaCrosse with 120 attendees. The third event is being worked on and will be a Regional event – Kenosha, Racine, Walworth, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee and Washington Counties.
 - QUEST National Dislocated Worker Grant – January 2023 – September 2024 - - this is a brand new grant with a budget of \$595,848 and this grant is to help support pandemic-impacted workers and to minimize benefits to individuals who were affected by COVID-19 pandemic and the worker shortage in the childcare industry.
- Doug asked the Board if this new format was helpful in tying things together. Board members stated this was very helpful. Tom Reiherzer asked how much money in total do we deal with and Doug said roughly about 1.8 million for next year without the QUEST grant but to include that, it's about 2.3 million. Discussion was then held on commuting and data centers that will create jobs in Wisconsin if they get built in our region. Brooke Infusino asked Tom Walsh if we could dig a little deeper on those commuting trends and Tom said Yes, he could prepare that.
- Tom Reiherzer made a motion to accept the report and Toni White seconded.
 - Motion passed unanimously.

Labor Market Information – Tom Walsh – DWD:

- Tom said that the unemployment rate being low is a good thing but it's getting harder to find workers.
- Tom said that population is growing while the labor force remains flat.
- Tom discussed the labor force that commutes due to the nature of our location.

Contract & Allocation Update – Doug Bartz:

- Doug said that we don't send out contracts until allocations are done. At the last meeting, Doug had asked for permission to start negotiations with DWFS after the RFP process and it was decided that we would continue with DWFS.
- With all grants, it comes out to about 2.3 million dollars and Doug discussed each amount.
- Doug said that we've done a really good job with maintaining funds, so we don't have to tell anyone that comes in for services that they have to wait.

DWFS Update – Michelle Blanchard:

- Michelle stated that DWFS submitted a proposal and with that comes good news in staffing changes. She is proud to announce Chris Isaacson as the new Project Director. Michelle will be staying on board as Senior Director but Chris will be more day to day oversight with all the projects that were discussed today.
- Chris said that he's been working in Workforce Development for 10+ years and is excited to work with some of the new ideas that we talked about in our proposal, such as a Virtual Reality Training service and hopes to be able to share that with you at some point. Looking forward to innovating more with case management; uploading documents, reloading gas cards.....more new and exciting things coming down the road.

Other Items as Allowed by Law:

- Conflict of Interest Form – we are required to have a Conflict of Interest form for each of our Board Members – we ask that you please complete, sign and send back. Doug stated that we are going to try to utilize DocuSign.
- Doug mentioned that the next meeting will be in-person but will also do online for those that are unable to make it. He stated that Transfer VR will be available for anyone in attendance to try out.

Board Chair Comments:

- No comments today.

Local Elected Official Comments:

- No comments from the Local Elected Officials in attendance.

Next meeting:

- Next meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Adjournment:

- Tom Reiherzer made a motion to adjourn with Derek D'Auria seconding.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.