

South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc.
Quarterly Meeting
Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce
November 4, 2009, 12:00 Noon
Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Darrell White, Jonas Uland, Dee Richards, Gene McCracken, Ron Arnold, Ed Epping, Steve Bryant, John Whitehart, Mike Ringwald and George Qualley.

Also Present: Doug Jones, Richard Rampley, John Corcoran, Tina Judd, Shannon Laurent, Sheila Hess, Steve Gault, Nancy Karazsia, Dave Tucker, Tom Horstman, Kim Stevenson, David Bartlett, Susan Stein, John Stephens, Shawna Girgis - Mayor of Bedford.

Chairperson Darrell White called the meeting to order and welcomed guests. Each person present introduced themselves. A quorum of the Board was confirmed as present.

Approval of Minutes

A correction to the minutes was made regarding D. Andry, listed as a Board Member, this is not correct.

Ed Epping moved to accept the amended minutes of the July 22, 2009 meeting of the South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc. Steve Bryant seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Financial Report

Doug Jones presented the financial report as of September 30, 2009. Doug highlighted total funding available to the Board, ARRA funds availability and noted that total expenditures are close to meeting the 25% benchmark in comparison to the amount of the year completed.

After a brief discussion, Ed Epping motioned to accept the Financial Report, Dee Richards seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Carry-In Funding

John Corcoran explained that each year carry-in funds need to be budgeted and authorized by the Board. Carry-in funds are funds which have been authorized in the previous year ending June 30 that are unexpended and therefore carried into the new Program Year beginning July 1. Carry in funds available this year are \$265,000. A recommendation was made by the Regional Operator to allocate these funds to VU so they can hire two additional staff and work on weaknesses identified in the youth program.

Shannon Laurent explained that 45% of available funds are spent on clients. She indicated that we now have additional stimulus funding and the additional staff will help spend these funds along with the regular funds received.

Gene McCracken motioned to authorize the Regional Operator to work with the Fiscal Agent and VU to amend Vincennes University contracts to add \$265,000 to current contracts. The purpose of the funding is to hire additional VU staff and strengthen the Youth program. Ed Epping seconded the motion and the motion passed.

WorkOne Report

Richard Rampley reviewed the Program Year WIA performance report and Rapid Response activities with the Board. Fewer new layoffs, the lowest unemployment rate of any region, and the decision not to close the GE Bloomington plant were noted as positives for the region.

Regional Operator Report

John Corcoran described a new initiative between the Department of Education and the Department of Workforce Development. Adult Basic Education geographic areas are to be realigned with the workforce regions. Current providers in Region 8 are Monroe County Community School Corp. and Vincennes University. Coordination meetings have begun in our Region.

John explained that we have been working with DWD to submit a proposal to DOL to train health care workers. A proposal for \$447,000 was submitted to train incumbent healthcare workers. The funding, if approved, would upgrade the skills of these workers through the acquisition of degrees or certificates. The incumbents would qualify for new jobs and the vacated entry level jobs could be filled by WorkOne clients.

Occupations in Demand

Shannon Laurent presented a revised Demand Occupation List. The purpose of the list is to guide staff as to when to authorize training for occupations that have projected openings and to guide staff on when not to train for occupations that are not in demand. From time to time we review labor market statistics for our Region to determine which jobs are in demand (40-50 openings projected) and to identify jobs that pay 9.00 to 9.50 per hour minimum. We will not train for jobs that pay less or where no openings are projected. Shannon explained that the new list would take CNAs off the list due to low wages but at the same time we recognize that these jobs are in demand in our region. These positions can be the right fit for an individual and we will allow exceptions to the Demand Occupation List to permit certain eligible clients to attend training. Removal of Sales Supervisors, Retail occupation and the Receptionist occupation is recommended. Explosives Workers were removed but Extraction Workers were added which ~~since this~~ is a broader category of workers that includes the Explosive Workers. Ed Epping reviewed the handout and noted that red occupations will be removed and green occupations will be added to the list.

Ron Arnold moved that the Demand Occupations List be approved as presented. Jonus Uland seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Young Hoosier Conservation Corps

Shannon Laurent presented the Final Report for the Young Hoosiers Conservation Corps. This was the Youth program funded by stimulus funds. DWD hired the youth and they worked at State Parks and Recreation Areas. Youth were paid \$8.50 per hour X 37.5 hours per week X 16 weeks. From April to June 358 youth were hired in our Region. There was a discussion about the reasons some youth quit and why they were terminated. Overall, the program was determined to be successful. We expect the program will continue next year but perhaps not as large in our Region. The Board thanked Shannon and WorkOne staff for all the hard work this past summer.

Quarterly Meeting Schedule

John Corcoran stated that DWD has requested a 2010 Regional Board meeting schedule. John suggested meeting on Wednesdays, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. The location will be the Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce.

Feb. 3, 2010
May 5, 2010
Aug. 4 2010
Nov. 3, 2010

Darrell White asked if the schedule could be changed and John reported that we could change it as necessary.

Jonus Uland moved to accept the proposed schedule. Gene McCracken and Rev. Qualley seconded the motion. The motion passed.

With no further business, Jonas Uland moved to adjourn the meeting. Ed Epping seconded the motion, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

Prepared By: John Corcoran

Approved by the South Central Region 8 Workforce Board on _____.