

# MINUTES OF THE LINCOLN TRAIL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

## December 15, 2020

The Lincoln Trail Workforce Development Board (LTWDB) met via Zoom on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 11:30 am EDT.

Myra Covault, Second Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order, in the absence of Chairman Dean Schamore. It was determined that a quorum was not present, therefore the meeting continued with discussion and update items only.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Minutes – Board Meeting – September 15, 2020**

Due to the absence of a quorum, the minutes were not presented.

### **DISCUSSION/UPDATE ITEMS**

#### **Heartland Communications Consultants (HCC)**

Jessica Ward, with HCC, provided an overview of current and upcoming outreach activities. Ms. Ward reported that outreach over the past several months had been focused on virtual career services, due to the closure of the Kentucky Career Center-Lincoln Trail (KCC-LT) locations to in-person services. Ms. Ward indicated that beginning in January they would be highlighting in-demand careers in the region and promoting a career in each one of the five sectors. The Work Matters column would continue along with an accompanying podcast. Ms. Ward indicated she would send the full advertising report when it was ready.

#### **Workforce Update**

Jennifer Carman, Career Development Office (CDO) Regional Program Manager, provided an update on CDO and Unemployment Insurance (UI) activities. Ms. Carman stated that CDO staff were still detailed to UI services. Ms. Carman shared stats regarding claim payouts in March and April and also indicated that two groups had been formed to focus on April claims and constituent services. Ms. Carman shared they were also working to move toward providing more employment and employer services. She also mentioned that, as of last week, there were 1,298 job postings in the Lincoln Trail region in various sectors.

Sherry Johnson extended apologies for Chairman Dean Schamore and First Vice-Chair Trish Niles for not being able to attend today's meeting.

Ms. Johnson indicated that the One Stop Operator Request for Proposal (RFP) would be released on February 1<sup>st</sup> and an RFP to update the strategic plan would go out within the next week.

Ms. Johnson reported that Workforce staff began assisting with UI in March 2020 and continued through the Fall. In mid to late October the local Workforce Areas were notified by the State that the Department of Labor, who was conducting a review of the UI system, questioned various State agencies that provided assistance with UI. In particular, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) staff being paid with WIOA funds to provide this assistance was questioned. Ms. Johnson indicated assistance was immediately stopped and financial information for all the staff time used to provide services from March through the end of October was submitted to the State. The local Workforce Areas were told that either CARES Act or UI dollars would be provided to the local Workforce Areas to pay for these expenses. Ms. Johnson stated that the local Workforce Areas were assured that providing the assistance was okay and would be reimbursed. Ms. Johnson indicated that the situation caused her to rethink our role in filling in the gaps for employment and employer services. Ms. Johnson stated the Workforce Directors' would be meeting this week and were going to ask the Labor Cabinet if they would consider allowing the local Workforce Areas to provide these services, through a contractual agreement,

Ms. Johnson also reported that, in the next six months, the Local Elected Officials in the region would have to procure the local grant subrecipient for another three to four year period. Ms. Johnson indicated that the local Workforce Areas asked the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet (EWDC) to consider removing the State regulations that require this because it is not part of the law. The EWDC informed the local Workforce Areas last week that this would not be changed. The procurement process was scheduled to begin after the first of the year.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

**LINCOLN TRAIL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
ATTENDANCE SHEET  
December 15, 2020**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Julie Brown  
Daniel Carney  
Jennifer Carman  
Chris Cottrell  
Myra Covault  
Joe Fowler  
Greg Gribbins  
Patricia Krausman  
Jennifer Lampton  
Anna Larson  
Scott Lusk  
Megan Stith for Dr. Juston  
Pate  
Jim Rachlin

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Joe Ashley  
Lance Blanford  
Stan Carton  
Michael Embry  
Mark Nelson  
Trish Niles\*  
Tom Renfrow  
Ken Ritchie  
Dean Schamore\*  
Davette Swiney

**STAFF**

Angela Crenshaw  
Jackie Masterson  
Sherry L. Johnson  
Jim Skees

**GUESTS**

Jessica Ward

\*Denotes excused absence