

**MINUTES OF THE
LINCOLN TRAIL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
BOARD
September 15, 2020**

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

A quorum was not present at the start of the meeting, therefore Chairman Dean Schamore began with discussion/update items and, once a quorum was established, proceeded with the action items.

The LTWDB recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Schamore welcomed new Board member Davette Swiney, President and CEO of Central KY Community Foundation and guest Alex Caudill, Department for Local Government.

GUEST SPEAKER

Chairman Schamore introduced guest speaker Larry Roberts, Secretary of KY's Labor Cabinet. Secretary Roberts provided an overview of the reorganization of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Career Development Office (CDO) which moved both agencies from the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet (EWDC) to the Labor Cabinet effective August 16, 2020. Secretary Roberts indicated Buddy Hoskinson had been named Interim Executive Director of UI and Jonathan Pendergrass, Interim Executive Director of CDO. The Secretary stated progress was being made on the backlog of UI claims but there was still a lot of work ahead. He stated the Cabinet was having conversations with the Governor's office on how to safely reopen Career Centers. Secretary Roberts indicated they would continue to assess the situation and get feedback from across the State. He also emphasized the Cabinet's goal to provide assistance to employers and outreach to long-term unemployed individuals regarding employment opportunities.

DISCUSSION/UPDATE ITEMS

Heartland Communications Consultants (HCC)

Jessica Ward, with HCC, provided an update on workforce outreach services. Ms. Ward reported that a digital advertising campaign kicked off on August 19, 2020 highlighting virtual services offered through the Career Center. Ms. Ward indicated advertising was being done through Facebook, YouTube, Google, Snapchat and Instagram. In addition, a landing page was created directing jobseekers to the Career Center website

highlighting services offered and guidance on making a virtual appointment to talk with a Career Coach. Ms. Ward reviewed the results of the campaign for each media source. A landing page was also created for jobseekers to get information about the National Dislocated Worker Grant offerings.

Workforce Update

Jennifer Carman, CDO Regional Program Manager, provided an update on the status of the UI situation as well as the transition of CDO programs to the Labor Cabinet. Ms. Carman stated that CDO staff was still special detailed to provide UI services and was partnering with WIOA staff to provide some assistance as well. Ms. Carman indicated their next step was to try and focus more on employer services to fill job vacancies.

Sherry Johnson thanked Secretary Roberts for the communication from the Labor Cabinet during the transition. Ms. Johnson also referenced two memos in the meeting packet regarding the Trade Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the local workforce area. The first memo, from EWDC, canceled the Trade MOA with the local workforce area and the second memo, received the following day from Secretary Roberts, indicated they were working on a new agreement and Trade services would be uninterrupted.

Ms. Johnson indicated the EWDC Deputy Secretary position had not been filled since the departure of Josh Benton in August and was still trying to determine who would be overseeing WIOA programs at the State level.

Ms. Johnson shared that Judge Executive Tommy Turner, who served as the Chief Local Elected Official (CLEO) for the LTWDB for many years, retired at the end of August. Judge Executive Dean Watts was elected by the other County Judge Executives to serve as the new CLEO.

Ms. Johnson provided a comparison of unemployment, employment and labor force participation rates for the Lincoln Trail Region from July 2019 to July 2020. Ms. Johnson emphasized that the unemployment rate does not provide the whole picture and “who is in the labor force” must also be considered. Ms. Johnson indicated the Workforce Crisis Taskforce (WCTF) was looking to revamp and issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) after the first of the year to update the strategic plan. She stated the three WCTF committees had additional areas to address such as how to reengage the workforce of a year ago, what jobs would be gone for good, how to retrain and rebuild the local workforce and how to move forward to ensure employers are able to continue to function. There was much discussion about the current environment and jobseeker and employer needs and why jobseekers weren’t getting back in the workforce and how to get them re-engaged. Based on the discussion, training was still important to some employers but others stated they just needed jobseekers to apply and they would provide the training.

ACTION ITEMS

Minutes – Board Meeting – June 16, 2020

After review of the June 16, 2020 LTWDB minutes, Myra Covault made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Stan Carton seconded; motion carried.

Nominating Committee Report

Dr. Juston Pate reported on behalf of the committee, which met via Zoom on August 13, 2020 to identify a slate of Officers for the new term beginning September 2020. Dr. Pate stated the committee's recommendation was to keep the current slate of Officers for another term, which all were eligible for under the current by-laws. Dr. Pate noted that Myra Covault would only be able to commit through March 2021 but the committee agreed she was a valuable member and a replacement could be determined at that time. Chairman Schamore asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. When none were presented, Chris Cottrell made a motion to accept the nominating committee's recommendation to keep the current slate of officers for another term beginning September 2020. Jenny Lampton seconded; motion carried.

Chair – Representative Dean Schamore

First Vice-Chair – Trish Niles

Second Vice-Chair – Myra Covault

Secretary/Treasurer – Lance Blanford

Board Strategic Plan Update and Workforce Crisis Taskforce Reengagement Effort

Jim Rachlin indicated Sherry Johnson covered most of the information in her report. He stated the group would be reconvening next week to start laying out the direction for next year and the RFP for the strategic plan. Mr. Rachlin stated the WEED committee was also focused on the work of the taskforce.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Megan Stith, with ECTC, provided an update on the Coding Academy. She indicated invitations would be going out soon to a virtual event in late October which would provide a full briefing of the Academy. Ms. Stith invited the Board to participate in the event which would also acknowledge their investment in the project. Dr. Pate addressed the delays in the start of the second cohort due to COVID-19 and stated that coding was not designed to be learned completely on line and needed the lab environment. He

indicated they were trying to get it going again as soon as possible and wanted to make sure the Board understood the reason for the delays.

Chairman Schamore announced that Scott Lusk was recently appointed by the Governor to serve on the State Economic Development Board.

Secretary Roberts pledged his commitment to address some of the concerns mentioned at the meeting regarding the workforce and employment vacancies.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chris Cottrell made a motion to adjourn. Patricia Krausman seconded; motion carried.

LINCOLN TRAIL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
ATTENDANCE SHEET
September 15, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Julie Brown
Lance Blanford
Daniel Carney
Jennifer Carman
Stan Carton
Chris Cottrell
Myra Covault
Joe Fowler
Patricia Krausman
Jennifer Lampton
Anna Larson
Scott Lusk
Trish Niles
Dr. Juston Pate
Jim Rachlin
Rep. Dean Schamore
Davette Swiney

MEMBERS ABSENT

Joe Ashley
Greg Gribbins
Randy Madden
Mark Nelson*
Tom Renfrow
Ken Ritchie

STAFF

Brian Peace
Angela Crenshaw
Carter Dyson
Jackie Masterson
Sherry L. Johnson
Jim Skees

GUESTS

Mike Burress
Alex Caudill
Secretary Larry Roberts
Megan Stith
Jessica Ward

*Denotes excused absence