

**MINUTES OF THE
LINCOLN TRAIL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
BOARD
Executive Committee
August 16, 2023**

The Lincoln Trail Workforce Development Board (LTWDB) Executive Committee met via Zoom on Wednesday, August 16, 2023 at 11:30 am ET.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lance Blanford
Julie Brown
Stan Carton
Chris Cottrell
Trish Niles
Jim Rachlin

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF

Leslie Ashlock
Angela Crenshaw
Jackie Masterson
Beth Roberts
Jim Skees

GUESTS

**Denotes excused absence*

Trish Niles, Chair, called the meeting to order after determining quorum requirements had been met.

ACTION ITEMS

Consideration of Minutes – May 18, 2023

After review of the May 18, 2023 Executive Committee minutes, Lance Blanford made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Julie Brown seconded; motion carried.

Set Agenda for September Board Meeting

Beth Roberts informed the committee the new board room was still under construction and the September meeting would be held virtually. The following agenda items were agreed upon for the September LTWDB meeting:

- Contractor Reports
- Update on Workforce Crisis Taskforce Housing Roundtables
- Workforce Director's Report
- Consideration to extend Premier Virtual agreement
- Nucor Presentation

DISCUSSION/UPDATE ITEMS

Beth Roberts provided updates on the following items:

Blue Oval/SK Update

Portions of the Economic Impact Study, sponsored by the Hardin County Chamber, were released and contained good information which would be helpful in planning. Ms. Roberts sent the link for the study to LTWDB members.

The Lincoln Trail Workforce Development Area partnered with the South Central Workforce Development Area on submission of a Statewide Reserve Grant to hire an Electronic Vehicle (EV) Coordinator. If awarded, the individual would serve as one point of contact for Blue Oval/SK and Envision activities. A decision is expected in September.

Regarding current hiring activities, the company was starting to hire for production positions and were getting the applicants they need, at this point.

Heartland Communications (HCC) Update

HCC contract activities were going well and LTWDB staff was working with HCC staff to standardize outreach materials to ensure consistent messaging of services.

Career Team Update

Career Team contract activities were going well and weekly check-in meetings were being held between LTWDB staff and Career Team leadership. Participant enrollments continued to increase.

One Stop System Operator (OSSO) Update

Weekly meetings were being held between the Workforce Director and the OSSO to touch base on One Stop system activities, expectations and issues that may arise. After some initial challenges, particularly with getting the Bardstown Center fully operational, things were progressing well and on a good path.

An open house for the Bardstown Career Center was scheduled for September 27, 2023.

Robin Gooden will start as the new Career Center Manager on August 28, 2023. An onboarding schedule was provided by the OSSO.

LTWDB staff and the Career Development Office Workforce Development Manager met with Fort Knox's Deputy Garrison Commander recently to reestablish the relationship and presence of Kentucky Career Center-Lincoln Trail services at that location.

Ms. Roberts shared that the Elizabethtown Industrial Foundation was planning activities with both Hardin County and Elizabethtown Independent Schools, in conjunction with manufacturing month in October, to introduce students to career opportunities in the manufacturing industry. Ms. Roberts indicated it was still being determined how the Kentucky Career Center-Lincoln Trail would be involved. This led to a good discussion regarding other activities taking place throughout the region for manufacturing month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Roberts informed the committee the Premier Virtual license, for the virtual job fair platform, would expire at the end of September. The license was originally funded through a donation from Baptist Health Hardin. Ms. Roberts shared positive outcome data and the benefits of having this option for employers. Ms. Roberts suggested the LTWDB may want to consider picking up the \$13,500.00 annual license fee for one year. Committee members agreed it should be brought before the LTWDB for discussion. Ms. Roberts indicated staff would check into the terms of the agreement to determine if it could be renewed for an additional year or had to go through the procurement process.

Ms. Roberts informed the committee that she received notice from the State that the LTWDB was now fully certified for two years.

Ms. Roberts indicated the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB) was holding town hall meetings statewide to receive community input for the WIOA State plan. The meeting date for Lincoln Trail was scheduled for October 16, 2023.

Lance Blanford stated the Workforce Crisis Taskforce would be hosting a second housing roundtable on August 24, 2023 in Marion County.

Jim Rachlin shared a general overview of his involvement with some of the training efforts being provided to Blue Oval/SK employees through Elizabethtown Community & Technical College.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.