

**MINUTES OF THE
LINCOLN TRAIL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
BOARD
June 20, 2023**

The Lincoln Trail Workforce Development Board (LTWDB) met at the Lincoln Trail Area Development District office on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 11:30 am ET. The option to participate virtually was also provided.

Trish Niles, Chair, called the meeting to order once it was determined a quorum was present.

Ms. Niles welcomed new LTWDB member Jennifer Nolan, with Flaget Memorial Hospital.

ACTION ITEMS

Minutes – March 20, 2023 Meeting

After review of the March 20, 2023 minutes, Lance Blanford made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Tom Renfrow seconded; motion carried.

Consideration of Inventory Disposal

Patricia Krausman, reporting on behalf of the funding committee, indicated the committee held its quarterly meeting on May 16, 2023 and recommended the disposal of one HP laserjet printer. Lance Blanford made a motion to dispose of the HP laserjet printer, as recommended, Mike Embry seconded; motion carried.

Consideration of WIOA Proposed Budget FY 24

Ms. Krausman stated the funding committee reviewed and discussed the proposed WIOA budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 at the May committee meeting and recommended approval. Mike Embry made a motion to approve the WIOA FY 24 budget, as presented, Jerry Dubree seconded; motion carried.

Consideration of Policy Updates

Jackie Masterson indicated LTWDB staff recently conducted a review of WIOA and Trade policies to determine needed updates. Ms. Masterson stated most of the policies required only minor revisions to reflect changes to locations, staff titles, the Education and Labor Cabinet merger, etc. Ms. Masterson presented the following policies in detail, due to more substantive changes:

On-the-Job Training (OJT) - Increase maximum reimbursement to employer from \$5000 to \$6000.

Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) – Allow employers who receive KY TRAINS and Bluegrass State Skills Corporation funds to access IWT funds too.

Limitation of Dollar Amount – Allow the \$6000 cap for Individual Training Accounts (ITA) to include supportive services.

Supportive Services – Remove provision for meals.

Ms. Masterson requested the LTWDB’s consideration for approval of all policy updates.

Jim Rachlin made a motion to approve all of the policy updates, as presented, Lance Blanford seconded; motion carried.

DISCUSSION/UPDATE ITEMS

Update on Workforce Crisis Taskforce (WCTF)

Lance Blanford and Jim Rachlin provided a brief overview of the history and membership of the WCTF and the renewed efforts to reestablish the work. Mr. Blanford indicated the taskforce would be focusing on transportation, childcare and housing issues.

As part of this effort, the WCTF held a regional housing roundtable last month. Mr. Blanford stated the event was well attended and included local elected officials and planning and zoning staff from throughout the Lincoln Trail region. Four primary areas of importance resulted from the meeting: planning and zoning, infrastructure, availability of affordable housing, community and demographic challenges and government incentives. Mr. Blanford indicated the purpose of the roundtables was to promote a regional and collaborative approach to planning. Two more roundtables were planned and information will be provided once details are confirmed.

Heartland Communications Consultants (HCC)

Stephanie Apple provided an update on current outreach efforts.

One of the primary projects was the promotion of the “Let’s Talk Tuesdays” virtual job fairs, which has resulted in an increased interest among jobseekers.

The in-demand careers campaign was currently running and promoting five new careers in the region. Ms. Apple indicated visits to the Kentucky Career Center-Lincoln Trail (KCC-LT) website had doubled from last year, totaling over fourteen-thousand. In addition, the Facebook and LinkedIn audiences continued to grow.

Ms. Apple indicated they were excited to work with Career Team staff to highlight participant success stories, which should generate interest in KCC-LT services.

HWI, Inc. /Strumpf Associates

Andy Hightower and Lori Strumpf provided an update on One Stop Operator activities and indicated a copy of the full report was in the meeting packet.

Some of the highlights covered included the following:

- The reimagining Bardstown efforts have taken the site from an unoccupied building to a thriving center with a variety of partners present. A grand opening will take place in the Fall.
- The “Let’s Talk Tuesday’s” virtual job fair events, which began in November 2022, continued to occur twice a month with interest growing among employers and jobseekers.
- The Blue Oval Task force continued to meet monthly to develop strategies to recruit and sustain a talent pipeline.
- The High School Graduating Seniors Initiative, in its second year, continued to provide information about KCC-LT services to seniors in all of the high schools in the Lincoln Trail region.
- The Business Solutions Team Lead continued to build employer awareness of the KCC-LT through presentations to various community organizations.
- Carter Dyson has submitted his resignation and will be leaving in August. Mr. Hightower indicated they were sorry to see him go and would be advertising for a new Center Manager soon.

Career Team

Dr. Robert Boone provided an update on direct services activities and WIOA enrollments, to date.

Dr. Boone indicated Career TEAM had enrolled eighty-seven WIOA participants since July 1, 2022. Based on regular checkpoints to evaluate enrollment and outreach efforts, they saw a forty-two percent increase in enrollments from March 2023 to June 2023 and expect to serve over ninety participants before closing out the program year.

Dr. Boone stated one of the biggest challenges they have faced during the first year of the contract was recruiting young adults. He indicated there was little to no youth pipeline in place when the contract started and the focus on out of school youth who are most in need has also contributed to the challenges. Dr. Boone indicated the pipeline for year two was improving as a result of developing relationships with youth organizations as well as high school recruitment efforts with the One Stop Operator and other partners. Dr. Boone also indicated that Career TEAM staff was providing basic career services to jobseekers, such as resume and job seeking assistance.

Workforce Update

Beth Roberts shared the following information:

- Ms. Roberts introduced herself to the LTWDB and provided information on her background and work experience. Ms. Roberts indicated she was looking forward to working with the LTWDB.
- Regarding Blue Oval/SK (BOSK) activities, the Education and Labor Cabinet continued to hold biweekly strategy meetings and were in the early stages of developing community outreach plans focused on recruitment of veterans, military spouses, underrepresented populations and school systems. The Career Center has supported recruiting efforts with job fairs and providing interview space for BOSK staff. Work had begun on the second plant and onsite training facility.
- The Bardstown Career Center was fully operational and going well. An open house was being planned for September and once a date was confirmed, invitations would go out.
- The Workforce Board certification, due on June 30, 2023, was in the process of being completed.
- Looking ahead, WIOA funding levels appeared to be trending downward, which would require the need to pursue alternative funding sources.
- Partnered with South Central Workforce Board on two grants. One would focus on preparing underrepresented populations for green jobs and the other would provide workforce development support dedicated to the EV Battery industry in both regions.
- Working to provide support to “The Jobs on Day One” initiative. The model serves incarcerated populations and provides preemployment training, employment services, and post-employment services to increase retention.
- The Lincoln Trail Area Development District office will be moving to a new location next month.
- A survey will be sent to LTWDB members to identify best meeting times.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Trish Niles informed members that, due to Myra Covault’s resignation, the First Vice-Chair position was vacant. Ms. Niles indicated the Executive committee reviewed the LTWDB membership and recommended the Second Vice-Chair and Secretary/Treasurer move up one position and Chris Cottrell fill the Secretary/Treasurer position. Ms. Niles asked if there were additional nominations from the floor and with none provided, Lance Blanford made a motion to approve the recommendation, as presented, Patricia Krausman seconded; motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**LINCOLN TRAIL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
ATTENDANCE SHEET
June 20, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alan Biddle
Lance Blanford
Julie Brown
Daniel Carney
Monica Collins
Jerry Dubree
Mike Embry
Patricia Krausman
Jennifer Lampton
Mark Nelson
Trish Niles
Jennifer Nolan
Jim Rachlin
Chris Reed
Tom Renfrow
Sarah Smith
Megan Stith

MEMBERS ABSENT

Joe Ashley*
Stan Carton*
Chris Cottrell*
Joe Fowler*
Scott Lusk*
Davette Swiney*

STAFF

Leslie Ashlock
Angela Crenshaw
Jackie Masterson
Beth Roberts
Jim Skees

GUESTS

Stephanie Apple
Robert Boone
Jennifer Carman
Andy Hightower
Bri Janes
Lori Strumpf

*Denotes excused absence