

**MINUTES OF THE
LINCOLN TRAIL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
BOARD
March 16, 2021**

The Lincoln Trail Workforce Development Board (LTWDB) met via Zoom on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 11:30 am EDT.

Trish Niles, First Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order after it was determined that a quorum was present. Chairman Dean Schamore joined the meeting shortly thereafter and continued with the agenda.

GUEST SPEAKER

Chris Cottrell introduced guest speaker Johnny Jacobs, General Manager of Nucor. Mr. Jacobs provided an overview of the company's history, mission and products along with an update on the status of the Brandenburg facility. Mr. Jacobs indicated the site would be fully operational by late 2022 with 400 full time careers and an average yearly salary of \$72,000.00. The company is in the process of hiring, with a focus on entry level production positions. Mr. Jacobs provided the website to apply for employment.

ACTION ITEMS

Minutes – Board Meeting – September 15, 2020 and December 15, 2020

After review of the September 15, 2020 and December 15, 2020 LTWDB minutes, Myra Covault made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Trish Niles seconded; motion carried.

Strategic Plan Update Recommendation and Consideration

Prior to beginning his update, Jim Rachlin, Chair of the Workforce Education and Economic Development committee, asked Jessica Ward, with Heartland Communications Consultants (HCC), to mute her volume during the discussion to avoid a conflict of interest since HCC had also submitted a proposal. Mr. Rachlin shared information regarding the review process and indicated four proposals had been submitted in response to the Request for Proposal (RFP). As a result of the initial review, Strategy Matters and Thomas P. Miller and Associates were asked to give presentations to the committee. After much discussion, the committee recommended the selection of Strategy Matters to produce the strategic plan for the next four years. Greg Gribbins made a motion to approve the committee's recommendation to select Strategy Matters to produce the strategic plan, Jennifer Carman seconded; motion carried.

Local and Regional Plan Approval Recommendation

Sherry Johnson informed the LTWDB that the four-year local and regional WIOA plans were due 4/30/21 and close to being completed. Ms. Johnson asked the LTWDB to allow the Executive committee to act on behalf of the full Board regarding consideration of the plans. This would require the committee to change their May meeting to April. Anna Larson made a motion for the Executive committee to move their meeting to April and act on the LTWDB's behalf regarding approval of the local and regional WIOA plans. Myra Covault seconded; motion carried.

Co-Sponsorship of Town Hall Forum with Bardstown-Nelson County & KY Chambers

Ms. Johnson stated this item was still in the discussion stages and no action was needed at this time.

DISCUSSION/UPDATE ITEMS

Heartland Communications Consultants (HCC)

Jessica Ward, with HCC, provided an overview of January and February 2021 outreach activities. Ms. Ward indicated the in-demand careers campaign kicked off in January and would run through June. Ms. Ward also reviewed the usage metrics and demographics for the various social media venues being used. Ms. Ward stated the monthly Work Matters column would be focused on the promotion of the five in-demand career sectors and would also include an accompanying podcast.

Nelson County Work Ready Recertification

Lisa Thomas, Executive Director Bardstown Nelson County Chamber of Commerce, reported that they recently submitted their Work Ready recertification application. She thanked the various partners who contributed to the process. Ms. Thomas stated the application focused on work-based learning opportunities, TPM efforts and the Bardstown Hub. Ms. Thomas indicated they received positive feedback from the State and the final meeting for recertification would be held May 20th.

Hardin County Work Ready Recertification

Beth Cassity, with Elizabethtown Community and Technical College (ECTC), indicated the Hardin County Work Ready application had been completed and all the criteria had been met. Ms. Cassity stated that the main focus was based on the work that had already been done by the Workforce Crisis Taskforce and thanked the Board for their foresight in putting the taskforce together.

Hardin County Youth Apprenticeship & Co-Op Opportunities

Lisa Slaven, with Hardin County Schools, shared information regarding career pathways and the work ethics certification program being offered by the school. Ms. Slaven indicated their focus was on soft skills and work ethic as well as promoting co-ops and internships with local businesses. Ms. Slaven shared that the Hardin County School Board recently approved funding for apprenticeships within the school system. Specific areas of training would include IT, early childhood education, building maintenance and diesel mechanic. Ms. Slaven stated that we would be seeing more of the apprenticeship model being used.

Legislative Update

Lance Blanford began by sharing information about the Community Connect reverse job fair to be held virtually on April 20th for seniors at Bardstown High School.

Mr. Blanford provided an update on Senate Bill 148, which was currently in the House. According to Mr. Blanford, the bill would allow childcare facilities to operate as they did prior to Covid-19. Mr. Blanford also indicated he had been in discussion with AGC about a possible opportunity to set up employee childcare.

Sherry Johnson indicated House Bill 367 had passed the House and would reestablish employment services offices in communities that were closed in 2017.

Ms. Johnson also shared that Senate Bill 276, which sought to give local Workforce Development Boards more authority to oversee workforce programs, did not have enough time for discussion and essentially died in the current session.

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 the Career Center in Elizabethtown would be opening for in-person UI and employment services, by appointment only, on April 15th. They were currently working to ensure safety measures were in place. Ms. Carman also indicated that CDO would be hiring three UI positions for the Career Center in Elizabethtown.

Ms. Johnson stated that she would like to see WIOA in-person services for jobseekers and employers, begin on or around April 15th, by appointment only, at the three affiliate sites. Ms. Johnson emphasized that all safety protocols would be followed and all measures in place. In addition, Board staff would work with HCC to ensure that a clear message was provided to the public that UI services would not be offered at the affiliate sites. Ms. Johnson also informed the Board about a request from the Labor Cabinet for WIOA staff to assist in the Career Centers with answering phones and directing foot

traffic. Ms. Johnson shared her concerns with Secretary Roberts regarding the request, in light of the previous situation with providing UI assistance, and indicated WIOA staff would not be assisting. Due to the anticipated focus on UI services upon reopening, Ms. Johnson recommended that WIOA staff at the Elizabethtown location not begin in-person services until May 1st to give CDO staff time to get the process in place. Ms. Johnson asked for the Board's support and guidance on the recommendations.

Ms. Johnson also stated that, due to the pandemic, there had been very little interest in employment and training services resulting in quite a bit of funding remaining which may lead to difficulty meeting performance measures. Ms. Johnson asked for the Board's approval to move forward with providing out-of-school youth Work-Based Learning Opportunities (WBLO's) this summer. Myra Covault made a motion to move forward with the out-of-school youth WBLO component, Trish Niles seconded; motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

**LINCOLN TRAIL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
ATTENDANCE SHEET
March 16, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe Ashley
Lance Blandford
Julie Brown
Daniel Carney
Jennifer Carman
Stan Carton
Chris Cottrell
Myra Covault
Michael Embry
Greg Gribbins
Jennifer Lampton
Anna Larson
Mark Nelson
Trish Niles
Dr. Juston Pate
Jim Rachlin
Dean Schamore

MEMBERS ABSENT

Joe Fowler*
Patricia Krausman*
Scott Lusk
Tom Renfrow
Ken Ritchie
Davette Swiney

STAFF

Angela Crenshaw
Jackie Masterson
Sherry L. Johnson
Jim Skees

GUESTS

Mike Burress
Beth Cassity
Claire Esparza
Mike Hazzard
Johnny Jacobs
Brian Robinson
Lisa Slaven
Lisa Thomas
Jessica Ward

*Denotes excused
absence