

MINUTES OF THE LINCOLN TRAIL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD March 21, 2023

The Lincoln Trail Workforce Development Board (LTWDB) held a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 11:30 am ET.

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

Ms. Niles welcomed Alisher Burikhanov, Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB) Executive Director, and Debbie Dennison, KWIB Deputy Executive Director. Mr. Burikhanov spoke briefly about the KWIB's primary strategic goals as well as plans to collaborate with local workforce boards, including regular meetings with board chairs.

ACTION ITEMS

Minutes – December 20, 2022 Meeting

After review of the December 20, 2022 minutes, Chris Cottrell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Julie Brown seconded; motion carried.

Career Team Budget Modification Request – Summer Youth Program

Sherry Johnson provided information regarding a budget modification request from Career Team. Ms. Johnson indicated Career Team was working to increase youth numbers which had, historically, been an issue in the region and had approximately 75-100 youth identified to participate in a summer work component. The modification request was for the Career Edge software which was no longer being offered through a State contract as well as funds for additional youth staffing. Ms. Johnson indicated the amount for Career Edge would need to be negotiated from a one year to a three-month period through June 30th. Ms. Johnson indicated there was more than adequate youth funding available and, with the requirement to spend twenty percent for youth work experience, she did not see any issues with the request. Julie Brown made a motion to approve the modification request with the ability to negotiate the Career Edge portion, Stan Carton seconded; motion carried.

DISCUSSION/UPDATE ITEMS

KCC Comment Cards

Lori Strumpf shared that the Elizabethtown center had increased the customer comment responses exponentially. The Lebanon center continued with their efforts and Bardstown was beginning to get some as well. Overall, the comments continued to be very positive.

Heartland Communications Consultants (HCC)

Stephanie Wetzel began by sharing the outreach mission statement with the LTWDB. An overview of outreach activities was presented including the promotion of the virtual job fairs as well as the in-demand careers campaign. Ms. Wetzel was happy to report that a milestone had been reached with over five-thousand followers on Facebook. Website analytics were shared and website traffic was up by sixty-four percent. Ms. Wetzel ended by sharing a video created to celebrate Women's History month.

Career Team – Direct Services Provider

A Career Team representative was not present. A handout of enrollment numbers was included in the meeting packet.

HWI, Inc. – One Stop Operator Update

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 items covered included:

Ms. Strumpf stated they were working very hard to get the Bardstown location fully operational and to ensure the LTWDB would not have to continue to pick up extra costs. Ms. Strumpf indicated there was ongoing negotiation with Bethany Haven regarding costs. Also, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) was committed to placing a staff person one day a week once they made a visit to review the location.

Ms. Strumpf indicated that ADA reviews of the three affiliate sites were finally completed, which is a requirement of the State's one stop certification process. There were some minor corrections identified and Carter was working with the sites to get these addressed. Once the corrections are made a verification letter of ADA compliance would be needed.

Andy Hightower stated the KCC-LT Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by all partners, including the State Education and Labor Cabinet. Mr. Hightower indicated he would be working with Angela Crenshaw, WIOA Fiscal Officer, on the process the partners would be following to share the costs.

Ms. Strumpf shared the Blue Oval Task Force group continued to meet monthly with the focus of identifying the company's needs and determining ways the KCC-LT can assist.

Andy Hightower reported they began tracking operations numbers over a year ago and shared some of the data that had been captured. They were beginning to track at the Bardstown center. They were also working to determine what data was available through the State to capture job registrations.

Bardstown Center Discussion

Ms. Strumpf provided a more in-depth assessment of the Bardstown center and the difficulty getting the issues resolved with Bethany Haven regarding center

costs. Ms. Strumpf stated she was recommending, with Sherry Johnson's concurrence, that if Bethany Haven did not provide a response to commit to their shared costs and OVR did not make a definite commitment to a staff person at the center by March 31st they may have to break the lease to move into a smaller location. Ms. Strumpf stated the LTWDB was currently picking up a substantial portion of the costs. Sherry Johnson provided additional explanation stating WIOA required partners to pay their fair share of career center costs based on proportion used and benefits received and the main priority was to ensure the law was being followed. Lance Blanford shared concerns about the recommendation and stressed it was going to take time to build the center. Mr. Blanford felt confident a resolution could be worked out with Bethany Haven and agreed to meet with them to determine how to assist with costs. Joe Ashley indicated Orbis had funding to provide support to cover costs.

After a lengthy discussion, Trish opened the floor for comments and suggestions. Stan Carton stated, through his involvement with the Nelson County Training Consortium (NELCO), employers were looking to unconventional sources, such as the homeless population, for employees and Bethany Haven could be an important resource in this effort.

After additional discussion, the LTWDB agreed, by consensus, to let Sherry Johnson, Lori Strumpf, Andy Hightower and Lance Blanford have an offline discussion to come up with a resolution regarding how to move forward and present to the LTWDB via Zoom in the next couple of weeks.

LTADD Workforce Update

Sherry Johnson shared the following information:

- Interviews for the Workforce Director position were being held today.
- Construction is currently taking place for Blue Oval/SK and a groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for next month.
- Ms. Johnson thanked the LTWDB, contractors and staff for their support over the years.
- Ms. Johnson introduced new employee Leslie Ashlock, who began as a Workforce Specialist in January.

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 21, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe Ashley
Alan Biddle
Lance Blanford
Julie Brown
Jennifer Carman
Daniel Carney
Stan Carton
Chris Cottrell
Myra Covault
Jerry Dubree
Patricia Krausman
Trish Niles
Jim Rachlin
Chris Reed
Sarah Smith
Davette Swiney

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michael Embry
Joe Fowler
Jennifer Lampton*
Scott Lusk
Mark Nelson
Dr. Juston Pate*
Tom Renfrow

STAFF

Leslie Ashlock
Angela Crenshaw
Sherry Johnson
Jackie Masterson
Jim Skees

GUESTS

Alisher Burikhanov
Monica Collins
Debbie Dennison
Andy Hightower
Lori Strumpf
Stephanie Wetzel

*Denotes excused
absence