

**MINUTES OF THE
LINCOLN TRAIL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
BOARD
Executive Committee
May 15, 2024**

The Lincoln Trail Workforce Development Board (LTWDB) Executive Committee held a hybrid meeting on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 9:00 am ET.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

GUESTS

STAFF

Angela Crenshaw
Jackie Masterson
Beth Roberts

**Denotes excused absence*

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

ACTION ITEMS

Consideration of Minutes – February 21, 2024

After review of the February 21, 2024 Executive Committee minutes, Chris Cottrell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Julie Brown seconded; motion carried.

Set Agenda for June Board Meeting

The following items were agreed upon for the June LTWDB meeting agenda:

- Approve Slate of Officers
- Revise by-laws to reflect dissolution of WEED committee
- Strategic Partner reports
- Approve WIOA budget

- Update on Childcare study and taskforce activities
- Overview of House Bill 499 regarding childcare assistance for employees
- Mention passing of former Lincoln Trail Workforce Board Chair, Mo Miller

DISCUSSION/UPDATE ITEMS

Strategic Partner Update

Ms. Roberts indicated things were going well with all strategic partners.

Heartland continued to be very responsive to outreach needs and an outreach request process was developed to streamline requests from other strategic partners.

Ms. Roberts stated there continued to be an increase in services, numbers served and employer engagement, putting things on a good trajectory.

A new process was put in place to begin the strategic partner yearly contract renewals earlier. LTWDB staff was currently Working with Career Team and Hightower and Strumpf on budgets for the upcoming year.

Lance Blanford shared concerns regarding inefficiencies at the Bardstown Career Center. Mr. Blanford indicated these were discussed with Lori Strumpf, One Stop Operator. Ms. Roberts indicated she would follow-up on the concerns to ensure they were addressed.

Committee Updates

Nominating Committee - Stan Carton reported the committee met on May 24, 2024 to identify a slate of Officers to begin serving July 1, 2024 as well as ensure membership renewals and vacancies were completed. Committee members agreed to recommend the current slate of Officers to the full board at the June meeting as well as provided potential candidates to fill two business vacancies and one labor/community-based organization vacancy.

Individuals with Disabilities Committee – Stan Carton reported the committee met on April 24, 2024. An update was provided on Kentucky Career Center - Lincoln Trail operations. There was discussion regarding the electronic customer sign-in process and concern expressed regarding the reasonable accommodations put in place. Follow-up will be conducted with the One Stop Operator to determine the best solution. There were no additional updates on the ADA compliance status of affiliate sites, which will require further guidance from the Education and Labor Cabinet.

Funding Committee – Chris Cottrell reported the committee met on April 23, 2024 and reviewed and discussed the third quarter financial statements. The fiscal year 2024 third quarter expenditures increased fourteen percent over the year before. Mr. Cottrell indicated the issue with the overobligation of adult funds was circumvented by redirecting the program’s efforts toward youth services. All expiring funds, including

youth, were on track to be expended, which would be the first time in many years this has occurred. The committee will be meeting next week to go over the draft budget for fiscal year 2025, which will be brought before the LTWDB in June for approval.

Youth Committee - Julie Brown reported the Youth Committee met on April 16, 2024. Heartland Communications Consultants provided an update on youth outreach activities, which included a new YouTube video series focused on in-demand careers. A new initiative was being piloted in Hardin County called Project Opportunity. The purpose was to connect graduating seniors and out of school youth with quality work-based learning opportunities. Career Team reported enrollment of thirty-five youth since July 1, 2023. Career exploration was being offered through the virtual reality headsets as part of Project Destiny with the Addiction Recovery Care center. An update on the youth budget was provided and work experience expenditures were exceeding the twenty percent requirement. The steady increase in youth enrollments appeared to be moving budget expenditures in the right direction.

Lincoln Trail Workforce Update

Ms. Roberts shared the following information:

- The Local Workforce Directors' request to the Kentucky State Legislature for \$26 million in State funds resulted in \$20 million dollars, which will be administered to the local workforce areas through KentuckianaWorks. Eligibility and reporting requirements were currently being worked out with an anticipated start date of July 1, 2024. Lincoln Trail will receive approximately \$180,000 over two years with the goal of placing seventy youth into employment.
- The "Putting Kentuckians First" initiative was implemented in Hardin County on March 1st and nine participants have been enrolled, to date. A Fair Chance Academy was held in Hardin County for employers to learn about working with this population. A navigator position for the program has been posted for the Lincoln Trail region.
- Jake Brown was being scheduled to present workforce data throughout the Lincoln Trail region at various organizations.
- The virtual reality headsets have been used by one-hundred sixty-three individuals, to date. An EV battery simulation demo was recently conducted with Blue Oval/SK staff. Additional curriculum development to serve Blue Oval/SK's needs was also being explored.
- Rapid Response services were provided to eight Montebello Packaging employees on May 1st. The layoff impacted fourteen individuals.
- A bill to reauthorize WIOA, called A Stronger Workforce for America, has passed the House and is currently in the Senate. A major concern, nationwide, is a fifty percent requirement that funding be used for participant training. Advocacy is currently taking place to change this requirement. An August/September timeframe is anticipated for the reauthorization, which would result in an effective date of July 1, 2025.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.