

Quarterly Meeting Minutes
South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc.
Stonegate Arts & Education Center, Bedford, IN
April 22, 2026 – Noon to 1:30pm

Board Members Present: Brenda Reetz, Scott Baker, Adam Gross, Jordan Sherman, Linda Henderson, Blayze Damron, Kendra Langford, Marce Johnson, Teresa DuKate, Jennifer Kelley, Scott Adams, Jeff Pipkin, Scott Wilcoxon, Mike Norris, Lisa Hein, Patrick Todd

Board Members Present via Zoom Invite/Call-In: Apryl Kidd, Sam Craig

Others Present: Rob King, Don Kent, Erin Brewer, David Tucker, Sandy Friedman, Carla Crowe, Samuel Perkins, Brian Rawlins, Arin Pritchard, Gail Mitchell, Jill Campbell, Ty Mungle, Kim Waldridge, Stefan Welsh

Board Members Absent: Derek Cronin, Terry Pittman, Michael Stieglitz, Michelle Ellis, Pam Metz,

Brenda Reetz called the meeting to order at Noon and a quorum of the Board was confirmed as present. Rob King welcomed all Board members and attending guests. Rob welcomed new Board members to include: Mr. Jordan Sherman – Daviess County Business Representative and President for NASCO Industries.

Approval of Minutes

Jeff Pipkin moved to accept the minutes of the 01/21/2026 meeting of the South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc. Scott Baker seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

Guest Presentation

Kim Waldridge, Sector Specialist, and Stefan Welsch, Program Director with Regional Opportunity Initiatives (ROI), provided the Board with an overview and update for the ***MOMENTUM: Indiana Uplands Microelectronics Workforce Development Program***. MOMENTUM is the name for ROI's portfolio of regional ME programs, including the ME Training Hub, ME Academy, soldering training, and curriculum development. Aligned with local career opportunities, MOMENTUM opens doors to microelectronics education and training, sparks interest in high-tech careers, and accelerates talent pipelines—building the skilled workforce needed to power the defense industry and keep the U.S. at the forefront of the semiconductor lifecycle, from design to engineering, testing, production, packaging, fabrication, and logistics. ROI partners with many organizations within Region 8 including Ivy Tech Community College Bloomington and Crane NWS.

Financial Reports and Workforce Board Audit Review/Results

Carla Crowe with Crowe LLP, the Board's Fiscal Agent, distributed and presented the financial report for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Carla noted that 54% of the Total Annual Budget was expended through March 31, 2026. Carla reviewed adjustments to the Budget and Expenditures. Funds added/adjusted to the budget included the following:

- Workforce Ready Grant (WRG) - \$419,000
- Pathway Home 6.0 - \$31,000
- Unrestricted Funds - \$3,000
- Non-State Grants - \$34,000

Mandy Mahurin provided updates for the Power-Up Grant, Workforce Ready Grant, and Home Pathway 6 Grant.

Carla Crowe stated that Rob King provided an electronic copy of the most recent Region 8 Workforce Board Audit results for member review prior to today's Board meeting. Carla reviewed the Board monitoring report with all members and stated that there were no financial statement or federal award issues or findings for the Program Periods ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

Jeff Pipkin moved to approve the financial report and budget, Pathway Home 6.0 Funds for \$463,045 to Vincennes University (VU), WRG Funds for 29,900 to VU, and to accept the results of the Workforce Board Audit Results for the period ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025. Scott Adams seconded the motion. Blayze Damron abstained from the Financial report and budget vote, all other Board members voted in favor and the entire motion was approved.

New Region 8 Website (Bio's & Pics)

Rob King provided an update on Bio's & Pics for the Region 8 Website and reminded members that some photos still needed to be taken. Rob stated there have been some issues with getting everything posted, but those concerns are close to being addressed. All bio's and pics should be ready for posting on or before July 1, 2026.

Grant Opportunity with DWD and Midwest Urban Strategies (RESTART)

Mandy Mahurin discussed a potential Grant Opportunity for Region 8. Partnering with both DWD and Midwest Urban Strategies, Region 8 will be submitting proposals for the U.S. Department of Labor's **RESTART Initiative** (Reentry Employment in Skilled Trades, Advanced Manufacturing, Registered Apprenticeships, and Training). This Grant provides federal funding dollars to help formerly incarcerated individuals return to the workforce. In Indiana, these funds are awarded to eligible organizations, community groups, and state agencies to provide training, pre-apprenticeships, and job placement. This Grant would align well with our current Pathway Home 6 Grant and allow us to serve more individuals.

Rapid Response Update

Mandy Mahurin provided Board members with a Rapid Response Update. Novo Nordisk (Monroe County) - Region 8 received notification that Novo Nordisk (formerly known as Catalent) in Bloomington is planning to lay off 400 workers in May of 2026. To date, a WARN Notice has not been issued. Business Services has made contact with Bradley Jones, Senior HR Manager, who stated that the facility intends to cooperate with WorkOne to provide information to employees in regards to Rapid Response, WorkOne Services, UI information, Workshops and local office contact information.

JAG Program Update

Sam Perkins, Region 8 JAG Program Manager, provided the Board with an update on the Region 8 JAG Program. Sam stated that the four programs operating within the region would be finishing up with activities by the end of June 2026. Sam also stated that final wrap-ups should be completed with DWD by the end of August 2026.

EGR Realignment and Regional 4-Year Plan Modification Update

Rob King provided the Board with a regional map realignment update and stated that no additional information has been made available on a final determination. However, reports from the Governor's Office indicated that options are currently being considered and any updates that are communicated would be provided immediately to all board members.

Rob also informed Board members that the Local Workforce Four-Year Plan modification should be coming to Region 8 soon and it is anticipated that it will be due to the State by September 30, 2026. WIOA requires Workforce Boards to develop and submit a comprehensive four-year local plan to the State for approval. This plan must address current and future strategies to advance workforce system programs and support a customer-centered system. The regional Workforce Board vision and service provision operational goals are included as part of the workforce plan. This plan must align with the State plan and includes information such as labor market trends, regional sector partnership collaborations, employer engagements and community resources identification.

The workforce modified plan must be published for public comment for at least 30-days prior to submission to the State. It is anticipated that the draft modifications will be ready to post for public comments sometime in August of 2026. Ultimately, the plan will be ready for discussion and approval by the Board at our annual meeting in September of 2026.

WorkOne Board Report (Don Kent)

The WorkOne Board report was distributed to the Board for review and Don Kent, Region 8 Service Provider Executive Director, provided updates on regional WorkOne office operations, RESEA, National Dislocated Worker Employment Recovery Grant (DW-ERG), UI Data, Performance Highlights, TAA, JAG Program, Rapid Response and Business Services activities, and Next Level Jobs Data. A copy of the complete WorkOne Region 8 Report is available on the South Central Region 8 Workforce Board's website at www.southcentral8.org.

Other Business – Public Comments

With no further business, Brenda Reetz made a motion to adjourn, Adam Gross seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30PM

Prepared By: Rob King