

Quarterly Meeting Minutes
South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc.
Stonegate Arts & Education Center, Bedford, IN
June 25, 2025 – Noon to 1:30pm

Board Members Present: Brenda Reetz, Scott Baker, Adam Gross, Linda Henderson, Trudie Dillman, Jennifer Pearl, Dan Peterson, Pam Metz, Scott Adams, Jeff Pipkin, Scott Wilcoxon, Mike Norris, Apryl Kidd, Sam Craig

Board Members Present via Zoom/Call-In: Kevin Bush, Dustin Gabhart, Michelle Ellis, Lisa Hein, Patrick Todd

Others Present: Rob King, Susan Neal, Shannon Laurent, Don Kent, Erin Brewer, David Tucker, Mandy Mahurin, Sandy Friedman, Carla Crowe, Michi McClain, Brian Rawlins, Gail Mitchell, Jill Campbell, Cathy Bullington, Katie Rounds

Board Members Absent: Derek Cronin, Terry Pittman, Michael Stieglitz, Teresa Dukate,

Call to Order

Brenda Reetz called the meeting to order at Noon. Rob King welcomed Board members and a quorum of the Board was confirmed as present.

Approval of Minutes

Jeff Pipkin moved to accept the minutes of the 04/23/2025 meeting of the South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc. Adam Gross seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

RESEA Discussion (DWD Guest)

Katie Rounds, Chief Workforce Officer with DWD, was a guest of the Workforce Board to discuss the reasons for the recent RESEA operational changes occurring in Indiana and for relocating all DWD Wagner-Peyser staff to the Comprehensive WorkOne office in Bloomington. The goal for the current staff movements included leveraging technology sooner and ensuring that RESEA Compliance Requirements are properly met. Katie also discussed the benefits of maintaining a continued operational partnership with Region 8. Brenda Reetz, Board Chair, stated that given the data provided she did not agree that DWD's decision to move all RESEA staff to the Bloomington office is the best model. Region 8's philosophy supports a physical presence in each county served and based on the needs currently, referring people that need assistance away from their local office to the Bloomington office has not proved effective to appropriately serve participant needs. Brenda also felt that the current model creates a negative impact for claimants in Region as a whole. Katie responded she understood that perspective, but given the current budget and staffing constraints experienced by DWD, this is their best course of action at the moment. Jen Pearl, Economic Development representative, stated that since data shows a certain percentage of the Workforce comes out of Monroe County, with the rest coming from surrounding areas, it is important to frame a proper model to ensure we are engaging as many participants as we can throughout the region and state. Katie agreed, but also stated that we must do this within DWD limitations and rely on partners to assist as well. Pam Metz, Orange

County Business representative, also expressed her frustration with recruiting younger adults and asked if we are doing enough to properly engage this demographic via all technology available and not just referring to a website for information as she feels this is not effective in and of itself. Mike Norris, Monroe County Business representative expressed his concerns that the current model may not properly identify appropriate skill sets for employees that they need and thinks we should focus on how this may be accomplished. Katie stated she thinks these are all valuable concerns and that her team at DWD would keep all of these concerns in their minds as we move forward. Katie reiterated the need for even more collaboration with the regions to address these and other state concerns as well. Additional conversation continued about the recent state JAG funding being eliminated.

Financial Reports

Carla Crowe, with Crowe LLP, the Board's Fiscal Agent, distributed and presented the financial report for the period ending May 31, 2025. Carla noted that 71% of the Total Annual Budget was expended through May 31, 2025. Carla reviewed adjustments to the Budget and Expenditures. Funds added/adjusted to the budget included the following:

- JAG (\$1,500)
- JAGTANF (\$395,780)

Carla discussed PY'25 funds to include carry-in funds from PY'24 and new funding allocations for PY'25. Carla explained what carry-in funds were and how that amount is calculated into the overall annual allocations. She also stated that 20% of total funding is earmarked as carry-in funding for the next program year. Carla also advised the Board that Region 8 received an award for \$900,000 to continue Workforce Ready Grant activities. Carla noted that up to \$90,000 of these administrative funds would be contracted to VU for activities related to the Grant.

Scott Baker moved to approve the financial report and budget, authorization of PY'24 carry-in funds, and PY'25 new allocation of funds to Vincennes University (VU), JAG funds for \$1,500 to VU, JAG-TANF funds for \$395,780 to VU, and WRG contract award for up to \$90,000 to VU. Jeff Pipkin seconded the motion. Trudie Dillman abstained from the financial budget vote, all other Board members voted in favor and the motion was approved.

New Region 8 Website (Bio's & Pics) Update

Rob King reminded Board members that the new Region 8 Website is currently in testing mode and should be officially active in July of 2025. Rob also reminded Board members that he will be reaching out to those that have yet to submit a picture and bio of themselves. Assistance with both the pic and bio is available if needed.

Election of PY'25 Officers and By-Laws Update

Rob King discussed election of Board Officers for PY'25 and reminded the Board that this will be done at the September 24, 2025 annual meeting, which is the first Board meeting of Program Year 2025-2026 (PY'25). Rob also stated that the Region 8 Workforce Board By-Laws have been updated to expand on electronic/virtual meeting activities to include roll calls and voting. To give Board members adequate time to review, an electronic vote will be conducted within the next few weeks to approve with results provided at the Annual meeting in September.

Indiana Workforce Alliance (IWA) - Pathemy Strategies Indiana Workforce Analysis

Rob informed Board members that the Indiana Workforce Alliance (IWA) is working on a project with Pathemy Strategies to provide all regions with a Workforce Analysis similar to the TEconomy/Ivy Tech White Paper released earlier in the year. The IWA aims to articulate the important role the Workforce Development Board's (WDB's) play in delivering training, workforce services, and support to Hoosiers and Indiana's employers. Board members were provided the IWA proposal outlining the scope and approach Pathemy Strategies will take to produce a high-impact brief that reflects the WDBs' capacity, coordination, and strategic importance in Indiana's talent and economic development future. The cost of this analysis would be \$25,000 with IWA providing \$13,000 of the funds and each Regional Board providing \$1,000 in support for their regions. Rob informed the Board the Executive Committee reviewed this proposal on 06/23/2025 and voted as follows:

Adam Gross motioned to approve \$1,000 consultant fee to IWA for Pathemy Workforce Analysis and Brenda Reetz seconded...with no nays, the motion passed and the Region 8 Workforce Board will contribute \$1,000 regional fee.

WorkOne Report

The WorkOne report was distributed to the Board for review. Don Kent, Executive Director of VU WDS – Region 8, highlighted the report. Don provided updates on regional WorkOne office operations, RESEA, 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.

Workforce Board Meeting Dates (2025-2026)

Rob King provided Board members with upcoming Workforce Board meeting dates as follows:

- September 24, 2025 (In-Person Annual Meeting)
- January 21, 2026 (Via Zoom)
- April 22, 2026 (In-Person)
- June 24, 2026 (In-Person)

Other Business – Public Comments

With no further business, Jeff Pipkin made a motion to adjourn, Scott Baker 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