

**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**  
**South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc.**  
**Stonegate Arts & Education Center, Bedford, IN**  
**September 24, 2025 – Noon to 1:30pm**

**Board Members Present:** Scott Baker, Adam Gross, Linda Henderson, Blayze Damron, Kendra Lanford, Derek Cronin, Terry Pittman, Michael Stieglitz, Jennifer Pearl, Scott Adams, Jeff Pipkin, Lisa Hein, Apryl Kidd, Patrick Todd

**Board Members Present via Zoom Invite/Call-In:** Teresa Dukate, Pam Metz, Scott Wilcoxon, Sam Craig

**Others Present:** Rob King, Susan Neal, Carla Crowe, Mandy Mahurin, Don Kent, Erin Brewer, Sandy Friedman, David Tucker, Gail Mitchell, Sam Perkins, Randy Wells, Carol Johnson, Brian Rawlins, Joe Timbrook, Shannon Laurent, Arin Pritchard, Dan Boortner, Jeff Quyle,

**Board Members Absent:** Brenda Reetz, Kevin Bush, Dan Peterson, Michelle Ellis, Mike Norris

### **Call to Order**

Vice-Board Chair, Scott Baker, called the meeting to order at Noon and a quorum of the Board was confirmed as present. Board members introduced themselves with each member invited to share relevant news or information about their organizations. Guests in attendance also introduced themselves as well. Rob King acknowledged new Board member Kendra Langford, Senior Human Resources Manager of Heidelberg Materials, as a Business Representative for Lawrence County. Rob also welcomed Blayze Damron as the newly appointed DWD Representative.

### **Approval of Minutes**

***Jeff Pipkin moved to accept the minutes of the 06/25/2025 meeting of the South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc. Adam Gross seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the minutes were approved.***

### **Financial Reports and Grant Updates**

Carla Crowe, with Crowe LLP, the Board's Fiscal Agent, distributed and presented the financial report for the period ending August 31, 2025. Carla noted that 11% of the Total Annual Budget was expended through August 31, 2025. Carla reviewed adjustments to the Budget and Expenditures. Funds added/adjusted to the budget included the following:

- WIOA Adult                   \$518 (-)
- JAG Expansion               \$474 (-)
- JAG-TANF                     \$9,307 (-)
- WRG                            \$63,560
- ABA                             \$25,203 (-)
- Power-UP Indiana         \$300,000
- LISC                            \$63,311

Susan Neal provided updates for the Business Services, Employer Training Grant, Workforce Ready Grant & Power-UP Indiana Employer Grant.

***Scott Adams moved to approve the financial report and budget, Business Services Contract Amount for \$120,000 to Vincennes University, ETG Contract Amount for up to \$37,500 to Vincennes University, and Power-Up Indiana Contract Amount for up to \$45,000 to Vincennes University. Derek Cronin seconded the motion. Blayze Damron abstained from the financial budget vote, all other Board members voted in favor and the motion was approved.***

### **Election of Officers**

Rob King discussed election of Board officers for PY'25 and advised that PY'24 Board Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary Officers have agreed to maintain their current roles if no other Board members expressed interest in serving in this capacity. As there were no additional nominations for Board officers, Rob recognized the current PY'25 officers as follows: 1) Brenda Reetz to remain as Board Chair, 2) Scott Baker to remain as Vice-Chair, and 3) Adam Gross to remain as Secretary.

***Michael Stieglitz moved to approve all Board Officers for PY'25. Jeff Pipkin seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the 2025-2026 Board Officers was approved.***

### **Executive Council Meeting (Local Elected Officials)**

Rob King provided an update on the Executive Council (Local Elected Officials) meeting that was held on August 12, 2025. There was a quorum, and items discussed at meeting included: 1) Operational Update for Region 8; 2) Regional Governance Structure approved through June 30, 2028; 3) Regional WIOA PY'25 Allocations; 4) Elected Officials Agreement and Appointment Process to Executive Council; 5) Duties and Responsibilities of LEO's; 5) County Local Elected Officials Appointment agreement; and (6) Regional Chief Elected Official (RCEO) to represent Region 8. Sam Craig currently serves in that capacity until June 30, 2027. Sam is currently the Mayor of Bedford, Indiana in Lawrence County, as was elected to serve as RCEO beginning on January 1, 2025. Rob reviewed the Region 8 Local Elected Officials renewal agreement (2023-2028). The new five-year agreement will remain in place through 06/20/2028. New members appointed will sign the agreement on or before October 31, 2025.

### **Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment**

In coordination with Career and Technical Education (CTE) partners, Region 8 will be hosting a Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) on October 6, 2025 at the BNL Performing Arts Center in Lawrence County. The purpose of the CLNA is to provide CTE partners with the most current labor market and regional strategic plan information to assist with their Request for Applications (RFA) submissions. Regional partners such as Adult Education, Economic Development, Workforce Development Services, Regional Opportunity Initiatives, Vincennes University and Ivy Tech Bloomington will be invited. There are three CTE partners directly aligned with operational activities and include North Lawrence Career Center, Lost River Career Cooperative and Hoosier Hills Career Center.

## **Regional Realignment to READI Region**

Rob opened up the floor for discussion about the proposed State of Indiana Regional Realignment to the READI Regions. Board members were provided information about the realignment to include the proposed maps and white paper included in proposal. Board members believe that they, or at least some representatives of the Board, should be included in State discussions as they can provide valuable information to the proposal before being adopted or implemented. In the proposal, Region 8 would be included in a newly created Region 7 which would include 19 counties. Board members expressed deep concerns about expanding to so many counties and worry that the services and best practices associated with the current Region 8 would greatly suffer in such an expansion. Many Board members volunteered to attend expansion discussions if they were invited. The Board decided a letter would be appropriate to send to Commissioner Josh Richardson for response.

**Michael Stieglitz motioned to have a letter sent to the DWD Commissioner and Secretary of Commerce requesting Region 8 be included in the discussion to realign regions to the READI Regions Map. Scott Baker seconded the motion. All voted in favor of submitting a letter on behalf of the Region 8 Workforce Board and the motion was approved.**

## **JAG Program Update – Region 8**

Sam Perkins, Region 8 JAG Program Manager, provided the Board with an update on how the JAG Program. Sam stated that Region 8 continues to provide JAG services to the following four schools:

- 1) Bloomfield High School
- 2) Eastern Greene High School
- 3) Owen Valley High School
- 4) Paoli High School

Sam stated that these programs were being funded through Region 8 Board funds through June 30, 2026.

## **WorkOne Report**

The WorkOne report was distributed to the Board for review. Donald Kent, Executive Director of VUWDS in Region 8, highlighted the report and 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](http://www.southcentral8.org).

## **Region 8 By-Laws Update**

Rob revisited the Region 8 By-Laws update from June 2025 Board meeting. The Region 8 Workforce Board By-Laws were updated to expand on electronic/virtual meeting activities to include roll calls and voting. The electronic review was completed on July 9, 2025.

***Patrick Todd motioned to Approve Amendment to the Region 8 By-Laws with an effective date of June 25, 2025. Michelle Ellis seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the Amendment was approved.***

### **Workforce Board Meeting Dates (2025-2026)**

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

- January 21, 2026 (Zoom Invite)
- April 22, 2026 (In-Person with Zoom Option)
- June 24, 2026 (In-Person with Zoom Option)

### **Other Business – Public Comments**

***With no further business, Scott Baker made a motion to adjourn, Michael Stieglitz 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