

**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**  
**South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc.**  
**Stonegate Arts & Education Center, Bedford, IN**  
**April 23, 2025 – Noon to 1:30pm**

**Board Members Present:** Brenda Reetz, Scott Baker, Adam Gross, Linda Henderson, Trudie Dillman, Derek Cronin, Jennifer Pearl, Teresa DuKate, Michelle Ellis, Scott Adams, Jeff Pipkin, Apryl Kidd, Sam Craig

**Board Members Present via Zoom Invite/Call-In:** Dustin Gabhart, Lisa Hein

**Others Present:** Rob King, Susan Neal, Don Kent, David Tucker, Randy Wells, Sandy Friedman, Carla Crowe, Samuel Perkins, Joe Timbrook, Gail Mitchell, Jill Campbell, Tracey Carey

**Board Members Absent:** Kevin Bush, Terry Pittman, Michael Stieglitz, Dan Peterson, Pam Metz, Scott Wilcoxon, Mike Norris, Patrick Todd\*

*\* Patrick Todd is a new member officially nominated on 04/16/2025 and approved by Chief Local Elected Official today as a sitting Board member. His first meeting in attendance will be on 06/25/2025.*

Brenda Reetz called the meeting to order at Noon and a quorum of the Board was confirmed as present. Susan Neal welcomed all Board members and attending guests. Susan Neal welcomed new Board members to include: Ms. Apryl Kidd – Workforce Youth Representative and Program Director for COSMOS; Ms. Trudie Dillman – Department of Workforce Development Representative and Employment Services Area Manager.

### **Approval of Minutes**

***Jennifer Pearl moved to accept the minutes of the 01/22/2025 meeting of the South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc. Scott Adams seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the minutes were approved.***

### **Guest Presentation**

Tracey Carey, Executive Director for Midwest Urban Strategies (MUS), provided the Board with an overview of benefits of Workforce Board Partnerships with MUS and the relationship with the Region 8 Workforce Board specifically. The Region 8 Workforce Board is currently an affiliate member at a cost of \$2,500 annually. Full membership has a cost of \$5,000 should we decide to upgrade membership.

Brenda Reetz inquired as to whether the presentation given by Ms. Carey could give additional justification as to whether the board should become a full member instead of an affiliate member. Susan Neal indicated that Rob King was looking to provide a clear picture of the benefits that membership could bring to the local workforce board.

After hearing that the Pathway Home 6 Grant could potentially bring up to \$400,000 to the region, Jeff Pipkin stated that it appeared the affiliate membership had already paid off and recommended discussion to become a full member in the near future. Dave Tucker, Brenda Reetz and Jeff Pipkin all stated that they felt the presentation was beneficial and further discussion surrounding membership would be warranted in future meetings.

## **Financial Reports**

Carla Crowe with Crowe LLP, the Board's Fiscal Agent, distributed and presented the financial report for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. Carla noted that 61% of the Total Annual Budget was expended through March 31, 2025. Carla reviewed adjustments to the Budget and Expenditures. Funds added/adjusted to the budget included the following:

- Pre-ETS – \$95,178
- RESEA - \$25,000
- Workforce Ready Grant (WRG) - \$175,000
- LISC - \$50,000
- Vincennes University (Service Provider) - \$202,633
- Direct Client Services - \$157,500
- Board Insurance, Travel, Meetings, Memberships - \$3,000

***Jeff Pipkin moved to approve the financial report and budget, Pre-ETS Funds for \$95,178 to Vincennes University (VU), RESEA Funds for up to \$25,000 to VU, WRG Funds for \$17,500 to VU, and LISC Funds for \$48,000 to VU. Scott Baker seconded the motion. Trudie Dillman abstained from the vote, all other Board members voted in favor and the motion was approved.***

## **New Region 8 Website (Bio's & Pics)**

Susan Neal reminded Board members that have yet to submit a picture and bio of themselves to do so prior to next Board meeting if possible. Region 8 expects to post on or before July 1, 2025.

That is pretty much what was stated.

## **Midwest Urban Strategies (Pathways Home 6.0)**

Susan Neal discussed the Pathways Home Grant and the application that was submitted by Midwest Urban Strategies on behalf of the board. This was for a DOL funded opportunity to provide reentry programming to eligible, incarcerated individuals prior to release from local jails and will continue comprehensive services after release. This program builds on the findings of the Linking Employment Activities Pre-Release (LEAP) implementation study. The LEAP pilots provided pre-release services through jail-based American Job Centers (known in Indiana as the WorkOne system) and linked participants to post-release services. Those grants have shown potential for breaking the cycle of recidivism by linking participants to the workforce system early—while still in jail—and then immediately upon reentry into the community. Susan stated that the award notification will likely occur sometime in late May or June.

## **DWD PY'24 Monitoring Results**

Susan Neal provided the Board with the Department of Workforce Development's (DWD) annual monitoring results for PY'24. Susan stated that Region 8 received a comprehensive monitoring by DWD in November of 2024. DWD evaluated the following as part of the monitoring: Programs, Policies, Procedures, Client Files, Case Notes, Financial Data, Equal Opportunity, ASE and Outcomes. Region 8 had no Compliance Findings for PY'24. Susan stated this is a great reflection on the work staff provide to the clients served through the region. Susan also stated that there was a noteworthy area identified as follows: 1) Region 8 has a comprehensive staff onboarding and training aimed at enhancing employee skills and fostering a culture of continuous learning/improvement.

## **Operational Updates: RESEA, Commission for Higher Education (CHE) & JAG Program**

Susan Neal, One-Stop Operator, provided the Board with operational updates. **RESEA:** In March 2024, DWD collaborated with NASWA (National Association of State Workforce Agencies) to complete an assessment of Wagner-Peyser and RESEA service delivery. Based on that review, DWD made the determination that the RESEA program would no longer be contracted to Regional Workforce Boards throughout the state, but would instead be operated by DWD staff. In January 2025, Region 8 served as a pilot region to transition the program to Wagner-Peyser funded State staff. Region 8 management staff assisted RESEA funded workers to transition to other positions to ensure they remained employed at the end of the pilot period and by April 1, all RESEA funding and operational responsibility was transitioned fully to DWD.

Susan Neal also reported that all Wagner-Peyser staff had been moved to Bloomington and RESEA services would only be provided at that location. The Employment Services Area Manager (ESAM) and Board member, Ms. Trudie Dillman, stated that DWD would be able to eventually offer virtual services and only in rare circumstances would a WP staff member meet with a claimant at Linton or Bedford. Brenda Reetz and Jeff Pipkin were not in agreement with moving the RESEA program to a centralized location and felt that virtual services and/or staff should be available in the Linton and Bedford locations. Brenda requested that a letter be drafted on behalf of the board in regards to the change and the negative impact it would have on the claimants in our region. Susan stated that she will notify Rob of the request.

**Commission for Higher Education (CHE) Grant:** Susan Neal provided an update on regards to the CHE grant. Region 8 has provided almost 900 students with Career Discovery Meetings and additional meetings are being scheduled through the end of May. Staff will continue to meet with students and provide services as requested until the end of the grant period in June 2025. Based on this, there should be no issue with expending the grant.

**JAG Program:** Sam Perkins, Region 8 JAG Program Manager, and Susan Neal provided the Board with an update on the Region 8 JAG Program. Susan Neal discussed the recent legislative changes in regards to JAG funding as it would no longer be available to DWD to support programming. Most board members were aware of the changes and several had submitted a letter in support of the program. Sam discussed the 6 or 6 metrics and noted that Region 8 is currently meeting all of those metrics and was very excited to note the 99.06% graduation rate.

## **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](http://www.southcentral8.org).

## **Workforce Board Audit Review & Results**

Carla Crowe stated that Rob King would provide an electronic copy of the most recent Region 8 Workforce Board Audit results for member review on or before May 15th. Rob will call for an electronic vote once the results have been reviewed and add to the 04/23/2025 meeting minutes for final approval. The electronic review was completed on May 8<sup>th</sup>. There were no financial statement or federal award issues or findings for the Program Periods ending June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

**Michelle Ellis moved to approve the Workforce Board Audit Results for the period ending June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2024. Lisa Hein Seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion was approved.**

## **Other Business – Public Comments**

**With no further business, Brenda Reetz made a motion to adjourn, Jeff Pipkin 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