

**Minutes of Meeting
Of the Indiana Region 9
Workforce Board**

Madison Ivy Tech Campus
590 Ivy Tech Drive
Madison, IN
May 20, 2011

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Blasdel.

Board Members Present: Rick Bryant, Marty Hon, Gary Gombita, Beth Blasdel, Phil Harsh, Jackie Hill, Scott Hubbard, Katie Jenner, Patti Yount, John Burnett, Peter Chu.

Discussion/Approval Prior Minutes: The minutes from the April 15, 2011 meeting were reviewed. With no requests for changes, Chair Blasdel requested a motion to approve the minutes. Director Yount motioned to approve the minutes. Director Hon seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

II. Board Chair Remarks: Bart Brown and Chair Blasdel met with Lani Czarniecki; District Director of Congressman Mike Pence's office. They discussed our relationship with Ivy Tech and asked if we were pleased with them.

Chair Blasdel discussed the Employers First Summit. Commissioner Everson was not able to attend the summit so Greg Vollmer filled in for the commissioner. Angie Black will keep us informed on events and updates regarding Employers First.

III. DWD Remarks: Greg Vollmer discussed the unemployment numbers that continue to go down. He stated we are seeing an improvement. We are half a point below national average for unemployment, but we are going to have challenges with reduced funding. This is Mr. Vollmer's last board meeting. He will be taking position as new CEO/President for the Region 2 WIB in northern Indiana. Dennis Wimer will be taking Mr. Vollmer's place as Deputy Commissioner of Field Operations. Chair Blasdel thanked Mr. Vollmer for his advocacy for the Region 9 board. Dennis Wimer introduced himself and stated he is looking forward to working with the Region 9 Workforce Board. On behalf of the board, Chair Blasdel welcomed Mr. Wimer to Region 9.

IV. Financial Report: Carla Crowe presented financials through the month of April. Our benchmark is at 83.33%. Ms. Crowe highlighted a few things to keep our eye on through the end of the program year. WIA Dislocated Worker is at a lower percentage than where our benchmark should be. Ms. Crowe stated we are committed to making sure we reach our 70%

expenditure rate that is required of us. We do have options that we may take advantage of so we won't have to send any of our WIA funds back. The ARRA funding expires June 30th. We are expecting Adult Education invoices to come in over the next few months which will increase the spending rate. Ms. Crowe wasn't sure whether these funds will carry-over or not. Michele Bowman stated DWD isn't sure yet what they will do with the remaining allocations. It may be split throughout the state or may carry over in the region. Ms. Crowe finished up financials by reporting the RWB expenses are lower but Track One and audit costs still haven't come in which will make the expenditure increase a little. Chair Blasdel requested a motion to approve the financials. Director Hon motioned to approve the financials as presented. Director Gombita seconded the motion. Financials approved.

V. Extension of audit contract: Chair Blasdel requested a motion to extend the audit contract with Comer Nowling for one year. Director Hon made a motion. Director Yount seconded. Motion passed.

VI. JAG Presentation: JAG Specialist Travis Decker introduced two students from MCHS; juniors Josh Shipman and Cody Miller. Mr. Decker asked Josh and Cody what has been the most beneficial aspect for them in the JAG program. Josh stated the most beneficial aspect for him is figuring out what he wants to do after high school. Indiana Career Explorer has helped link them to college, scholarship and financial aid information. Cody stated he likes the guest speakers the program provides. He said they talk about what you need to do to achieve getting a job. They also give good examples on getting a job. Both young men attended the Career Development Conference in March. They spoke of their experiences at the conference. Director Jenner commented that these two students have become leaders in their school. Chair Blasdel asked what interested them the most in the JAG class. Josh stated he was unorganized, but being in the JAG class has made him more of a gentleman and taught him to be more professional. Cody stated since he's been in the JAG class he is now interested in mechanical engineering. Cody also mentioned that through JAG he became professional and more confident. Chair Blasdel gave her appreciation to both young men for presenting, stating it's good for the board to be able see how successful our JAG program has been.

VII. Resolutions:

2011-12 - RVR Budget Amendment: The Regional Operator and RVR have negotiated a budget for RVR to provide client services/programs within the WorkOne Southeast offices. There are sufficient funds within RVR's current budget to allow a transfer of \$65,000 out of Dislocated Worker funding and into Adult funding. Chair Blasdel requested a motion to approve Resolution 2011-12. Director Hill made a motion. Director Hubbard seconded the motion. Resolution 2011-12 was approved.

2011-13 - RO Budget Amendment: The Regional Operator has reported the need for additional funding totaling \$90,000, broken out as \$10,000 for increased travel and fuel costs, \$10,000 for accounting services due to payroll and Workman's Compensation for Work Experience

program, \$ 65,000 for Youth Work Experiences Wages, and \$5,000 for production and publication of the Board's Annual Report. Mr. Brown explained the Annual Report cost wasn't in our budget for this program year, but it is in the budget for the next program year. Chair Blasdel requested a motion to approve Resolution 2011-13. Director Harsh made a motion. Director Burnett seconded the motion. Resolution 2011-13 was approved.

2011-14 - Program Year Budget 2011-2012: The Board's Executive/Finance Committee, in cooperation with its Fiscal Agent, Regional Operator, and Service Provider Staff, has developed a proposed Program Year 2011-2012 budget of \$2,966,408. Bart Brown stated this represents just over a 10% cut done in anticipation of the President's budget for WIA. Mr. Brown added that we have extra TAA money that we can use for next year. We have asked RVR to cut 10% and we would like to keep three TAA employees in that budget. We have also asked Crowe to cut 10%. They are down from \$132,000 to \$120,000. Client Connect will be far less than \$10,000. We did ask that the Youth Committee approve to keep the JAG Outreach Coordinator on for another year. Staff will come up with a plan on how to fund JAG with less WIA funding.

Director Yount commented that with the rise of gas prices, we continue taking a serious look at having board meetings every other month with continuing Executive/Finance Committee meetings continuing monthly. Mr. Brown also noted that we no longer reimburse for out-of-state travel. Chair Blasdel requested a motion to approve Resolution 2011-14. Director Bryant made a motion. Director Gombita seconded the motion. Resolution 2011-14 approved.

2011-15- Regional Operator Contract Approval: Chair Blasdel requested a recommendation to give a letter to the SWIC to have REACH, Inc. as our Regional Operator. Director Yount made a motion for recommendation then stated that with all sincerity the board could have chosen any of the six, who had sent in proposals, but we had this little group called REACH who had a vision and commitment and we took a chance on them. Director Yount commented to Bart Brown that she takes great pride on the impact he has made as Regional Operator, seeing us grow as a group and seeing the team he has put together. Mr. Brown replied that he couldn't have done this job with any other board. We've always done business as being staff to the board and not a contractor. Mr. Brown expressed his appreciation. Director Burnett seconded the motion for recommendation. Resolution 2011-15 recommending REACH, Inc. as our Regional Operator was approved.

2011-16 - RVR Youth Transition Funding: A period of transition prior to July 1, 2011 is necessary to ensure continuity of client service during the upcoming changeover between Job Works, Inc. as the current Youth Service Provider and River Valley Resources as the incoming Youth Service Provider for program years 2011 and 2012. The Regional Operator and RVR have negotiated and recommend transition funding in the amount of \$29,000 to carry out transitional activities between May 1, 2011 and June 30, 2011. Mr. Brown explained to the board that one of the things we do when we transition is to bring them in early to come up with a budget to present to the board. This includes all administrative work RVR has to do. Chair Blasdel

requested a motion to approve Resolution 2011-16. Director Hill motioned to approve. Director Gombita seconded the motion. Amendment 2011-16 was approved.

2011-17 - Service Provider Budget Amendment: Additional DW Funds

The Regional Operator and RVR have determined the need for an additional \$39,000 of WIA Dislocated Worker funding for client services. Bart Brown stated this is for the rise in gas prices and for TAA positions. Chair Blasdel asked how the Academic Career Counselors will be funded. Mr. Brown will meet with Gina Delsanto next week and Academic Career Counselors will be discussed. Staff and Mr. Brown have estimated that if we are going to provide the same level of service for all clients throughout Region 9 we will need to hire four more. This will be without additional funding. Mr. Brown also noted we will have to re-task current positions to be ACCs and spread out their normal functions amongst other staff. Chair Blasdel requested a motion to approve Resolution. Director Yount made a motion. Director Burnett seconded. Motion passed.

VIII. R O Service Provider Report

Bart Brown discussed ABE distribution from the state. With the new formula the state now uses, our region lost 16% for Adult Basic Education for our clients. The Southeastern Career Center, who covers the majority of our region, has dropped ABE. This means that Ohio, Franklin, Ripley, Dearborn, and Switzerland counties will not be covered. We are working with a consortium to get it covered. Director Jenner asked for clarification on why SECC dropped ABE. Mr. Brown explained there was a cut in funding. Director Yount asked if we could be the fiscal agent. Mr. Brown stated we would have to bid on it, but it won't be open until 2013.

IX. EcO15/DIDI

Director Burnett discussed the April 29th meeting in North Vernon that was held on behalf of the Workforce Board, EcO15, and all providers of ABE. 20% of adults in our region do not have a high school diploma. Director Burnett stated there is more work that needs to be done beyond the issue of money. There are many in our region who are not ready for ABE. It would make sense to see if we can pull together some segment from that group and find out where funding streams are from federal, state, and local standpoint. Director Jenner commented that if students get a GED they aren't considered a drop out. Director Jenner suggested speaking with our High Schools on getting some type of program started. We have to look at our resources and talk to the superintendents to see what we can do. Natalie Reuter of DWD mentioned that the consortium will have a large meeting in June. Director Hubbard asked if Jefferson County will have local classes. Mr. Brown replied that Jefferson County is covered. Directed Yount requested the RO staff to pull together as much data and facts as possible on what this budget cut means to our region and what the impact will be. Perhaps we can apply for additional funding. Director Yount also suggested documenting everything on everyone that is affected by this. We also should look at other options on providing services. Director Yount also requested data on those who can no longer receive unemployment and will never be able to get it.

X. Service Provider Report

Margo Olson gave an update on the service provider. Ms. Olson states RVR has been working on transitioning with youth services and appreciate the effort. RVR has made appointments with the youth advisors to get paperwork taken care of.

XI. Committee Reports:

Youth

Michele Bowman reports that with the \$140,000 recently received in grants, the youth committee had the idea of connecting with mayors and commissioners to enable our communities to give our youth a learning work experience. The youth committee is happy to report 60 positions will be filled this summer using the grant money. Ms. Bowman also reports that JAG is expanding in Seymour and that the student advisory selection committee will be meeting next week. Ms. Bowman thanked Director Harsh for contacting people in Franklin County to give us support with the program. We have participation from all counties. Chair Blasdel stated the Mayors and Commissioners are thrilled with this program.

OJT

Angela Black reports that OJT has been picking up. Sintering, BedTech, Environmental Labs, and Friendship Tool, are all currently utilizing OJT. Ms. Black and Kirk Kuhn recently met with a few additional companies. Chair Blasdel stated that PrintPak has not released their employees yet and we had planned to use PrintPak for our MSSC program.

Economic Development

Cheryl Obendorf discussed grants they received from Toyota and Rising Sun Regional Foundation to establish collaborative innovation centers within the school corporations in the county. Part of this grant will be used for curriculum development. They hope to have their first innovation center open by fall semester. Debbie Thomason was happy to report they have received their second START course results. All twelve students passed; ten with honors.

Director Hill commented they are looking at evaluating the process of students getting into MSSC. Director Harsh stated that they are expanding their engineering program for next year, and commented he is very pleased with the program. Chair Blasdel added that Decatur County has picked up a CNA program and the START program and they are also looking to add a logistics program provided by Vincennes University.

Performance Measures

The committee has not met recently, but we have performance measures in the local plan and need to wait on SWIC to approve.

XII. Other Business

Director Burnett briefly discussed the budget cut backs and Dream It! Do It!. We are figuring a way to fund DIDI HS champions through EcO15 funds. Director Burnett stated they are going to continue with that initiative. Next Board meeting is July 15th in Greensburg.

XIII. End of meeting resolution

Chair Blasdel requested a motion to accept and ratify all actions of the Board and its members that have occurred since the last meeting. Director Burnett motioned to accept these actions. Director Bryant seconded the motion. Motion carried.

XIV. Adjournment

Chair Blasdel requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Hill motioned for adjournment. Director Harsh seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.