

<b>Region 4 Workforce Board</b> <b>Meeting Minutes of May 25, 2022</b> Location: Inventrek and Virtual GoToMeeting	<b>NEXT MEETING</b> Wednesday, September 28, 2022 Location: TBD in Lafayette and Virtual-GoTo Meeting
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**Directors Present:**

Randy Vernon, chair  
Karen Mellen, vice-chair  
Steve Snyder, secretary  
Mike Barnes  
Richard Bradshaw  
Spencer Buchanan

Alicia Hanawalt  
Randy Holmes  
Elva James  
Amy Wood

**Excused:**

Dennis Carson  
Deb Close  
Dean McCurdy  
Shannon Polmateer

**Guests Present:** *Liddy Romero, Founder & CEO, WorkLife Partnership; Jim Huh, EVP, Business Engagement, WorkLife Partnership; Mark Peters, Board Member, WorkLife Partnership, CEO of Butterball Farms, and author of the book, The Source; Kathy Vernon, Community Liaison for Congressman Jim Baird; and Judy Hasselkus, DWD, Regional Support Manager.*

**Staff Present:** *Roger Feldhaus, CEO; Tara Bradley, CFO; Deb Waymire, COO; Kathy Burns, Lead Business Consultant and Data Analyst, and Tina Overley-Hilt, Executive Assistant*

**Call to Order and Welcome**

The May 25, 2022, WDB meeting was held at Inventrek in Kokomo and via GoToMeeting conference call. Attendees were welcomed and the meeting was called to order by Chair, Randy Vernon, at 8:30 a.m. Introductions were made. A quorum was present.

**Consent Agenda**

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

**Motion: Richard Bradshaw**

**Second: Karen Mellen**

**Action:** Unanimous approval

**New Business**

**Operations**

**WorkLife Partnership Presentation**

A presentation to introduce WorkLife Partnership and the WorkLife model was given by Liddy Romero, Jim Huh, and Mark Peters. WorkLife Partnership is a non-profit organization with a focus on job retention for essential workers. A WorkLife Navigator meets with individual employees to discuss work and life challenges and to find and connect them with community resources that will help them overcome the challenges that are affecting their job retention. WorkLife Partnership goal is to engage two employers and serve 400 individuals through WIOA Performance Support Grant funding in Region 4. There was a question-and-answer period following the presentation. The slide deck and employer scorecard link will be sent to Board Members.

**One Stop Partner Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and IFA Renewals**

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Infrastructure Agreement (IFA) is an agreement with the One Stop Partners’ understanding of how programs and services will be delivered in the WorkOne Centers and throughout the Region 4 WorkOne system. The current agreement expires June 30, 2022. The IFA is a methodology for partners to pay for their fair share of costs of the WorkOne Centers, whether in-kind costs, staffing, or expenditures. We expect to have the new agreement signed by June 30, 2022, for the three-year period ending June 30, 2025. The partnership agreements are between the Region 4 Workforce Board and

Regional Chief Elected Official and with the following partners: Adult Education; Wagner-Peyser Employment Services; Vocational Rehabilitation; Perkins Post-secondary Career & Technical Education; Unemployment Insurance; Job Counseling, Training and Placement for Veterans; Trade Adjustment Assistance; Migrant & Seasonal Farmworkers; and TANF.

### **Apprenticeship Building America Grant Opportunity**

Indiana Department of Workforce Development applied for an Apprenticeship Building America grant with USDOL. There are four categories of proposals being considered by USDOL; two categories fit Indiana's state-wide priorities. The Category 1 Goal is to Expand Registered Apprenticeship Programs in target sectors such as manufacturing, healthcare, IT, and construction. The Category 2 Goal is to expand pre-apprenticeships and develop equity-centered partnerships that would lead to more registered apprenticeship enrollments. Region 4 will participate in the grant if approved. DWD requested \$7 million to be shared across Indiana to support apprenticeships. Region 4 could receive \$500,000 to support apprenticeships.

### **Annual One Stop Partner Fair**

The semi-annual One Stop Partner Fair was recently held in-person. The fair is an opportunity for staff of our partners to come together and learn about the resources each organization has available, make connections, build relationships, and support each other as an organization. Terri Simons, JobWorks, Inc., and our One Stop Operator Coordinator, coordinated the event.

### **Board Administration**

#### **Board Staff Attraction and Retention**

At its April 27, 2022, meeting the Executive Committee supported a benefit allowance increase to help attract and retain Board staff. The Committee approved a budget amendment of \$17,000 for PY 21 to support this increase, if approved by the Board. The Committee requested a motion be made for the Board to approve a budget amendment adding \$17,000 to the board staff benefit allowance for PY 21.

A motion was made to approve the budget amendment of \$17,000 for PY 21.

**Motion: Alicia Hanawalt**

**Second: Karen Mellen**

**Action:** Unanimous approval

#### **Election of Board Officers and Board Membership**

The Region 4 Workforce Board by-laws state that the positions of Board Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary be elected annually in May. The Executive Committee presented the following slate of officers to the Board for approval.

Randy Vernon, Chair

Karen Mellen, Vice Chair

Steve Snyder, Secretary

Deb Close, Treasurer

A motion was made to approve the slate of officers as presented.

**Motion: Alicia Hanawalt**

**Second: Richard Bradshaw**

**Action:** Unanimous approval

#### **Indiana Chamber of Commerce Work-based Learning Landscape Study**

The Indiana Chamber of Commerce, Institute for Workforce Excellence held in-person focus group sessions to study the supply and demand of work-based learning on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at Ivy Tech in Lafayette.

Employers, educators, and workforce intermediaries in Region 4 participated in the sessions. Following the sessions, attendees were asked to participate in a Work-based learning study survey. Thanks to Karen Mellen for her participation at this meeting representing Haynes International and the Region 4 Workforce Board.

**Various Sources of Funding for PY 22**

Region 4’s WIOA allocation for PY 22 is two million dollars, a decrease of ten percent from PY 21. The State allocation overall decreased by nine percent. Other funding sources include the Employer Training Grant, Workforce Ready Grant, Rural Healthcare Grant, and the Apprenticeship Building America Grant opportunity currently under consideration.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 AM.

**Motion: Steve Snyder**

**Second: Alicia Hanawalt**

**Action:** Unanimous approval by all members present

Respectfully submitted,  
Tina Overley-Hilt  
Executive Assistant

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Stephen Snyder, Secretary  
Tecumseh Area Partnership, Inc.  
d/b/a Region 4 Workforce Board