

**Region 4 Workforce Board
Executive-Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 26, 2024**

Meeting Time: 9:00 AM
Method: In-Person, Region 4 Workforce Board Office

Committee Member Participants: Randy Vernon, Chair; Matt Lewellen, Vice Chair; Holly Moore, Treasurer; Steve Snyder, Secretary.

WDB Staff: Gregg Notestine, Executive Director; Roger Feldhaus, former Executive Director; Deb Waymire, Chief Operations Officer; Mellisa Leaming, Director of Operations; Blake Sempsrott, Controller; Kathy Burns, Lead Business Consultant and Data Analyst; and Tina Overley-Hilt, Executive Assistant

Other Attendees: Mayor Tony Roswarski, Regional Chief Elected Official, and Carla Crowe, Crowe LLC.

Executive-Finance Committee members met the newly appointed Executive Director during continental breakfast prior to the meeting.

Executive-Finance Committee

Randy Vernon, Executive Committee Chair, called the Executive-Finance Committee meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Finance

PY23 Revenue and Expense Report –1/31/2024

Carla Crowe, Crowe LLC, presented the PY 23 Revenue and Expense Report for the period ending 1/31/2024. Noteworthy observations include the following:

The top half of the report shows the Total Available to Budget for PY 23. Most funding is in line with the goal percentage for this period except for RESEA at 81% expended. No additional RESEA funds are anticipated. All regions need additional funding, not just Region 4. Discussion will continue about how to sustain the RESEA program until the end of PY 23 on June 30, 2024

The bottom half of the report shows line-item expenditures compared to the straight-line budget for the period.

- *Communications*–expenditure is over the goal percentage. This item will be reviewed to make sure funds are available to the end of PY 23.

Total Expense is 47%.

Total Board Discretionary relating directly to Board activity is 45%.

PY 24 WIOA Planning Estimates

U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) released the WIOA allocations for adult, dislocated worker, and youth programs to the State. WIOA Youth funds to the State are \$338,201 higher than PY 23. The State will receive \$355,231 less for adults and \$151,393 less for dislocated workers. These are planning estimates. Indiana receives approximately 2% of the total WIOA budget, and Region 4 receives approximately 7.5% of Indiana's allocation. The final allocations from DOL will be issued in April and Region 4 will know our allocation in May.

Operations

Deb Waymire, Chief Operations Officer, presented the Operations update.

Quest Grant Opportunity

In 2022 Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) received a USDOL grant to assist unemployed, dislocated workers. There is funding remaining from the grant that is available to regions. Region 4 requested \$269,500 to provide similar services provided under RESEA funding that will be exhausted in March 2024. This is a 'fee for service' type of grant where we will be reimbursed for specific services provided to customers. The earned funds can be used to pay service provider staff salaries, participant training costs, or other needs Region 4 may have. Funding ends September 2024.

Rural Healthcare Grant Progress (RHG)

Region 4 is the administrator and fiscal agent with nine sub-recipients across the state. We are on target to meet all outcomes set forth in the grant and working closely with all sub-recipients to finish strong. Funds were de-obligated from some regions because they were struggling to find participants and training providers. Those funds were obligated to other regions including Region 4 who are doing well. There will be discussions by the end of March to determine if a No-Cost Extension is needed. The RHG ends January 31, 2025.

New Grant Opportunity

USDOL announced a \$95 million for Apprenticeships Building America 2 (ABA) grants to continue to expand, diversify and strengthen the Registered Apprenticeship system through public and private partnerships. These partnerships are designed to serve a range of industries and individuals and promote Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs). ABA 2 provides funds in three tracks:

1. Ensuring Equitable RAP Pathways and Partnerships through Pre-apprenticeship Leading to RAP enrollment.
2. Creation of Education System-aligned Pre-apprenticeships and RAPs
3. Register Apprenticeship Hubs

Region 4 may pursue Track 1 or Track 2 opportunities for \$1-\$4million for 48 months beginning July 1, 2024.

Pathways to Infrastructure Grant Progress (Grant period 9/30/2023-9/30/2028)

Region 4 was awarded a \$2 million, five-year USDOL *Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant-Regional Electrical Vehicle Manufacturing Partnership (REV)*- to upskill 700 individuals in jobs in the electric vehicle sector. We received the fully executed contract this week. The grant focuses primarily on StarPlus Energy as they have the largest hiring and training need. Discussions have begun for 150-200 registered apprenticeships with StarPlus Energy. We will also meet and discuss the projected needs of two other companies-SunCharge EV and Stellantis. On March 5, 2024, we will host the first Regional Electric Vehicle (REV) Partnership meeting with employer partners, training partner Ivy Tech, and worker voice representatives. This will provide an opportunity for partners to understand the grant, the opportunities that can be supported and share their training needs.

National Economic Council Presentative – February 26, 2024

The Renewable Energy-Electric Vehicle sector and the Region 4 proposal caught the attention of the White House National Economic Council. Two grantees of the Pathways to Infrastructure grant will make a presentation to the Council. Region 4 will present the Development Track and the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family services will present a Statewide Scaling Track. The presentation will be later today.

James Rodriguez, USDOL Asst. Secretary for Veteran's Employment and Training Services Visit

The Honorable James Rodriguez, USDOL Asst. Secretary for Veteran's Employment and Training Services will be a speaker at the Council on Military Transition to Education at Purdue University on March 5, 2024. He is planning to attend Regional Electric Vehicle (REV) Partnership meeting later that day along with the following special guests:

- Karla Langham, Chief of Staff, USDOL Veterans' Employment and Training Services
- DWD Commissioner Richard Paulk
- Josh Richardson, Chief of Staff, DWD
- Katie Rounds, Chief Workforce Officer, DWD

The AVETS will also visit WorkOne for a Vet Job Fair, Lafayette VA Clinic, GE, and then return to Purdue.

Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG)

Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) is an In-School Youth program to help those students with challenges and barriers that may keep them from graduating high school. Indiana received additional TANF funds to expand the JAG program across Indiana. The goal is 125 expansion sites throughout Indiana. Region 4 goal is 10 programs with seven currently. The following are sites for the JAG expansion in Region 4.

- Harrison High School for a program for grade 9-10 and a program for grade 11-12
- Oakland Academy adding 9-10 program.
- Benton Central High School for a program for grade 9 through 12.
- Attica High School for a middle school program.
- Northwestern H.S. for a program for grade 9 through 12.
- Rossville H.S. for a program for grade 9 through 12.
- Clinton Prairie for a program for grade 9 through 12.
- Ivy Tech-Kokomo for a college success program.

There are conversations with five more schools.

Administration

INWBA Legislative Day

INWBA Legislative Day will be held on Thursday, February 29, 2024. No plans were made to attend the event because of scheduling conflicts.

Discuss Meeting Schedule Changes

Executive/Finance Committee meetings and WDB Board meeting schedule changes were discussed. The March WDB Board meeting will be rescheduled for April 17, 2024. It will be followed by a farewell reception for Roger. The next Executive/Finance Committee meeting will be on May 22, 2024, rather than in April. The May WDB Meeting will be held in June 2024. Board and Committee meeting will be back on schedule in August and September. Plans are to hold the WDB Annual Event in September 2024.

Adjournment

The Finance/Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 10:15AM.