

**VERMILION COUNTY WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD –
ACCOUNTABILITY & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE(S)
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022 AT 3PM**

Members Present: Jeff Fauver Melissa Hill John Vogt Jonathan Jett
Eric Jewsbury Lisa Fudge

Guests: Brian Hensgen Lindsay Light

The meeting was called to order at 3:01pm.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by John, seconded by Melissa. No opposed, motion carried.

Motion to approve last meeting's minutes was made by Melissa, seconded by John. No opposed, motion carried.

Audience Comments:

Nothing to report.

OSO Report:

Brian stated he wants to call attention to the OSO report that he will be giving to the full board. It will show partner engagement and referrals. He is hoping for the mandates to continue to relax, which hopefully will result in more referrals. He stated IDES is back in the office, and he is encouraged by some of the increased traffic. They will be working on creating monthly workshop schedules to include partners currently in the office and hopefully getting agencies involved who reside outside of the office. GED/HSE classes have been reintroduced in the center. As a community project, DACC is going to continue the manufacturing guide, rebranding it as the career guide.

Action Items:

Approval of WIB Agenda – JJ requested that an amendment be made under action items adding the MOU's .25 FTE minimum for the upcoming MOU budget. Motion to approve the revised WIB agenda was made by John, seconded by Melissa. No opposed, motion carried.

Discussion Items:

Executive Committee:

- ✓ **Governor's Budget – ETIP Funds & Manufacturing Marketing** – JJ stated he wanted to update the committee on various items within the Governor's budget. He spoke about ETIP funds that will affect incumbent workers. He doesn't know if they will target individual businesses or the Illinois Manufacturing Association for housing the funds. He also stating that he learned, during the same meeting, that the intent is to really market manufacturing, so there will be funds available for marketing. JJ is hoping we can get some of our manufacturers involved to be able to market our area.
- ✓ **Illinois WIOA Funds** – JJ stated he found out we are expected to receive another 10% cut. The funding amounts are based on unemployment claims, so that might be why we see a decrease. JJ is already looking at ways to go after additional funding.

- ✓ **WIOA State Summit** – JJ informed the committee that the state does a summit every year, and it will be virtual again this year. It will be held April 28-29. JJ briefed on what topics will be covered.

Accountability Committee:

- ✓ **VCW Budget & Obligation** – JJ reviewed the budget for VCW, stating no goals have changed. His budget narrative is attached to the minutes for review. He mentioned new computers were purchased for the center, and he plans on upgrading the computer used for assistive technology. Admin funding will be used to pay for the computers, and he is going to check to see if that amount has already been deducted from the presented totals. He stated we should be able to make our obligations of 80%, elaborating on how other areas look in comparison.
- ✓ **FITM Enrollment Funding** – JJ stated, in the contract, they have to have 50% of their budget spent in December and 80% enrollment. They fell approximately \$5000 short of making their 50% goal. In the past we have taken money from them, but JJ stated they're catching up so he thinks they will spend their budget. Enrollment numbers coincide with what Vermilion County Works is seeing – everyone is lower in enrollment than normal. Jeff stated he agreed with JJ, that is it tough to enroll people when you're in lockdown mode.

Youth Services

- ✓ **FITM Contract Extension** – JJ stated this isn't action at this time, but normally we would be either extending the current contract or we could put an RFP together to solicit a possible new or additional youth provider. JJ stated he feels FITM has been performing and he's seen improvements in enrollment just this past couple of months. He went on to say he is seeing people receive one paycheck and then not show back up. He elaborated on different ideas FITM is doing to help increase numbers. John confirmed that it would just be a one-year extension, as he expressed interest in just extending their current contract for another year. Jeff agreed, stating the time to solicit additional providers might be when we see an influx of funding. Brian added that given the fact we don't have a Youth Services Chair, it doesn't make sense to solicit a new or additional provider when input needs to be provided by Youth Services to construct or amend the RFP. Jeff requested it be made an action item on next meeting's agenda to just extend FITM's contract for another year.

Workforce Solutions Committee

- ✓ **Apprenticeship Grants** – Melissa started off by saying we have a great group and the meetings are well-attended. She then deferred to JJ. He stated one apprenticeship grant is going to close in March. \$275,000 on the new grant is for apprentices. JJ is getting clarification on if we can serve current enrollees with the new money. He has a meeting next week with a new employer, assuring the committee that things will move forward.
- ✓ **Regional & Local Plans** – They're out for public comment right now and were approved by Executive Committee the beginning of February. JJ is working with Champaign County on getting things squared away.
- ✓ **SkillsUSA** – JJ stated that with some money that was approved from our admin budget, Tim Dudley is also giving \$15,000 to get things rolling. They will be working in manufacturing and will have a couple of competitions this year.
- ✓ **HSE/GED Classes @ the AJC** – Brian mentioned earlier, but JJ confirmed they were back in the AJC with a good instructor and it's well-attended. FITM is doing tutoring sessions to coincide with those classes.

- ✓ **TransfrVR** – Melissa stated that Janice presented an online virtual training for manufacturers, offering Goodwill’s space for that. She stated they’ve just moved into a new building on Bowman. JJ briefed the committee on his visit to the new building.

Board Development Committee

- ✓ **Status of Recertification** – Lisa stated that we have nothing new to add as we are waiting on response from DCEO on our recertification submission.

Member Comments:

JJ mentioned since the Workforce Solutions Committee meeting, Dr. Nacco asked the college staff if anyone would want to partner with Rep. Marron on PCs for people who meet income guidelines. JJ volunteered the AJC to store the computers and host an event to give the computers out to people. It’s just in the starting phase. Melissa stated Tim Dudley wanted to give JJ and his team a pat on the back and she mentioned JJ and his team was in the centerfold of Vermilion Advantage’s magazine this month. Jeff presented an idea to the board on changing the way Lindsay is paid, making it more of a stipend type situation rather than an hourly rate. Lisa agreed with Jeff, that it makes more sense. It would save the approvals, timecards, etc. Jeff stated it needed to be bounced off the partners to make sure they’re good with it. He also wants to make sure Nancy is fine with it. Discussion ensued.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2022 at 3pm, unless needed sooner.

Motion to adjourn was made by JJ, seconded by Lisa. No opposed, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:44pm.