



The Southwest Ohio Region
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING
SuperJobs Center
Thursday, May 14, 2009
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Minutes

WIB Members: Frank Becker, Steve Browne, Beth Casto, Michael Conner, Alphonso Cornejo, Margaret Fox, Jennifer Graft, Brenda Gumbs, Gail Holloman, Mike Kelly, Crystal Kendrick, Paul Magnus, Walter McLarty, Rene' McPhedran, Doug Moormann, Jennifer Roeder, Richard Rust, Doug Sizemore, Simone Sotelo, Jeffrey Startzman, Tyronne Stuckey, Robin White, John Young

Staff: Sherry Kelley Marshall, Jo'el Jones, Pat Massey, Wes Miller, Anne Mitchell, Amy Nock, Tim Riordan

Others: Evelyn Chaffin, Natalie Galbato, Gretchen Genung, Betsy Harris, Tina Kavanaugh, Kelly Kramer, Sue McKitrick, Elijah Rudolph, Harry Snyder, Sharon Thompson, Wayde Smith, Sam Zonker.

I. Opening – Welcome and Introductions

With a quorum present, Chairman McLarty opened the meeting of the SWORWIB at 8:06 a.m. on May 14, 2009 at 1916 Central Parkway. Everyone present introduced themselves. Marshall thanked Michael Conner and Frisch's for providing breakfast and thanked Cincinnati Cooks for their excellent food and service. McLarty reminded the members and guests to please sign-in for the official attendance record.

McLarty asked that Marshall introduce the new staff members. Marshall welcomed Anne Mitchell as the Construction Industry Advocate who will be responsible for assisting the Spirit of Construction Foundation in outreach to middle school students. Marshall reminded the Board that the Foundation had provided a two-year, \$160,000 grant to the SWORWIB for the purpose of outreach to middle schoolers to encourage consideration of construction as a career field and staying in school with math, science and language skill building. Marshall then introduced Jo'el Thomas-Jones as the new Emerging Workforce Coordinator. Jo'el will be responsible for helping the SWORWIB and Emerging Workforce Development Council in creating a workforce development system that will prepare young people, both in-school and out-of-school, to meet the demands of the changing labor market in the Southwest Ohio region through educational attainment and employment readiness.

II. Approval of Agenda

McLarty reviewed the agenda and reminded members that the consent agenda is used by larger boards to handle the more routine business of the organization in an efficient fashion in order to have time to focus on more essential discussions. The practice is that everyone review the consent agenda and indicate during the "Approval of Agenda" item any consent agenda item they wish to remove from the consent agenda for separate discussion. There being no requests Young moved, Moorman seconded the motion that the agenda be approved as previously distributed. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Consent Agenda

There being no discussion about items on the consent agenda, Gumbs moved, Conner seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously. The following materials provided in the Board packet were, therefore, approved:

- February 12, 2009 Minutes
- Chairman's Report
- Required Partners Leadership Council Report
- Nominating Committee Report
- Emerging Workforce Development Committee Report
- Measurements and Continuous Improvement Report

- Fiscal Agent Report
- SuperJobs Center Report
- Rapid Response Notice of Intent Resolution
- Policies & Resolutions as noted in Chairman's Report
 - Lost Check Policy
 - ARRA Funded Occupational Selection for Training Resolution
 - Stimulus Funding: Priorities for Services and Spending
 - ARRA Funded Needs Related Payment Resolution
 - National Emergency Grant Policies

IV. President's Report

Business Plan Amendment

Marshall presented the *Business Plan Amendment*; the deadline for which is 5/15/2009 to the State Office of Workforce Development. She thanked the Required Partners Leadership Council for advancing the content of the *Business Plan Amendment* for board approval in record time given the limited notice from the State. This modification to the WIB's current *Five-Year Strategic Business Plan 2004-2009* is required as part of the eligibility documentation necessary to receive and implement the ARRA-Stimulus funds. The plan defines how the SWORWIB as Ohio WIA Local Area#13 plans to spend stimulus funds. After Marshall's highlighted review, Conner moved, Stuckey seconded the motion to approve the *Business Plan Amendment* as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Stimulus

Marshall shared the dynamic changes and ambiguities of the workforce world nationally right now by noting that as the Ohio WIBs all forward their plan amendments for formula and stimulus funding to the State, they are simultaneously being informed by ODJFS that there will be up to a 30% decrease in Dislocated Worker funds allotted to Hamilton County as of July 1, 2009, along with a 10% decrease in Adult funds, and a 10% decrease in year-round youth funds. As difficult as the unemployment situation is in Hamilton County, according to the national unemployment figures Hamilton County's unemployment rate is less than the majority of other Ohio counties and Ohio's rates are now less than several other key states, such as California, New York and Florida. These reformulated dollars will be re-distributed to needier counties. Fox moved, Moorman seconded a motion requesting that Marshall stay abreast of these changes and report to the Executive Committee or Board as soon as decisions relating to allocation reductions have been finalized so the board can both consider appropriate adjustments and possible other actions to secure the needed funds for the local area. Motion passed unanimously

Marshall highlighted the stimulus funds that were noted in the Business Plan Amendment, specifically that the SWORWIB #13 has received approximately \$5.2 million in ARRA-Stimulus funding. Of this amount, approximately \$2.4 Million is dedicated to Youth Summer employment, \$1.0 million to Adult services, and \$2.3 million to Dislocated Worker and approximately \$0.5 million to Administration which is going to be retained only for the SWORWIB so we have funds to undertake the reconstituted storefront conversion with handicapped accessible entry. Of these funds 70% of the youth dollars must be spent no later than 9/30/2009 and 50% of the adult stimulus dollars must be spent no later than 9/30/2009. The Summer Youth Employment funding is providing education and work experiences for approximately 700 youth in Cincinnati and Hamilton County, and Marshall complimented HCJFS for working so cooperatively to issue a legitimate bidding process in mid-March so our local area would be able to meet federal procurement requirements. Marshall noted that some funds could be exchanged with the State to expand the spending schedule and reduce the performance measures so as to serve more drop outs or youthful offenders through the stimulus funds since the performance measures for success for these populations are more difficult. Marshall noted that the EWDC had determined a directional shift to serving these populations as part of the Youth System Building strategic plan process of the last 18 months, so both were factored into the year-round youth grants. Unfortunately, the State of Ohio terminated funding for their statewide dropout prevention and recovery youth program and their program working with the Ohio Department of Youth Services/Offenders. There was considerable discussion about the importance of serving both target groups with no clear preference by the full board but agreement that Marshall was well informed about the issues and should consult with HCJFS to determine where the funds were most needed. Stuckey moved, Conner seconded a motion authorizing Marshall to undertake the exchange of funds with the state in order to provide additional funding as she and HCJFS determined.

After other discussion, Moorman moved, Fox seconded a motion that Marshall develop and distribute a briefing or "talking points" paper summarizing the most pertinent information that might be asked of a Board member so

everyone is providing consistent information to the community while also encouraging them to contact Marshall for more details. Motion passed unanimously.

WIB 2010 Budget

Marshall reviewed the Fiscal Year 2010 full budget attached as page 55 of the full board packet. She noted the public and private sources of funds and major expense categories. She highlighted the ways in which the administrative stimulus funds would be spent to provide for public information staffing, performance measurement staffing, summer program videotaping, and expanded documentation of the stimulus funded successes. She also noted that she had just today been able to obtain an official determination from the Region 5-Department of Labor Office and the State of Ohio Jobs and Family Services Workforce Division that stimulus dollars could be used to address ADA needs at the SuperJobs Center. Consequently she asked the board to approve the budget with some authorization to adjust it to accommodate ADA compatible changes to the front door of 1916 in the 09-10 budget. Connor complimented Marshall on her to address the needed building repairs and adjustments and made a motion authorizing Marshall to adjust the budget as needed to meet the ADA compliance. Motion was seconded by Stuckey and passed unanimously.

Parking Lot Update

After fourteen months of laborious negotiations the parking structure repairs will begin June 12, 2009. THP will assist Marshall in the oversight of the construction contractors. Work is scheduled to be completed by mid-August.

Freedom of Information Act

Promotion of the stimulus funds has increased requests for grants from the SWORWIB and resulted in Marshall and Holt explaining the request for proposal process for procurement by the SWORWIB. Others have asked about attending the Board meetings and have been invited to attend and provided the website location of the meeting schedule. Additionally, some have asked for extensive information on the current contracts that the SWORWIB has operating. After board discussion, Rust moved, Young seconded that Marshall review the Freedom of Information Act with SWORWIB attorneys and determine appropriate policy to present to the Executive Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Key Issues "The Times ...They Are A Changing"

In the previously conducted board survey, several board members indicated an interest in board discussion on items that would be beneficial to the SuperJobs Center and to our youth providers for working with jobseekers. Marshall announced that the Executive Committee had decided to feature board discussion on these topics at each of the Board meetings throughout 2009, which would include strategic presentations and discussions on topics would be of assistance to the work of the organization. To kick off the strategic discussion, Board Members Graft and Browne led a lively discussion about the changes members are currently seeing in the workplace. A summary of the discussions key points is attached as part of these minutes. The next meetings will explore other questions for discussion by the board members.

VI. State Initiatives Updates

Governor's Workforce Stimulus Initiatives

Marshall reviewed three specific State stimulus initiatives that she recommends the SWORWIB participate in:

- *Recovery Conservation Corps* is the statewide youth employment program involving youth in work at state and local parks. CareerWorks, the youth employment program undertaken by Arbor E&T, will be working with Cincinnati Parks and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources at the Little Miami Bike Trail.
- *Project Hire* is a program of the Ohio Department of Development aimed at creating a new type of job fair where employers are seeking particular workforce needs and jobseekers are interviewed on site, with additional assistance for Ohio Learning Grants to assist in on the job training effectiveness.
- *Constructing Futures* is an anticipated competitive grant program to develop pre-apprenticeship training programs throughout the state that link effectively with registered apprenticeships and the one-stops to improve job and apprenticeship placement. This particular effort is unclear at this time but expected to be released in an RFP by early June. Given the SWORWIB's work with the Employee Readiness Program of the Banks Project and its work in the construction industry with the middle school outreach and Construction Pathway Task Group, it is likely that the SWORWIB will collaborate with Greater Cincinnati Workforce Network and their construction pathway project to bring these resources to the community.

White moved, Fox seconded a motion supporting SWORWIB participation in these statewide initiatives. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. New Business

Board Members were invited to attend a Dropout Summit on June 25, with a kick off CEO Breakfast at the Summit Restaurant at 8:00 a.m. The SWORWIB is partnering with Cincinnati State, America's Promise, and the Connect2Success Network of youth providers to raise attention to the challenge of a growing number of dropouts and their affects on the quality of the emerging workforce.

Stuckey reported that Cincinnati Public School's have passed a resolution requiring a good faith effort to hire graduates from the Early Construction Training Program at Woodward High School. This will increase the placement opportunities for Woodward students and graduates focused on the construction trades.

Marshall recognized Harry Snyder of the Ohio Skills Bank and Elijah Rudolph of the Greater Cincinnati Workforce Network. Snyder has been assisting with the selection of the career pathway industries for the region. Rudolph will work with a GCWN committee to develop an advanced manufacturing career ladder.

VIII. Public Comment

There was no public comment requested.

IX. Next Meeting

The next Quarterly Meeting of the SWORWIB will be held at the SuperJobs Center on August 13, 2009, 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

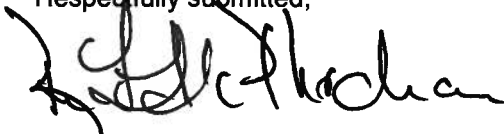
X. Adjournment

There being no further questions or business before the Board, McLarty accepted a motion by Conner, seconded by Cornejo to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The SWORWIB Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

XI. Attachments

The discussion summary notes are attached as part of these minutes.

Respectfully submitted,



Rene McPhedran
Secretary