



NORTHEAST INDIANA WORKS BOARD

OCTOBER 2, 2015

9:00 – 10:30 A.M.

NORTHEAST INDIANA WORKS OFFICE

200 E. MAIN STREET

FORT WAYNE, IN 46802

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Keith Davis, Darlene Stanley, Dennis Banks, Elaine Doherty, Tim Ehlerding, Larry Gerardot, Jane Gresham, Tim Hartigan, Leroy Jackson, Jeff Kellam, Mark Michael, John Niederman, Joe Peters, John Sampson, Corey Schoon, Chris Straw, Sandy Widener and Dennis Wimer

STAFF PRESENT: Kathleen Randolph, Gary Gatman, Edmond O’Neal, Beth Suman, Rick Farrant, Karen Green, Anne Meadors and Andrea Bolinger

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Keith Davis called the meeting to order at 8:58 a.m. A quorum was present. Davis welcomed two new board members: Tim Ehlerding and Dennis Wimer. Davis paid tribute to Jac Price, a longtime board member who succumbed to cancer in early September. A moment of silence was observed.

II. Consent Agenda

The minutes of the June 5, 2015 meeting were provided to the board in the packet of advance materials. Tim Hartigan moved to approve the minutes. Jeff Kellam seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Financial Report

Dennis Banks presented the financial report. There was brief discussion about the expenditure of National Emergency Grant funds. Hartigan moved to approve the financial report. Chris Straw seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Governance – Northeast Indiana Works Bylaws

Kathleen Randolph reported that the executive committee, with assistance from legal counsel Joe Bonahoom, has been making revisions to the board bylaws to ensure they are congruent with state policy and federal legislation. She said there has been consideration of making some bylaws elements policy. The changes will eventually be brought back to the board for approval, most likely after the final WIOA regulations have been published. Randolph also reported that the composition of the workforce board has been certified by the state, meaning there is appropriate representation under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). She also noted that an elected officials agreement has been signed by commissioners of the eleven county region and the Mayor of the City of Fort Wayne.

V. Northeast Indiana Works Updates

Monitoring Report: Davis reported that the annual monitoring of performance and efficiency conducted by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) was complimentary and included no negative findings.

Program Highlights and Performance: Gary Gatman, executive vice president of strategic initiatives, noted in the metrics report that there were 38,144 Indiana Career Connect job openings during the period July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, which demonstrates both an improved economy but also the post-recession challenges of filling positions. He added that 79 percent of WorkOne’s new customers are unemployed; that represents a decline and means the northeast Indiana career

centers are increasingly serving more people who are working. Gatman also detailed two regional workforce development grant opportunities – one offered by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) and the other (Skill UP) by DWD. He discussed Northeast Indiana Works' involvement in helping facilitate community-based efforts throughout northeast Indiana to submit OCRA and Skill UP grant proposals. Wide-ranging discussion followed on a number of fronts, including convening specialty insurers to explore the challenges of employing young people by truck driving firms and manufacturers, and a review of rapid response activities with a particular focus on the fact that the average tenure of dislocated workers affected by three recent layoffs was 15 years.

VI. Board Chair's Remarks

Davis deferred to a number of reports and updates by other board members. Wimer reported on activities at DWD, including a year-long effort to replace the current case management system and the recent signing of two memorandums of understanding with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) that will, in part, keep intact funding for Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) for the next two years. John Sampson reported on the region's submission for a Regional Cities Initiative grant. Northeast Indiana is vying for one of two \$42-million grants designed to improve talent attraction and retention through a focus on quality of place. LeRoy Jackson reported on the continuing need for workers in the construction industry. Randolph reported on an initial meeting she had with Eric Doden, the new CEO of Greater Fort Wayne Inc., to brief him on the work of Northeast Indiana Works and its service providers.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

(The next meeting of the board will be from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. February 5, 2016 at the same location – 200 E. Main St., Suite 910, Fort Wayne)