



## NORTHEAST INDIANA WORKS BOARD

OCT. 5, 2018

9:00-10:30 AM

200 E. MAIN STREET, SUITE 910

FORT WAYNE 46802

### MINUTES

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Darlene Stanley, Doug Bauman, Leslie Crist, Keith Davis, Alan Duff, Darryl Esterline, Jane Gresham, Leroy Jackson, Jeff Kellam, Mark Michael, John Niederman, John Sampson, Chris Straw and Sandy Widener.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Andrea Bolinger, Rick Farrant, Karen Green, Edmond O'Neal, Lori Rice, Kim Tempel and Randy Wooldridge.

**I. Call to Order**

Board Chair Darlene Stanley called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was present.

**II. Consent Agenda: Board Minutes/Financial Report**

The minutes of the June 1, 2018 meeting and financial report were provided in the packet of advance materials. Keith Davis moved to approve the minutes and financial report. Mark Michael seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. Leadership Update**

Davis reported on a meeting he and Doug Bauman had with Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Commissioner Fred Payne and Danny Lopez, chairman of the Governor's Workforce Cabinet. Davis said the meeting was very encouraging and said both Payne and Lopez indicated they wanted workforce development boards to be the leaders in carrying out the mandates of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Payne and Lopez are particularly interested in career pathways and Davis said they indicated an emerging initiative being led by Northeast Indiana Works regarding the food and agriculture sector is precisely the kind of activity they want to see workforce boards engaged in. Davis explained the food and agriculture initiative, including detailing a related meeting at Huntington University in September attended by workforce/economic development, education and business leaders. One of Northeast Indiana Works' roles moving forward will be to develop career pathways for the food and agriculture sector. The topic led to significant board discussion, including words of support from John Sampson and other board members, concerns about transportation as it relates to the industry sector, and data from a food and agriculture report completed by the Purdue Fort Wayne Community Research Institute and commissioned by Northeast Indiana Works. Davis moved that the food and agriculture sector be added to the economic and workforce development focuses of the workforce development board. Darryl Esterline seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Edmond O'Neal reported that Randolph was ill and unable to attend the board meeting, and that Lori Rice, formerly vice president of finance, has been named Northeast Indiana Works chief financial officer, replacing Beth Suman, who has retired.

**IV. Presentation: Career Pathways**

Longtime educator and consultant Dr. Wylie Sirk, who has contracted with Northeast Indiana Works to develop career pathways in food and agriculture, gave a presentation describing career pathways in the context of the state's new graduation requirements. He said he will be putting together a group of business and education partners to develop the food and agriculture pathways. Significant discussion followed, including mention of work-based learning opportunities.

O'Neal said Darrel Zeck, DWD's new executive director of the Office of Work-Based Learning and Apprenticeship, will be in northeast Indiana Nov. 14 to speak to businesses, educators and legislators.

**V. Program Report: Business Services**

Kim Tempel, senior director of business services/human resources, gave a presentation on the activities and outcomes of the 10-member business services team, highlighting unusually robust engagement with employers and hosting hiring events. Discussion after the presentation focused on increasing the labor participation rate, collaboration with the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership to attract talent, and barriers to employment in northeast Indiana, including child care and transportation.

**VI. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

(The next meeting of the board will be from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. January 11, 2019 at 200 E. Main St., Suite 910, Fort Wayne.)