



## NORTHEAST INDIANA WORKS BOARD

JUNE 7, 2019

9:00-10:30 AM

200 E. MAIN STREET, SUITE 910

FORT WAYNE 46802

DRAFT MINUTES

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Darlene Stanley, Keith Davis, Bill Bradley, Patrick Buesching, Doug Bauman, Alan Duff, Darryl Esterline, Beth Green, Tim Hartigan, Leroy Jackson, Jeff Kellam, Mike Landram, Mark Michael, Corey Schoon Rebecca Schroeder and Chris Straw.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Andrea Bolinger, Karen Green, Anne Meadors, Edmond O’Neal, Kathleen Randolph, Lori Rice, and Kim Tempel.

**GUESTS:** Rich Beck, Fred Payne and Jennifer Sery

**I. Call to Order**

Board Chair Darlene Stanley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was present. Stanley welcomed and introduced new board members, Bill Bradley of the LaGrange County Economic Development Corporation and Mike Landram of the Literacy Alliance of Fort Wayne.

**II. Consent Agenda: Board Minutes/PY 2019 Proposed Board Meeting Schedule**

The minutes of the April 5, 2019 meeting and proposed program year meeting schedule were provided in the packet of advance materials. Jeff Kellam moved to approve the minutes and meeting schedule. Leroy Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. Financial Report/ Proposed Program Year 2019-20 Budget**

Lori Rice reviewed the proposed PY19 budget explaining that it included carry-in and new funds. Reductions effected the WIOA allocation and Work Indiana Adult Education funds. It was noted that the Work Indiana funds were transferred to the governors Next Level Jobs initiative funding. Mark Michael moved to approve the financial report and proposed budget. Darryl Esterline seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Hoosier Initiative for Re-entry (HIRE)**

Jennifer Sery, HIRE Assistant Regional Director, North gave a presentation. The program which began in February of 2012 through the Department of Workforce Development transitioned in 2018 to the Department of Corrections (DOC). By working through the DOC, the HIRE program is able to connect with offenders pre-release. The DOC model has three pillars: pre-release, post-release and employer engagement. Pre-release includes attending the HIRE Academy, a two day intensive training session focused on making sure participants are prepared with the necessary tools for job searching, successful work habits, job retention and workplace conflict resolution, as well as the necessary financial literacy tools to make sound choices. Once on active parole, they are considered post-release, if not already employed they are seen by HIRE staff to ensure they remember how to enact the skills learned to gain employment. They also work as a facilitator to try and ward off any potential issues between the employee and employer. The employer engagement pillar has been particularly successful. Their first virtual job fair was well received by both employers and potential employees and was recognized nationally. Participants are mentored for a year post-release. Not everyone is eligible for the HIRE program. Only DOC offenders which are vetted using the “traffic light system” may participate. Employers who want to get

connected with potential HIRE program employees, should contact Jennifer. Conversations are taking place to create possible bring the HIRE program to the Community Corrections system.

Mark Michael informed the board of an opioid crisis event taking place on Wednesday June 12 at PFW. Mark will forward the information to Anne Meadors who will distribute to the attendees.

**V. Indiana's Vision for Workforce Development**

Fred Payne, DWD commissioner provided an update on workforce development. He provided feedback from Governor Holcomb's visit with the board who was appreciative of the collaborative model in Region 3 and references it often to others. He was impressed with the strong engagement in the region and the uniqueness and wants to encourage stakeholders not to compare themselves with Indianapolis. After meeting with all of the Workforce Development Board, DWD will focus on three components: engagement, appropriate training and review and reflection. At the agency level connecting and engaging employers and employees with transparency will be the focus. They are working to build relationships to facilitate direct connection. Payne met with board chairs from the Workforce Development Board as well as regional executives to find out from each what work they feel needs to be done. From those meeting they will concentrate on communication, resources and governance. DWD has begun hosting open communication quarterly meetings. They recently hosted their first meeting for regional CFO and will continue the monthly regional executive director meetings. DWD will provide a grant writing resource for regions this summer, more information to come. Incentive grants will be available to help fill in the gaps and bridge funding loss. The grants will be broad to provide flexibility for use to best fit the needs of the awarded region. Payne learned that CDL and CNA training is a strong need in some regions and these jobs do not meet the Next Level Jobs grant criteria, thus the incentive grants may be used to provide training in those areas. DWD will host a retreat in Indianapolis on October 3 for all workforce board members and regional leadership. A workforce board training event separate from the retreat will also be offered. The governor's workforce cabinet has been reorganized and reduced in member numbers. Chair Danny Lopez has transitioned to Strada Education Network. P.J. McGrew is the new Executive Director of the cabinet and Teresa Lubbers is the new cabinet chair. The cabinet will focus on policy making and aligning state workforce resources across state agencies. Payne is now meeting with 31 mayors across the state to get their input on workforce development in their city. Only Fort Wayne's mayor has been asked for a meeting from our region. Kathleen extended an invitation to Payne to meet with the mayors and commissioners caucus, which Payne accepted.

**VI. Special Presentation**

Kellam presented Kathleen Randolph with a copy of his newly published children's book.

**VII. Board Chair Remarks**

Stanley shared a personal story that her nephew had received training through the Huntington County Community Learning Center. Thanks to the training, he began a full-time job the day after graduation at Shuttleworth in Huntington with potential for growth and advancement.

**VIII. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

(The next meeting of the board will be from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. October 4, 2019 at 200 E. Main St., Suite 910, Fort Wayne.)