



## NORTHEAST INDIANA WORKS BOARD

OCTOBER 6, 2023

9:00-10:30 AM

IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING

### DRAFT MINUTES

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dale Buuck, Angie Dane, Lance Halsey, Leroy Jackson, Kim Barnett-Johnson, Richelle Orn, Adam Oszakiewski, James Phillips, Corey Schoon, Rebecca Schroeder, Shelly Stearns, Michael Venturini, Jim Walmsley and Tonya Weaver.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Rick Farrant, Erica Lillie, Cindy Neal, Edmond O’Neal, Lori Rice and Kim Tempel

**OTHER:** Leslie Crist

**I. Call to Order**

Board Secretary/Treasurer Leroy Jackson, filling in for Board Chair Jordi Disler, 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 2, 2023 meeting and financials were provided in the packet of advance materials. Dale Buuck moved to approve the minutes and financial report. Michael Venturini seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. PY 2023-24 Budget Approval**

Chief Financial Officer Lori Rice presented the PY 2023-24 working budget of \$10,514,453. Venturini moved to approve the budget, Adam Oszakiewski seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Commissioner’s Presentation**

Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Commissioner Richard Paulk, appearing virtually, reported on the “State of Indiana’s Workforce System.” He shared labor force and unemployment data, noting that Indiana is essentially at full employment; mentioned skills gaps and the need for upskilling or reskilling; noted a full workforce recovery from the pandemic; encouraged exploration of new funding sources to expand work-based learning opportunities; expressed the hope that more schools expand or start a Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) program, and spurred employers to consider underutilized populations for employment. He said he is interested in having collaborative relationships with workforce regions, calling the workforce boards the regional experts and “the infrastructure of workforce development.” He added that the workforce system in general needs to do a better job of telling its story. Paulk’s presentation was followed by discussion, led by President and CEO Edmond O’Neal, about the existing collaborative arrangement between Northeast Indiana Works and DWD, as well as alignment between workforce and economic development. Paulk also addressed the impact of an aging workforce.

**V. President/CEO Remarks**

O’Neal said he will send calendar appointments for future board meetings; talked about his involvement with several strategic initiatives designed to better prepare young people for careers; encouraged board members to complete the online board orientation; encouraged members to attend an Indiana Workforce Board Alliance Symposium October 25 in Muncie, and provided a brief update on the recently selected service provider for the WorkOne Northeast career centers.

**VI. Board Chair's Remarks**

Jackson thanked board members for attending and staff for the work they are doing.

**VII. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

(The next meeting of the board will be from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. January 12, 2024. There will be a virtual option, but all are encouraged to attend in person.)