NORTHEAST INDIANA WORKS BOARD

OCTOBER 4, 2024
9:00-10:30 AM

IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING
FINAL MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Kim Barnett-Johnson, Phil Brown, Dale Buuck, Holly Christianson, Angie Dane, Jordi Disler, Leroy Jackson, Corey Schoon, Rebecca Schroeder, Shelly Stearns, Chris Straw, Michael Venturini, and Jim Walmsley.

STAFF PRESENT: Rick Farrant, Erica Lillie, Edmond O'Neal, Lori Rice, Kim Tempel, Cindy Neal and Megan Voirol

I. **Call to Order**
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 7, 2024 board meeting and financial report were provided in the packet of advance materials. Chris Straw moved to approve the minutes and financial report. Leroy Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. **PY 2024-25 Budget Approval**
Northeast Indiana Works Chief Financial Officer Lori Rice presented the Program Year 24-25 Budget of $7,429,558. Rice said Region 3 is expected to receive another $2.6 million in state and federal funding from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD). Leroy Jackson moved to approve the budget, Shelly Stearns second the motion, and it passed unanimously.

IV. **Regional Operations Presentation**
Northeast Indiana Works Director of WorkOne Services Cindy Neal reported that staffing concerns and foot traffic counts have led to reducing the operating schedules of affiliate centers in Huntington, Noble, Steuben, and Whitley counties. Each center will be open one day a week. The schedules of all other centers will remain the same. Neal said she will be monitoring the effectiveness of the new arrangements. O'Neal said the staffing concerns are a result, in part, of DWD not filling some positions.

V. **Northeast Indiana Healthcare Forum Review**
Northeast Indiana Works Director of Communications Rick Farrant provided updates on a September healthcare forum conducted by Northeast Indiana Works at Electric Works and the associated healthcare career awareness initiative, which has generated 9.5 million social media impressions. Jordi Disler and Angie Dane, both of whom attended the forum, described it as a very successful endeavor that drew a diverse and engaged audience. Michael Venturini suggested that Purdue Fort Wayne's science disciplines be included in the awareness initiative.

VI. **President/CEO Remarks**
Edmond O'Neal talked about the rising unemployment rate and the possible reasons behind it, which led to significant input from board members. He also reported that Northeast Indiana Works has negotiated with the state expected Levels of Performance for the next two fiscal years; talked about a general decline in WIOA allocations over the last 10 years; mentioned that the region's local plan for the next four years has been submitted to the state and posted on the Northeast Indiana Works website; and noted an employer seminar hosted by Northeast Indiana Works, and an upcoming work-based

learning forum hosted by the Region 8 Education Service Center and a workforce summit arranged by the Indiana Chamber and the Indiana Workforce Board Alliance.

VII. Board Chair's Remarks

Disler thanked the board and staff for doing great work.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

(The next meeting of the board will be from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. January 10, 2025. There will be a virtual option, but all are encouraged to attend in person.)