

Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board Meeting
Family Opportunity Center
120 Southtowne Shopping Center, Du Quoin, Illinois
Thursday, June 18, 2009

Minutes

- I. Call to Order** – Chair Mary M. Roe called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM with a quorum having been established. Members present were: Chair Mary Roe, Vice Chair William Armstrong, Vice Chair John Alongi, Vice Chair Jim McPhail, Vice Chair Janice McConnaughy, Parliamentarian Milton Maxwell, Treasurer Kathy Lively, Mary Ellen Bechtel, Wayne Bigham, Randall Crompton, Rex Cusumano, Debbie Greene, John Hammack, Victor Harris, Terance Henry, June Hickey, Robert Mees, John Rednour, and Jack Struck. Present via telephone conference call were: Debra Jackanicz, and Rodney Cabaness. Others present included: Leo Childers, Paula Myers, Michelle Cerutti, Rosie Robinson and Bob Hopkins.
- II. Chair’s Report** – Chair Mary M. Roe welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. She commended Kathy Lively, Man-Tra-Con CEO and her staff for doing several things very well, i.e. delivery of services, quick rapid response time in time of need, the care and concern the whole staff shows the customers we serve, the involvement in the community, and the integration of workforce development with job preparedness. In one of the sessions she attended at the National Association of Workforce Development Professional’s (NAWDP) Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the presenter stated GREAT Workforce Investment Boards go beyond managing WIA programs. They reduce community workforce development issues. They engage community partners. They approach from a business perspective (That’s why we need our business members so, so much). They take care of the Workforce Board infrastructure. While we do these things well, this might be an ideal time for the SIWIB membership to look deeper into these activities through some strategic planning. All of us have been involved at some time or another in this process. Chair Roe admitted her first reaction was a moan and a groan. Teamwork is not coming together but is working together. Continuous improvement has always been our standard. Chair Roe stated for the whole Board to be involved in every stage of strategic planning it will take many more hours of each member’s very valuable volunteer time that they already give to the SIWIB. Chair Roe suggested that a small group of Board members, who volunteer, start the initial phase of the strategic planning. They will keep the Board involved and informed possibly through self assessment that can be emailed to members and returned via email. At one point the entire Board could be involved possibly by spending ten, but no more than fifteen, minutes of training at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. Chair Roe invited member input and comments. The general feeling was it was an excellent

idea. Chair Roe then asked members, who were interested in serving on the committee, to contact herself, Secretary Hopkins or Treasurer Lively.

III. Consent Agenda – Mr. John Rednour made a motion to accept and approve the consent agenda as it was submitted. Mr. Wayne Bigham seconded the motion. There was a voice vote and the motion passed without objection. The minutes of the March 19, 2009 meeting of the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board, the Treasurer’s Report and the SIWIB Meeting Schedule were all approved. Treasurer Lively informed the Board that a reporting of Recovery Act (ARRA) funding will be placed on the SIWIB website. She suggested that she could be available prior to a SIWIB meeting to answer questions and explain funding and the budget, should any members have questions.

IV. Reports

Administrative Report – Ms. Kathy Lively stated she would keep the members informed of the Summer Works program. She informed the members there was a need for more worksites for the Summer Works program. She stated we were in the process of placing all 274 youth positions we have available. We also need more worksites. She encouraged members to contact her office if they knew of any possible worksites. She explained the youth could work between 20 to 32 hours per week. They can work six to eight weeks and the hours can be very flexible dependent upon the worksite’s needs. There were 749 youth applications accepted before the website was shut down. Ms. Roxanne Brewer-Coffey, Ms. Michelle Cerutti, Ms. Kathy Dollins, and the entire youth department team had done an excellent job and worked many, many extra hours to make the Summer Works program happen.

Mr. Henry inquired as to how the program was advertized. Ms. Lively stated the program was advertized in area newspapers, through the Board, Chambers of Commerce, Mayors, CLEOs, letters to the high schools, and on the web site. Ms. Lively asked that members contact her if they had other ways in which the program could be advertized. She stated she did not reach out to the Boys and Girls Clubs as much as she would have liked as she did not have a complete list of the organizations. Ms. Lively stated she was interested in any new ways to reach the area youth.

Ms. Lively thanked Mr. Henry for his involvement in the Lead SI conference and Chair Roe for her participation and leadership as well.

Treasurer Lively reported the LWIB Manual, which was two years in the making, was finally posted on the web at: www.illinoisworknet.com. Ms. Lively and Ms. Cerutti worked with Dr. John Washburn in the creation of this web based manual.

Ms. Lively thanked Dr. Robert Mees for his efforts in assisting with the southern Illinois On-Line Nursing Initiative. Now sixty additional ADN/RN students will be trained

beginning January 2010 with this blended program. This is the only pilot program of its type in the entire state and it is also the only national pilot program.

CEO Lively asked Ms. Mary Ellen Bechtel, executive director of the Jefferson County Development Corporation to inform the Board about her organization's efforts to improve work ethic. Ms. Bechtel reported Mr. Cusumano and Ms. Lively Co-Chair the committee and are joined by Leo Childers, area educators and human resource directors to develop a plan to address work ethic. In area surveys conducted over the past five years work ethic was one of the top re-occurring issues. The committee is busy trying to develop a plan in conjunction with industry to improve attitudes and work ethic, grow honesty; reliability and showing up for work in our community. She stated the plan would be for all of southern Illinois not just Jefferson County. She anticipates the plan being developed within the next three months.

Plan Modifications – Ms. Cerutti referred the members to the *Plan Modification Summary* in their meeting materials. She explained each of the items being changed as part of the Local Workforce Investment Plan modification; how they were being changed and the rationale for each of the changes. The plan modification included: Incorporation of the PY 09 Allocations, Removal of Business Service Team References, Needs Related Payment Policy Changes, Local & Out-of-Area Job Search Changes, ITA Policy Changes, and Incumbent Worker Training Policy Changes. Following her report Dr. Mees made a motion to approve all the Local Workforce Investment Plan modifications as they were presented, noting any public comments received. Vice Chair Armstrong seconded the motion. There was a voice vote and the motion passed without objection.

Youth Contract Renewals – Ms. June Hickey, Youth Council Vice Chair, reported the Youth Council approved and recommends to the Board the approval of the extension of the current youth contracts for both education and employment. Ms. Hickey referred the SIWIB members to the Youth Provider Contract Report. The total amount of all five contracts is \$307,937.30 to serve 136 youth (83 out-of-school and 53 in-school). Ms. Hickey stated since she represented one of the contractors she would abstain from voting on the contracts since there would be a conflict of interest, but if she were to vote, she would vote to approve the contracts. Mr. Rednour made a motion to approve all of the current youth contracts as they were presented and recommended by the Youth Council. Mr. Bigham seconded the motion. There was a voice vote and the motion passed without objection and with Ms. Hickey abstaining from the vote.

V. Old Business – There was no old business.

VI. New Business

Summer Works Program Update – Ms. Cerutti reported Ms. Lively had already covered the Summer Works program in her *Administrative Report* but she would be happy to answer any questions anyone had on the program. (There were no questions for Ms. Cerutti.)

Resolution PY 2008 – 01 – Chair Mary M. Roe referred the members to Resolution PY 2008 – 01 for the Tax Counseling Project. Chair Roe stated Dan and Shelia Scott had put in many, many hours and all the volunteers had put in over a thousand hours of service. The Tax Counseling Project is so very important because there were over \$2.1 million in returns this year and that is money that has stayed in our region. Chair Roe stated this was a great service! Chair Roe explained she would like to present the resolution to Dan and Sheila Scott to thank them for their hard work. Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the resolution as it was presented with a second from Mr. Alongi. There was a voice vote and the motion passed without objection.

Special Presentation – Chair Mary M. Roe stated the presentation would be rescheduled for another meeting when the individual to receive the award was able to be present.

VII. Matters from the Floor – Mr. Bigham informed the Board of a newspaper article about a dislocated worker from the Technicolor Universal Media Services (TUMS) plant closure, who completed his degree at John A. Logan College with a perfect 4.0 grade point average despite having to overcome some personal hardships. Dr. Mees commended the Maytag and TUMS dislocated workers for their accomplishments as students at John A. Logan College. Chair Roe commended and thanked Ms. Lively on behalf of the SIWIB for all of the extra things she and her staff had done for these students. Dr. Mees stated the students were made much more comfortable during their educational process because of Man-Tra-Con's efforts.

VIII. Recognition of Guests – Chair Roe recognized Leo Childers from the Business and Economic Development Committee and Paula Myers from Rend Lake College and thanked them for their attendance and contributions to the local workforce development system.

IX. Adjournment – With no other business for the Board, Dr. Struck made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second from Mr. Bigham. There was a voice vote and the motion passed without objection. Chair Mary M. Roe adjourned the meeting at 6:15 PM.