



The Southwest Ohio Region
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

SWORWIB QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING
Cincinnati State Conference Center
August 11, 2022
8:00 a.m. – 10 a.m.
Minutes

SWORWIB Members Present: Uche Agomuo, Peg Albert, Jackie Alf, Hope Arthur, Michael Beck, Heath Boucher, Paula Brehm-Heeger, Leo Chan, Natasha Chesnut, Andrew Crum, Jilson Daniels, Mark Dierig, Margaret Fox, Shanel Gentry, DeJuan Gossett, Jesse Grissom, Rodney Hardin, Myron Hughes, Laurence Jones (via Webex), René McPhedran, Nick Milazzo, Matthew Owens, Shwetha Pai, Asha Parker, Denisha Porter, Eric Rademacher, Jennifer Roeder, Trisha Rogers-Lowey, Jesse Simmons, Diana Small, Harry Snyder, Carol Sorenson-Williams, John Thomas, Timothy Thornton, Jordan Vogel, Amy Waldbillig, Dani Watkins, Rhonda Whitaker-Hurt

SWORWIB Members Absent: Markiea Carter, Chad Day, Renee Dean, Keizayla Fambro, Darnesha Figgs, Chris Fridel, Regina Gray, Brian Griffin, Matthew Jones, Shawntay Mallory, Deval Motka, Rhema Nwaneri, Michael Prus, Commissioner Alicia Reece, Kelly Schoening Holden, Roberta Thomas, Bryan Wright

SWORWIB Team: Jason Ashbrook, Pat Bready, Pamela Massey, Karen Saterfield

Resources: Tim Dingler, Abria Drummonds, Teri-Jones-Morris, Trina Jones, Melissa Graves, Lynne Riehle

Deskey Branding: Debbie Happe, Becky Hyde, Amanda Mutusak

Guests: Mercedes Bello, Robert Boone, Derek Chancellor, Julie McGregor, H.A. Musser, Monika Royal-Fischer, Amy Thompson, Barbara Washer, Leta White

I. Opening - Welcome and Introduction

Chair-Elect Carol Sorenson-Williams called the meeting to order at 8:17am. Executive Director Ashbrook confirmed that quorum had been met and therefore the meeting could proceed. Chair-Elect Carol Sorenson Williams introduced herself and welcomed board members, guests, and distinguished parties, to the quarterly meeting of the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board!

II. Welcome: Cincinnati State President – Dr. Monica J. Posey

Dr. Posey welcomed our board to Cincinnati State today. Cincinnati State aligns in many ways to our mission in providing credentials for in-demand jobs as well as working with many entities of our board member representatives.

III. Approval of Agenda

Chair-Elect Sorenson-Williams reminded members that the SWORWIB has two Agendas at each meeting. The first is the meeting agenda, detailing the order of business. The second is the Consent Agenda of all items that have been previously vetted by a committee, or introduced by the various work efforts that include reports and/or updates. Chair-Elect Sorenson-Williams asked if there were any questions about the agenda for the meeting? Hearing none, asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda as previously distributed. René McPhedran made the motion, seconded by Shanel Gentry. Chair-Elect Sorenson-Williams asked for those in favor to indicate by saying "Aye" and asked if there were any abstentions or nay's, hearing none, the agenda was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chair-Elect Sorenson-Williams stated that with a large public private board, such as SWORWIB, we complete many of the detailed business for the organization through committees and then report back to this larger body. The consent agenda items are previously vetted by board committees and/or contain informational content. If anyone has an item in the consent agenda that they have questions about or want to discuss, please indicate that item and we can address those questions. In the absence of any questions, asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. A motion was made to approve the consent agenda by Andrew Crum, seconded by Harry Snyder. Chair-Elect Sorenson-Williams asked for those in favor to indicate by saying "Aye" and asked if there were any abstentions or nay's, hearing none, the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

- Board Meeting Minutes- May 12, 2022 (pg. 2-8)
 - Executive Committee Reports (pg. 9-14)
 - Audits and Monitoring Updates
 - DOL Monitoring Summary-Responses
 - 2023 Board and Committee Calendar
 - One Stop Operator (pg. 15-20)
 - OMJ Annual Report
 - Youth CCMEP TANF & WIOA Annual Reports
 - Committee and Executive Director Reports (pg. 21-29)
 - OMJ Recertification Committee
 - Eligible Training Provider (ETP) Committee
 - Nominating Committee
 - 4PWD Committee
 - OMJ RFP Evaluation & Selection Committee
- Executive Director's Report

V. Special Remarks: Derek Chancellor, Regional Liaison, Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted

Derek Chancellor serves as the Lt. Governor's liaison for 17 counties in Ohio. Lt. Governor Jon Husted is passionate about workforce development and his background is in workforce. Governor DeWine gave Lt. Governor Husted three (3) oversight responsibilities; 1) Common Sense Initiative, 2) Innovative Ohio, 3) Office for Workforce Transformation. Ohio's unemployment in Ohio is 3.9% for June and there were 372,000 new jobs. Through these

responsibilities and initiatives, the Lt. Governor's office hopes to support the regional workforce system and meet employer needs

VI. Featured Presentations

OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) Annual Report - Lynne Riehle, OMJ Director, presented the following:

- Customer Demographics - 72% of customers are African Americans, 53% of customers are women, 62% of customers have HS Diploma's or GED, and 49% of the customers are under age 35. Customers are from 56 zip codes and the top 5 are 45231: Mt Healthy/Winton Woods, 45238: Covedale/Delhi, 45211: Westwood/Cheviot, 45237: Bond Hill/Roselawn, 45240: Forest Park/Winton Woods.
- The Resource Room is welcoming and has computers, faxes, copier for the customers use and hosted 1,610 visitors over the last year. Business Services worked with over 330 employers. The focus for the last year was best practices. Recruiting candidates, on-the-job training. Also, have worked on Project Retain which is a state initiative to return injured workers to the workforce.
- Career Fairs – the 2 largest held, one in October – Jobs That Rock and in June 2022 the Hamilton County Career Fair. Training Services – 286 training enrollments using Individual Training Account and On-the-Job Training.
- Performance – due to new state software they are still working on receiving correct 4th quarter/year end results.
- Operations & Budget – 73.3% of total costs are direct services to customers, 13.5 of the 28 OMJ staff are funded by non-WIOA dollars, diverting \$53,000 in occupancy cost to direct services. Allocations- Area 13 received a 7.6% increase in 2022 and a 1% increase in 2023.
- HCJFS Support – Emergency Rent & Utility Assistance. Since the start of the program over 11,000 households served and over \$34M of assistance approved.
- Prevention, Retention, Contingency (PRC) – A workforce support to help families in Hamilton County to overcome immediate employment-related barriers. Supplements or replaces WIOA supportive services, retaining more WIOA funds for training. Over the last year there were almost 5,000 applications and over \$2.2M in assistance approved.
- Coming Up – Eligible Training Providers, Increased Center Foot Traffic, Increased Hiring Events, PRC, and Emergency Rent & Utility Program.

Youth Annual Report - Tim Dingler, HCJFS Workforce Section Chief, presented the following:

- CCMEP Providers - CCMEP TANF Collaborative – Talbert House, Community Action Agency, Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio, Easterseals Serving Greater Cincinnati. CCMEP WIOA Youth Providers – Santa Maria, Cincinnati Youth Collaborative, & Equus Workforce Solutions.
- Total Participants served - 2,550, CCMEP TANF Collaborative: 1,889, CCMEP WIOA Youth: 661.
- Program Funding - TANF Funding 74%, WIOA Funded 8%, TANF & WIOA Co-funded 18%. 73% serve Out-of-School youth; Santa Maria and Equus. 27% serve CYC In-School Youth; CYC
- WIOA participants are 72% female and 28% males. 65% are ages 19-24, 31% are ages 16-18, 4% are ages 25+.

- 3rd program called the Youth Employment Program. Local Hamilton county dollars that came from the Children's Services levy to help youth find and retain employment as well as career exploration. Currently serving an additional 800 youth.
- Performance Outcomes – These numbers are through 3rd quarter. Measurable Skill Gains will get better because the In-school youth numbers will increase in the 4th quarter. Area #13 is outperforming the Success Level and Statewide.

Questions:

- Percentage of Immigrants and/or refugees served?
- How was the overall enrollment goal for CCMEP WIOA Youth PY2021, which was 650, set?
- How many more youth could we be serving if we have more funds?
- Is the funding flexible by each youth? Is there a timeframe for each youth of 6 months or 1 year?
- At enrollment 72% of our youth were either English language learners, basic skills deficient or low literacy and cultural barriers. Please give a breakdown of the number in each area.
- What are the top challenges for Youth?

SWORWIB Branding Update – Deskey Branding, presented the following:

After a brief description in all the ways they have researched our brand and what the board wants. Deskey introduces the new ... Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio. Next Steps – Build brand tools; iconography, graphics, and templates, develop new website, solidify brand communications, launch. Chair-Elect Sorenson-Williams asked for a motion to accept the new name. Myron Hughes made the motion, seconded by Brian Griffin. Chair-Elect Sorenson-Williams asked for those in favor to indicate by saying "Aye" and asked if there were any abstentions or nay's, hearing none, the motion to accept the new name was unanimously approved.

VII. Committee Updates

Due to the interest of time, the RFP Evaluation & Procurement Committee, led by Myron Hughes, gave a brief description. Directed the board to the report on pages 25-27 of the packet.

Myron Hughes motioned to Authorize the RFP Evaluation & Selection Committee to complete the procurement steps (listed above), and to select the proposal(s) to enter into contract negotiations for the OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) Operator and WIOA Career Services Provider, with an effective start date of January 1, 2023. This decision will subsequently be presented to the Executive Committee for final approval on September 8, 2022. Motion was seconded by Amy Waldbillig. Chair-Elect Sorenson-Williams asked for those in favor to indicate by saying "Aye" and asked if there were any abstentions or nay's, hearing none, the motion to complete procurement steps was unanimously approved.

VIII. Executive Director's Report, Jason Ashbrook presented the following:

Introducing Pamela Massey

Jason Ashbrook introduced and welcomed to the SWORWIB Team, Pamela Massey and she will be serving as Program Manager. Pam will provide contract oversight, program development, policy administration, continuous quality improvement, and support to the Board and Committees.

Monitoring and Audits

- The OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) Operator/WIOA Career Services Provider (HCJFS) and SWORWIB underwent two large-scale monitoring's concurrently by the Department of Labor (DOL) and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS).
- The initial DOL Monitoring Report (covering the July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021, program year) indicated eight (8) observations and findings, most of which related to the OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) documentation of participant services. No questioned costs or fiscal findings were identified. SWORWIB assembled a comprehensive response/action plan for the local OMJ and shared the response with ODJFS to include in the local-state combined response to DOL.

The Talent Collaborative of Greater Cincinnati

- SWORWIB joined The Health Collaborative, Brighton Center, the NKY Workforce Investment Board, and the Workforce Innovation Center (at the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber) in submitting a regional application to [The National Fund for Workforce Solutions](#) for membership into their network. That application was approved by The National Fund on June 1st!
- The National Fund and its funders invest in a dynamic national network of 30 communities taking a demand-driven, evidence-based approach to workforce development. Funders of NFWS are private, non-government sourced, which will bring more flexible funds to the region to help address our critical workforce needs.
- The SWORWIB Executive Director will serve as the 2022 Chairperson of The Collaborative and our organization will also serve as the pass-through fiscal agent for this regional network.
- The Talent Collaborative will support Greater Cincinnati's regional workforce ecosystem by convening partners, promoting synergy and collaboration among workforce organizations, and accessing additional resources to help scale high-impact workforce initiatives, rather than duplicating or replacing services. A kick-off event for The Talent Collaborative is scheduled for August 25, 2022. Additional details to follow during our Board meeting.

Library Partnership Opportunity, presented by Paula Brehm-Heeger:

The library is going through many new changes with construction at the main library. The library will be relaunching their locations as well as services. They want to make sure they are working collaborative and have a survey that would like our board to participate. The link will be sent to Jason Ashbrook to forward the link to board members.

IX. Board Member and Public Announcement/Comments

Amy Waldbillig thanked everyone for coming today, and if anyone wanted a tour she was available.

X. Next Board Meetings


Chair-Elect Sorenson-Williams reviewed the upcoming Board meeting which will be held in person.

- **November 10, 2022 – Quarterly Board Meeting 8 am – 10 am at IBEW-NECA Electrical Training Center**

XI. Adjournment

Chair-Elect Sorenson-Williams asked for a motion to adjourn. Uche Agomuo moved; Mark Dierig seconded the motion. Chair-Elect Sorenson-Williams asked for those in favor to indicate by saying “Aye” and asked if there were any abstentions or nay’s, hearing none, the motion to adjourn was unanimously approved. Chair-Elect Sorenson-Williams thanked everyone for their attendance, noting they were getting back some time in their day as we close early. The meeting ended at 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully,



René McPhedran
Secretary