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**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF SOUTHEAST MISSOURI
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 1st, 2024, 10:00am-11:00am In-Person with Virtual Option
My Daddy's Cheesecake, 265 South Broadview Street, Cape Girardeau, MO 63703**

Time & Location: The meeting was called to order at 10:12am by Valada Harp. Meeting was held in person with virtual Zoom option.

Members Present: Stan Beel, Lisa Cook, Todd Cruts, Kristen Daniel, Sherry Hamby-Vance, Scott Sattler, Valada Harp, Angela Wilson, Vance Read, JJ Lane, Latricia Fennell, Sandra Cabot, Brock Crowley, Valerie Moore.

County Commissioners Present: Mike Sauer, CLEO and Harold Gallahar

Staff Present: Gretchen Morse, Allysia Long, Sarah Wilson, Danise Clay

Guests Present: Samantha Terry, EDSI

These are draft minutes until January 2025 Board meeting.

**The Workforce Development Board reserves the right to go into closed (Session 610-021, 610-023, RSMo Discussion of Personnel or Contracts) with a majority (51%) vote of members present.

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CONSENT AGENDA – VALADA HARP

Motion to approve July 19th, 2024 meeting minutes by Mr. Scott Sattler, with a second from Mr. Brock Crowley, all in favor, no nays, motion carried.

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE – SCOTT SATTLER / SARAH WILSON

Committee met on October 15th, 2024. Mr. Sattler thanked Ms. Sarah for all her hard work.

This program year Ms. Sarah will monitor EDSI financials every quarter to ensure fiscal compliance with a year-end report to committee and full board. Sarah completed the 1st quarter monitoring of EDSI. The monitoring report on EDSI showed no areas of concern and no findings.

Financial management, bank reconciliations, expenditures as well as obligations within normal limits. Some expenditures are low but for this time of the program year this is normal. OJT obligations low at time of report but those have now been obligated and scheduled to be spent by EDSI. Board staff will continue to watch budgets closely and watch EDSI's spending.

The board was given an extra \$60,000.00 to support local YouthBuild program with work experience funding.

Mr. Sattler congratulated board staff and subcontractor staff for meeting the PY23 performance goals. The region will receive \$25,000.00 performance incentive in January 2025.

Motion to accept financial report made by Ms. Lisa Cook, seconded by Mr. Todd Cruts, all in favor, no nays, motion carried.

WORKFORCE SYSTEM NETWORK COMMITTEE – STACY SNIDER

With the absence of Committee Chair, Ms. Stacy Snider, Ms. Gretchen Morse provided committee report. Committee met on October 8th, 2024.

The One-stop Operator report was shared and focus was on various aspects of the report. Job Center foot traffic during the 1st quarter was 2,078 total individuals with the Park Hills Job Center having the highest percentage of visitors. Job referrals in the region was at a total of 2,954 indicating high number of employers with job openings. Job Seeker and Employer customer service results provided an impression of confidence and ease of services in the centers. The positive survey feedback is indicative of a well-functioning Job Center. Wagner Peyser enrollments for the quarter were 1,788.

PY23 performance was shared and discussed with a focus on the Southeast Region. The Southeast Region was one of three regions across the state that met the 90% achievement rate in all fifteen measures. The Southeast Region will receive a \$25,000.00 incentive for meeting the PY23 performance. The funds will become available in January 2025.

The PY24 & PY25 performance negotiation were completed between the board staff and the state. Final performance goals varied in a percent of change with some going up and some going down. Staff to stay on top of predictive rosters to ensure accurate data.

Subcontractor EDSI is on target to meet their contractual new enrollments for PY24.

The WIOA Impact Report created by The Future Work Systems was shared and discussed. The report shows that for PY23 4,525 individuals were served in the Southeast Region with 72.1% of those being employed in the 2nd quarter after their exit quarter resulting in an economic impact of \$202,346,740.00 to the region. This is a great return on the investment from the WIOA funding the region received.

The current local Board Supportive Service policy for the region was shared and discussed identifying

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necessary revisions to align the policy with local and state mandates. The revisions are minor. Committee voted and approved the revisions to be taken to the full board for vote. Motion to accept the revised policy made by Scott Sattler, seconded by Valerie Moore, all in favor, no nays, motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REGIONAL REPORT – GRETCHEN MORSE

- The first quarter of PY24 has gone very well! Busy, but well! Feeling very grateful as we head into the Holiday season.
- Ms. Linda Fitzgerald, OSO spear headed a regional partnership meeting that was held August 29th, 2024 at the Cape Girardeau Job Center. The meeting brought together partner agency leaders from within the region to discuss the infrastructure funding agreement/cost share and the memorandum of understanding for PY24 & PY25. This was an opportunity to understand the obligations and benefits of the One-Stop System here in the region. The IFA and MOU are required under Federal WIOA regulations. Very good turnout with good discussion!
- Ms. Allysia completed the EO Regional Data Analysis for PY23. The PY22 & PY23 reports are posted on the boards website under the “Equal Opportunity” link. Documents contain some very good information within the region on civilian labor force data, population changes, poverty statistics, employment and unemployment information, along with gender, race, and disability demographics broken down per county.
- The Board Office and EDSI are partnering with the Community Partnership of Southeast Missouri here in Cape Girardeau with their YouthBuild grant. YouthBuild is a Federal grant to support young adults 16-24, who are out of school, and face significant barriers to education and employment. Components in the grant include: education, job training, leadership, work experience, supportive services, and building career pathways. Each YouthBuild enrollment is dual enrolled into WIOA. WIOA funds are supporting the job training/work experience component. The current YouthBuild group has 22 young adults who are working towards their GED/HiSet and working at the job site in the construction trades industry. The OWD has provided an additional \$60,000.00 to the board for WIOA to support this grant.
- MEDC Fall Conference was October 8, 9, 10 here in Cape Girardeau. Well attended. Biggest takeaway was the opportunity to learn more about local economic development and the processes that it takes for a community or city to prepare for a business/company to break ground and open up for business.
- The OWD Annual Statewide Summit was October 23rd, 24th, & 25th in Osage Beach. Danise Clay, Cathy Harris, and Gretchen Morse attended. The summit brought together OWD state leaders, OWD state supervisors, regional board directors and regional board compliance staff. Sessions included program compliance, business services, customer services, career pathways, bridges out of poverty, just to name a few. Was a very good summit!
- The last WIOA Re-Authorization was in July 2014 under President Obama Administration. WIOA is due for re-authorization again. The re-authorization Bill passed the House and is now with the Senate. The Senate made available a “discussion draft” of the bill to reauthorize WIOA. Top four takeaways from the Senate draft;
 - Regions will continue to determine training service amounts to AD's & DW's based on funding levels. No mandated will be set.
 - Re-designation of local regions. Will increase the ability for State Governors to consolidate/restructure local workforce development areas. If passed many states could see realignment of regions.
 - States currently can set aside up to 15% of WIOA funds for statewide training initiatives. If re-authorized it would allow States to set-aside an additional 10% of funding reserve for statewide initiatives. This could impact local areas and communities with fewer funds and fewer resources.

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- If passed, the Bill would allow a new formula funding stream to states and local boards, which means it would give more discretion to the appropriation leaders in determining funding for WIOA as part of a wider federal budget and appropriations process.
- States and local regions will continue to follow re-authorization updates. Upcoming election could slow the Bill down, we will have to wait and see.
- Upcoming events
 - Cape Girardeau Job Center open house takes place-November 7th, 1pm-4pm, 612 Broadway-official ribbon cutting with giveaways, drawings, food & drinks, tours of the center, informational handouts, etc. Invitations have went out. If you didn't receive one and you want one, just let me know. Open house event being shared on social media platforms as well.
 - Sarah, Allysia and Gretchen will attend the annual statewide fiscal training November 13th & 14th. This training will be provided by Booth Consulting who is on contract with OWD/State.
 - The WDB, EDSI, DSS, VR, Catholic Charities & SEMO currently planning an "Employ Ability Summit" here in the region. Last employ ability summit was held pre-Covid. Purpose is to educate and empower employers to adopt inclusive hiring practices by providing insights and practical strategies for hiring individuals with disabilities or criminal backgrounds.
- Success Stories-Signed authorizations from clients on file to share story.

WIOA Youth Success Story October 2024

Jacob came into the job center as a walk-in looking for a better job. WIOA Case Manager was able to speak with him on the same day about his situation at the time and it wasn't good. Jacob was employed as a custodian making minimum wage and he was very unhappy. He mentioned that he was fighting depression because of how bad his situation was. After going through the assessments and putting together his profile in the case management system they were able to determine that he would be eligible for the WIOA-Youth program. WIOA Case Manager was able to get Jacob enrolled and after lengthy discussions and goal setting using the employment plan in the case management system they were able to determine that truck driving would be a great career for Jacob. WIOA Youth paid for his tuition for CDL School and the Case Manager was able to coach him through the CDL process as well as supporting Jacob through his training. Jacob recently received his CDL license and was hired as a driver with PEPSI making \$62,000 per year. He's happy and making a great living now.

Healthy Blue Success Story October 2024

This success story is bittersweet! Healthy Blue Case Manager, Cathy Trentham had the privilege of working with an amazing young man named Gavin. He is 17 and is completing his senior year of high school. Cathy met Gavin as he worked part-time at a custard shop and needed to learn some budgeting and saving skills. Cathy was informed early on that Gavin's mother was terminally ill. When they started discussing budgeting and what that looked like, Gavin became overwhelmed, especially when they started listing potential expenses because, like most 17 year olds, he had no idea. They worked through his budget step-by-step and Cathy helped him open a Savings Account. Sadly, Gavin's mother passed away just a few weeks into the beginning of the Healthy Blue program. Gavin shared that he needed a new pair of glasses because his old ones were duct-taped together, and this was something his mother had worried about. Gavin and Cathy met before his mother's funeral, and he quickly decided on a flattering pair of glasses. He shared he had never been to a doctor or place of business alone and it felt strange, so Cathy was happy to be there for support. Unfortunately, Gavin's living arrangements changed, and they were no longer meeting but Cathy was proud that she had the

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opportunity to meet Gavin and was able to share budgeting 101 skills with him and support him. We do not always see immediate successes, but perhaps someday Gavin will remember those conversations with Cathy and make wise money decisions, which Cathy is sure would make his momma proud.

2025-2026 BOARD OFFICERS – MIKE SAUER, CLEO

Mr. Mike Sauer made recommendation to the full board for the 2025-2026 officers; Scott Sattler, Board Chair; Kristen Daniel, Vice Chair; Sherry Hamby-Vance, Secretary; Stacy Snider, Parliamentarian; Motion to accept recommendation of 2025-2026 officers made by Brock Crowley, seconded by Angie Wilson, all in favor, no nays, motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER PRESENTATIONS – MIKE SAUER, CLEO

Mr. Mike Sauer provided Ms. Valada Harp with an appreciation award for her eight (8) years of private sector volunteering time on the board.

Mr. Mike Sauer provided Mr. Todd Cruts with an appreciation award for his four (4) years of private sector volunteering time on the board.

ADJOURNMENT – VALADA HARP

With no further business, a motion to adjourn made by Scott Sattler and seconded by Mike Sauer, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Valada Harp, WDB – Chair

Gretchen Morse, President/COO

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