

Region 1 Zoom Meeting Minutes
Regional Workforce Development Board/Chief Elected Officials Board
Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)
“Workforce Partners – Helping Iowa Work”
http://www.iowawdb.gov/r1_home

July 28, 2020
4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

CEO Board Present Via Zoom/Phone: John Beard, Dan Byrnes, Dave Baker, David Tilkes, Steve Doepcke

CEO Board Absent: Jeff Madlom, Jerry Stevens, Marty Stanbrough, Roy Buol

RWDB Present Via Zoom/Phone: Les Askelson, Candace Drahn, Dan White, Caroline Scheidel, Jayme Kluesner, Lisa Curtin, Ron Axtell, Marla Loecke, Jamie Phipps, Jeanne Helling, Gisella Aitken-Shadle, Larry Leliefeld, Jennalee Pedretti, Joan Funke

RWDB Absent: James Vermazen, David Gaylor, Kathy Gunderson, Donna Boss, Michael Myers, Josh Pope, Rhonda Kendrick, Craig Allen

Others Present: Sharon Keehner, Wendy Mihm-Herold and Kendra Kleve

CALL TO ORDER

1. Welcome/Introductions – Les Askelson, Chair

RWDB Chair, Les Askelson, called the joint meeting of the RWDB/CEO Boards to order at 4:32 p.m. Les welcomed all members. Kendra Kleve, NICC, is replacing Sue Larson as Board Support.

2. Roll Call/ Call for Quorum – Kendra Kleve (NICC)

A voice roll call was taken, and it was noted that a quorum was present for both boards.

RWDB/CEO BOARD DISCUSSION AND ACTION

3. Consider Approval of Agenda – Les/John

Motion Ron Axtell, RWDB member, seconded Dan White. All ayes. Motion carried.
Motion Dave Baker, CEO member, seconded David Tilkes. All ayes. Motion carried.

4. Approval of RWDB/CEO Minutes of April 28, 2020 – Les/John

Motion Jayme Kluesner, RWDB member, seconded Larry Leliefeld. All ayes. Motion carried.
Motion Steve Doepcke, CEO member, seconded Dave Baker. All ayes. Motion carried.

5. Approval of RWDB Board Expenditures – Les/John

Motion Larry Leliefeld, RWDB member, seconded Candace Drahn. All ayes. Motion carried.
Motion David Tilkes, CEO member, seconded Dave Baker. All ayes. Motion carried.

The list of expenditures was sent out prior to the meeting. There was question on the report, so the expense list was shared via zoom and Ron explained it. Note that the report was for the entire fiscal year.

6. Approval of State of Iowa PY20 & PY21 Negotiated Levels of Performance for WIOA Title I (Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth) and Title III (Wagner Peyser) – Les/John

Motion Larry Leliefeld, RWDB member, seconded Caroline Scheidel. All ayes. Motion carried.
Motion Steve Doepcke, CEO member, seconded Dan Byrnes. All ayes. Motion carried.

The report was sent out prior to the meeting. Ron explained the report. It was noted that we should have a final performance report at the next meeting. Should be on target to meet all performance levels on all measures and programs for Title I and Title III.

7. Approval of Disability Access Committee Membership – Les

Motion Ron Axtell, RWDB member, seconded Larry Leliefeld. All ayes. Motion carried.
Does not require CEO approval.
The updated membership list was sent out prior to the meeting.

8. Approval of UERPC as Fiscal Agent for PY20/FY21 Ticket to Work Funds – Les

Motion Candace Drahn, RWDB member, seconded Larry Leliefeld. All ayes. Motion carried.

UERPC will continue as fiscal agent until the new local workforce development area is up and running. There was suggestion for UERPC to pursue being fiscal agent of new area, if interested; but they may not be able to since they are a service provider.

9. Approval of Region 1 Local Service Plan Extension to June 30, 2021 – Les

Motion Larry Leliefeld, RWDB member, seconded Caroline Scheidel. All ayes. Motion carried.

Local service plan was scheduled to end June 2020, and need to extend for at least six months during the interim.

10. Approval of Region 1 Partner MOU Extension to June 30, 2021 – Les

Motion Caroline Scheidel, RWDB member, seconded Jayme Kluesner. All ayes. Motion carried.

Again, just need to continue while still under the current structure.

BOARD REPORTS

11. Transition to Northeast Iowa Local Workforce Development Area (LWDA) Update – CEO Board

John Beard reported. Comments on language of RFP. Recommends language to allow people to form consortiums and to have providers be selected on ability to perform, not based on lowest bidder. Some areas have had services go out to private contractors, but he doesn't recommend that. Comments were made on the Iowa Workforce Development training guide and the language regarding One Stop operators forming consortiums. Groundwork is there, good work being done, and look forward to being able to continue services.

Dave Baker reported. Agrees on encouraging language for consortiums and feels will probably be part of the RFP process. Brief update on draft of 28E agreements - being reviewed by county attorneys and working on a written opinion to share. Will need to develop bylaws soon and put together RFP. Meeting weekly. Need to think about and discuss membership on the new board. It was recommended that current RWDB members submit applications to be nominated. In discussions on a central location, though meetings will probably happen via zoom. Their next meeting is on Monday – encouraged anyone to join in if interested.

Ron Axtel expressed appreciation for opportunity to continue by having the consortium service provider allowed.

12. Open Discussion of Board Members on Regional Workforce Needs & Issues – RWDB/CEO Board

Larry Leliefeld commented on the impact of COVID on employability. Businesses working with geothermal, fiber optics, etc. have lots of work to do but are struggling to find workers. Need to figure out how to get candidates trained and skilled. Comments that unemployment benefits will be ending and people are going to be more eager in job search.

Questions and comments on status of displaced Flexsteel workers in Dubuque. Flexsteel applied for Trade Application. IWD has reached out to them and did a virtual rapid response.

13. Disability Access Committee Update – Jeanne/Jamie

Jeanne Helling updated. Working on Disability Employment Awareness Month to take place in October. Will have a statewide virtual conference to include a keynote speaker, Mary Lee Roth, a panel and activities. Looking for employers from across the state to attend. Have had a couple meetings and will meet again next week. Also, a team is working to update information regarding process for core leaders and partners to get involved with business engagement and case management planning and will be presenting/completing by September 1.

14. Youth Interagency Committee Update – Lisa/Ron

Ron Axtell reported. Met last week. Schools have determined plans for in-person, hybrid and online programs. Concern for effects on students due to COVID. Also impacts service providers and their ability to get into schools to work with students. Some services are being handled through zoom and some opportunities have been held with social distancing protocol. Trying to provide services as able. Plans are continually subject to change. Will meet again next quarter.

15. WIOA Core Partner Reports

a. WIOA Titles 1 & 3- IowaWORKS Update – Lisa, Marla, & Ron

Ron Axtell updated on Title 1. Work is being done with existing participants in adult, youth and dislocated worker programs through zoom meetings and phone calls, to continue to provide services and to connect people to employers that are hiring. Some businesses with temporary layoffs may become permanent – will potentially work with those dislocated workers to find employment or training as well. Lisa Curtin noted that money was received for COVID-related dislocated workers in the region (\$38,000). Fewer dislocated workers in northern counties than Dubuque area but do have one business closing in Oelwein. Did rapid response meetings with them through zoom.

Marla Loecke reported on Title 3. She sent out the recent state unemployment data prior to the meeting and will continue to send that out monthly. The offices have not been open to the public, other than receiving documents. Staff are working heavily with unemployment. Unemployment claims are being directed to customer service line or UI inbox. Not sure when center will be opening to public, but it will be a transition process when it occurs. She commented on Coursera, a free online training that is open for anyone to participate in. Go through a link on IWD website to sign up (before September 30) to complete a variety of courses by the end of December.

b. WIOA Title 2 – NICC ABE Update – Gisella

Gisella Aitken-Shadle updated on Title 2. Working virtually with 75 HSED students in a hybrid model to include testing being done face-to-face by appointment. Hope to continue a hybrid model and possibly be open to public in mid-August. For ESOL, have a shorter version, and hope to start partnering with businesses to create a IEALT program model in near future. She noted that NICC is also offering Career Pathway Certificate programs across the district as well as training for essential workers. Customized training is available and can be provided through a hybrid format. Remember NICC for any training needed.

c. WIOA Title 4

Jeanne Helling updated on Title 4. The report was shared prior to the meeting.

• Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) Update – Jeanne

Most staff are currently working from home while still providing Voc. Rehab. services to clients. Holding some virtual summer camps, presentations and business tours. Also trying to provide services to schools despite COVID.

• Iowa Department for the Blind (IDB) Update – Jamie

No report. Jamie can send report if have an update.

FLOOR ITEMS/CLOSURE

16. Next Meeting – October 27, 2020

17. Adjournment

Motion Caroline Scheidel, RWDB member, seconded Dan White, RWDB member. All ayes. Motion carried.

Adjourned: 5:54 p.m.