



SWDB BOARD NOTES

Date: 9/11/24

Location: Vermeer Pavilion, Pella

Minutes

Iowa Workforce Development Board Meeting

September 11, 2024

11 am – 1:00 pm

Vermeer Pavilion, Pella, IA

Teresa Hovell - Introduction of Kate Guess Vice President of Human Resources.

Kate Guess – Welcome. Owned and operated 76 years business that started in 1948 and currently run by third generation of Vermeer family. consisted of family leadership. Leadership developed the 4 key philosophy. Principles- People – Products - Profits. Vermeer focuses on better professional and whole life.

Jack Hasken – compliment on how built so quickly.

Beth Townsend – appreciate the partnership with our agency.

Agenda item 1. Call to Order

Chair Teresa Hovell called to order the meeting of the Iowa Workforce Development Board (the Board) on September 11, at approximately 11 am.

Agenda item 2. Roll Call

Members in Attendance

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Laura Book as Proxy for Governor
Kim Reynolds | 11. Ofelia Rumbo |
| 2. Director Beth Townsend | 12. Kelly Barrick |
| 3. Keri Osterhaus, proxy for Sarah
Willeford | 13. Nick Glew |
| 4. James Williams | 14. Carrie Duncan |
| 5. Teresa Hovell | 15. Charlie Wishman |
| 6. Scott Naumann | 16. Jason Shanks |
| 7. Jack Hasken | 17. Jayson Henry |
| 8. LuAnn Scholbrock | 18. Nancy McDowell |
| 9. Jessica Dunker | 19. Director McKenzie Snow |
| 10. Brad Elliott | |

Members Absent

1. Senator Dawn Driscoll
2. Representative Dave Deyoe
3. Alex Severn
4. Tiffany O'Donnell

Shelly Evans called roll and advised Chair Hovell that quorum was established.

Agenda item 3. Approval of Agenda

Chair Hovell called the next order of business which was the approval of the meeting Agenda for May 15, 2024. The agenda was previously emailed to the Members of the Board.

- ACTION ITEM: Motion to Approve the Agenda for 9/11/24.

Jason Henry motioned to approve the Agenda and Nick Glew seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion by voice vote, which carried unanimously.

Agenda item 4. Approval of 5/15/24 Minutes (Attachment 1)

Chair Hovell called the next order of business which was the approval of the meeting Minutes for May 15, 2024. The minutes were previously emailed to the Members of the Board.

- ACTION ITEM: Motion to Approve the Minutes for 2/16/24.

Scott Naumann motioned to approve the Minutes and Jack Hasken seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion by voice vote, which carried unanimously.

Agenda item 5. Welcome by Teresa Hovell, Chair

Chair Hovell welcomes attendees.

- Welcome.
- Appreciate flexibility and members traveling to Pella.
- Appreciate Chad and working through IT issues and meeting spaces.

Agenda item 6. Nomination of Vice Chair

Chair Hovell requests nominations for Vice Chair position. Reminder this must be a business member, a two-year term that will roll over into a shared position at the end of my term in April 2028. LuAnn Scholbrock volunteered for this position.

LuAnn Scholbrock – pleased to be starting second term on this board. Energy partner and full services marketing agency. Resides in Lincoln, IA. Today was about a 3-hour trip but 100% worth it. Has adult children but no grandkids yet. Looking forward to working with Teresa.

Nominees: LuAnn Scholbrock. Sales and development training.

- ACTION ITEM: Motion to Nomination of Vice Chair.

Jack Hasken motioned to approve the nomination of LuAnn Scholbrock and Nick Glew seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion by voice vote, which carried unanimously.

Teresa Hovell indicates that LuAnn's term will begin immediately.

Agenda item 7. Approval of Executive Committee Action from May 23, 2024 Meeting by Teresa Hovell, Chair. Plan – Attachment 2)

Chair Hovell indicates that the Request for Proposal (RFP) was discussed at the recent Executive Committee. Asking this board to approve the action taken by the Executive Committee Action on May 23, 2024.

- ACTION ITEM: Motion to approve Executive Committee Action from May 23, 2024, meeting by Teresa Hovell, Chair.

Jack Hasken motioned to approve Executive Committee Action from May 23, 2024, meeting by Teresa Hovell, Chair. and Kelly Barrick seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion by voice vote, which carried unanimously.

Agenda item 8. Discussion of Iowa Plains Committee recommendation to select a One-Stop Operator by Holly Espenhover, Iowa Plains Committee Chair. (Iowa Plains Recommendation - Attachment 3)

Holly Espenhover opened discussions on Iowa Plains Committee recommendation to select a One-Stop Operator. Shout out to Linda Rouse and her team for an exceptional amount of work to bring this to fruition. Life Skills is certified veteran, owned rural based out of Manning. Seeking approval of recommendation to procedure one-stop operator.

No questions.

- ACTION ITEM: Motion to Approve Iowa Plains One-Stop Operator.

Jayson Henry motioned to approve Iowa Plains One-Stop Operator and Nick Glew seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion by voice vote, which carried unanimously.

Agenda item 9. Discussion on 2025 Legislative Priorities of the SWDB by Michelle McNertney, Division Administrator Workforce Services. (Attachment 4 - Iowa Code 84A)

Tabled until next quarterly meeting; Michelle McNertney was unable to attend today.

Agenda item 10. Director's Report

Director Townsend provided her report.

- Mobile unit. 2 weeks after delivery Tyson Plant closure. Got 3-4 requests from legislators and community members to come to the plant. Tyson was a good partner. Brought mobile unit on site. Tornadoes and floods and took mobile unit to those areas. Different layoffs. John Deere plants. Bridgestone Firestone. West Liberty Foods. Utilized unit. 11 computers on board. Same things can be done at unit that would be done at AJC offices. Work on resumes. Printer for use. Help doing job searches. People asked questions and having staff available. Tyson bilingual speakers as well. Language link to provide translation services. Tyson interpreters. Great way to have conversations and make them aware. Reassure them and reduce anxiety. Central Iowa Board and worked well with them. Encourage you to walk through mobile Unit.
- Thank Teresa and Vermeer. Very interesting and shows how important manufacturing is to Iowa.
- State Apprenticeship Agency was approved by USDOL on June 27. In process since that time working with DOL to transition. Not provide training until plan was approved. Staff meeting with USDOL trainers. Monitoring and compliance guidelines were shared. Dane Sulentic hit the ground running and has a great time. Excited about this. Feels apprenticeship in Iowa have been stalled. Anxious to get in there and get it up and running fully across the state.
- State Fair Booth. Mobile unit also there. Good presence at Veterans Day Parade. Encourage future attendance and if Veteran welcome to walk in parade with us.

- Unemployment rate in Iowa. 2.8% in July. National rate is 4.3%. Labor force 64% national rate of 62.7%. Iowa has 7th highest participation rate and 8th lowest unemployment rate. Iowa is in a good spot. Baby boomers retiring, individuals dropping out to take care of children or parents, and retirement is biggest driver on labor force. We need to get more people into Iowa. Labor force of 1.6 million in Iowa. Currently have just under 40,000 who are unemployed. 56,377 jobs posted on IowaWORKS. More jobs than unemployed, mostly in healthcare and retail. Workforce pipeline across all areas. Always had shortage in registered nursing. Last Dollar Scholarship (LDS) has done great job of maxing out registered nursing program. Would like to expand these 2-year programs. Going to be focus of Governor moving forward.

Jayson Shanks – are you moving forward with the members of the SSA?

Beth Townsend - those are with Governor. In process of collecting applications. Governor on trade mission for next couple of weeks. Hoping to have first meeting with board in October/November. Not in position yet for meetings. We are on track.

Jack Hasken – Comments at the meeting in March on child care. Indication of additional state funding but some pretty stiff perimeters. Huge possibility for workforce. What should we be doing?

Beth Townsend – in last few years Governor has put almost 500 million into child care either through grants program through HHS to create a better and more sustained workforce and child care centers. IWD had child care funds for a while and provided grants for communities and child care facility to get started or expand. Dubuque had a project that was funded. Child Care Business Incentive Grant about \$25 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) dollars. Some money returned because projects didn't move forward because of late bids and inflation. Some money left and Governor is looking at those funds so not sure how that funding will be utilized but the Governor is committed. Can we provide additional sums to awardees who already received grant funds to expand projects?

Nick Glew – one additional question about state workforce board legislative legislation. Can you provide context on what that process looks like?

Beth Townsend – this is what Michelle was going to talk about.

Nick Glew – from the department's perspective, anything that we need to watch out for, anything on your radar or that we should start talking about?

Beth Townsend – one bill on our radar is the Unemployment insurance tax revision. Governor proposed last year. Got lost in the shuffle of bigger bills. Reemployment Case Management system started in January 2022. In 3 years, we have saved almost a billion dollars. Means we have \$1.8 billion in the trust fund. Believe Governor is going to pursue unemployment insurance tax reform this legislative session. Once you collect UI taxes these funds can only be used here. RCM program has been successful and we aren't paying the benefits we used to. In 2022 average duration was 13 weeks. We are now at 9 weeks. Best in the country. Anything under 10 weeks is unheard of. Testament of good work Linda and her team are doing. Working with claimants from day one. One on one support and workers are getting good jobs. People being laid off are getting better jobs. Highly skilled workers. All work done on Tyson on front end has ended up with lower number of claims. Successful in getting new jobs or moving onto better jobs. Seeing trust fund is running way over what we need it to be to maintain. 40-45% of those that file for unemployment in winter are legitimately off but we want them to be available to their employer. We want them to go back to work. Average about 13 weeks historically. Know we want to maintain certain level in trust fund but not at the current level. About 40-60% reduction in unemployment taxes. Reduce wage base by about 40%. 3.5 - lowest tax we can have that will be approved by USDOL. Tools in place to help people get back to work faster. No reduction in benefits other than 26 weeks. Hopeful that we can get legislators and businesses because this would be a real savings for employers and not a detriment. We have hired a Legislative Liaison.

Nick Glew – at the last meeting you indicated you hired a legislative liaison. Remind me who that was.

Beth Townsend – Tim Goodwin former Senator from Burlington. Chief Strategy Officer and Legislative Liaison. We will have him come in and talk to the group after the Condition of the State Speech. Governor always has recommendations as well. UI tax bill probably won't be run as an agency bill.

Agenda item 11. [Update from System Committee by Committee Chair, Jack Hasken](#)

Update from System Committee by Committee Chair Jack Hasken.

- Goal is to make sure our systems are working. Kick this over to Wendy for an update on recent data.

Wendy Greenman provided an update. The system committee has been discussing current survey implementation and results, as well as how they may be able to further investigate the strengths and areas for improvement based on the results.

Current:

- Local OSOs and EDs met the end of May to discuss results and potential changes they would like to make for the new PY – July 1, 2024. This resulted in minimal changes being made on the actual survey.

- Customers have access to complete the CSS survey within the IowaWORKS system anytime and can complete it every 14 days if they want. Targeted surveys are also sent to customers twice a month who receive certain services, two new services targeted in this new PY being Staff Assisted Job Development and Staff Assisted Job Search and Placement.

PY23 Results: In PY 23 we received a 4% return rate. (2,876 returned)

PY24 Results (since July): 4% return rate

Business Engagement is reviewing the method and survey questions that have historically been used. I have been informed they are planning to make some changes this fall.

Agenda item 12. Update from Iowa Plains Committee. (Holly Espenhover, Committee Chair)

Update from Iowa Plains Committee by Committee Chair Holly Espenhover.

A lot going on in Iowa Plains region.

- Apprenticeships collaborating with Thompson solution group to enroll 5 youth participants in fall and 15 for 2025. Comprehensive approaches. Entry level trades. Rotations among 5 different. Diploma for paid work and learning.
- Services provided by Career Planners. February 2024 to current. 141 participants with total # of services of 899. 97.08%. 15 participants, 27 previous and current have obtained employment. Great work by this team.
- 42 county region. Sioux City career fair. Hosts through ECI on last Thursday of each month. Connections between local businesses.
- Other events: IWD in September events titled Together We Succeed. BV hosting. Spencer. Panel of WIOA partner staff to present on services. Goal to bring awareness of services to community leaders.
- Achieving More Together events: Fort Dodge IowaWORKS. Bring awareness of services to community leaders.
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.
- Council Bluffs / Creston.

Teresa Hovell – great work Holly.

Holly Espenhover – We have an incredibly dedicated team. Linda and her team do such a phenomenal job. They bring great resources to our meetings and help bridge between workforce and business in the Iowa Plains area.

Agenda item 13. Update from Disability Access Committee by Committee Chair, James Williams

Update from Disability Access Committee by Committee Chair James Williams.

- What should Local and State Level should be doing. Local access. Give guidance / direction. No wrong way to do services at local level. Proud of what we put out.
- What should local and state levels be doing? Local access. Guidance and direction. I am drafting basics and can share out. Gave general purpose to all. Ideas of activities they could do to energize the committees.
- Share out ideas and different activities to locals across the state.
- October is national awareness month. Will be doing lots of activities across the state with the VR division.

Agenda item 14. Public Comments (limit to 2 minutes)

No public comments received.

Agenda item 15. Adjournment.

Chair Hovell adjourned the meeting of the Board at 12:08 pm.



Shelly Evans - Executive Assistant to the SWDB