

Minutes of the Local Workforce Development Board #40

Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, July 28, 2021

10:02 AM

I. Call to Order

The Local Workforce Development Board #40 Meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM by Mr. Patrick Fontenot, Local Workforce Development Board #40 Chairperson.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Patrick Fontenot led all members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Adrienne Auzenne conducted the roll call. The attendance was as follows:

Present

Amy Thibodeaux	Kay Miller	Patricia Cottonham
April Portierfield	Lynel Wilson	Patrick Fontenot
Brenda Thibeaux	Michael Pritchard	Suzanne Kidder
Craig Mathews	Mike Ortego	
Jason LeMaire	Nathaniel Chaisson	
Judy Bruno	Norman Rene'	

Absent

Bob Manuel	Reggie Dupre'	Willie Singleton-Guillory
Joshua Sonnier	Tessa Brown	
Mike Tarantino	Thomas LeBlanc	

Quorum: Yes

Guests in Attendance:

M. Larry Richard	Germaine Simpson	Nancy Parker
Jessie Bellard	Shanea Nelson	Lauren Womack
Amanda Cain	Andre Perez	Bruce Gaudin
Karen Wyble	Jonathan Zeigler	Dr. Emma Bush
Hollis Conway	Keidrian Kunkel	Billy Francis
James Freeman	Kendra Neal	
Brenda Foulcard	Phillip Streva	
Andre' Perez	Colandra Authorlee	
Cecily Holland	Claudette Nickerson	

I. Welcome-Mr. Patrick Fontenot, LWDB#40 Chairperson

Chairman Fontenot welcomed everyone to the special session meeting. He informed everyone that the meeting was called to approve the budget for FY21/PY22 for the board.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the June 11, 2021, board meeting was provided for review by the board. Amy Thibodeaux made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 11 board meeting. The motion was seconded by Craig Mathews. With no opposition or abstentions, all members were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

III. Finance Committee Report

Brenda Thibeaux gave the Finance Committee Report.

- Miss Thibeaux stated the Finance Committee Meeting was held on Wednesday, June 30, 2021
- The finance committee reviewed the Workforce Development budget for the period ending June 30, 2022, at the committee meeting on June 30. Miss Thibeaux referenced that the budget was in the board meeting packet on page 17.
- Miss Thibeaux informed the board that the One-Stop Operator budget was reviewed at the committee meeting. This budget is also in the packet and was reviewed for the extension budget and covers the period ending August 21, 2021. Brenda Foulcard summarized every line item and the committee moved to forward the budget to the board for approval.
- The final budget reviewed at the committee meeting was the budget for the service deliver contractor, Eckerd for the period ending August 21, 2021. After reviewing all these budgets, the finance committee approved to move them forward to the board for approval. Miss Thibeaux then called for budget questions at this time.
- Board member Mike Ortego requested a copy of the salaries of WIOA workers. He stated that he has asked repeatedly and not received a copy of this information. He further stated that board members should be aware of this information. Chairman Fontenot stated that during his tenure was unaware of Mr. Ortego's request. Dr. Bush stated that the salary information for WIOA staff funded by the grant received from LWC is available readily and will be sent to the board by close of business today. Jessie Bellard stated that the HR director is pulling the information now and it will be available in the next hour. Brenda Foulcard stated that the information Mr. Bellard is referring to is the board staff, however, Mrs. Foulcard stated that we do also have salary information for all the contractors that we pay with an organizational chart.
- Chairman Fontenot accepted a motion to approve the Finance Committee Report. The motion was made by Craig Mathews to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Mike Ortego to accept the Finance Committee Report. Without any opposition or abstentions, all members were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

- Mike Ortego informed the board of an upcoming fundraiser for anti-violence in St. Landry Parish. Mike stated that there is an urgent need for adult education in St. Landry Parish. He stated that WIOA has programs that can assist in this effort.
- Chairman Fontenot commented that this issue is deeper than Workforce can solve, and that the community must realize that education is the problem. He also commented that there will be more groups of uneducated adults if the community doesn't begin funding public educational as it should be funded. Chairman Fontenot stated that he would love the board to contribute in any way we can.
- Dr. Bush stated this group is disconnected youth. She stated that she has grant on her desk that is for disconnected youth. Dr. Bush shared that her first contract awarded with Workforce was for disconnected youth in Dallas, Texas. She stated that she has spoken with the Department of Safety and Corrections, and they suggested that we start gathering groups of leaders to talk about juvenile justice. Dr. Bush stated that we can put more funding behind getting this group employment, but the issue is larger. Transportation would need to be involved since many in this group do not have transportation to get to a job. Many challenges are behind the scenes. She stated that at the upcoming restart conference we will be asking the panel of state experts how to get assistance to a hard to serve population. She stated that a task force is needed to be formed to address this issue. Craig Mathews stated that this should be a region-wide task force. Dr. Buh stated that the RESTART Conference would be a good venue to bring leaders to address this issue with state agencies.
- Craig Mathews went on record to commit Smile support to help provide the transportation part of this effort.
- Chairman Fontenot clarified that any efforts that the workforce board takes on will always include the whole region and not one parish.
- Bruce Gaudin expanded on the Rotary initiative regarding these efforts in St. Landry Parish. He stated that at the Sunrise Rotary meeting the following leaders were in attendance, the District Attorney, CASA leader, city judge and four district judges. He said that they will cover a wide range of things including adult education and are just beginning their efforts and starting their task force. They will be holding an event at North City Park September 5.
- Chairman Fontenot relayed to the board that one our great board members, Rebecca Shirley has resigned from the board. One Acadiana has recommended a replacement for her on our board. Chairman Fontenot thanked Miss Shirley for all the good things that she has done to help in her community as the board has lost a very committed board member.
- Amy Thibodeaux wanted to know the progress of the contractor contracts since we are 30 days into a 60-day extension and will it be discussed today.
 - Dr. Bush stated that this item is not on the agenda to be discussed today.
- Amy inquired if there will be another meeting in August to discuss this since the contacts end in August and no decision has been made on the extension.
 - Dr. Bush stated that it was mentioned that we are working with the contractors, at the two previous board meetings and committee meetings and prior to that also. She stated that board staff is on top of this and

following normal protocol and practices and we will update the board as soon as we have something to update them on.

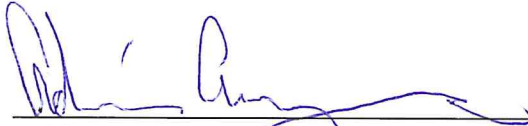
- Amy stated that she would hate for services to be interrupted as when we issued a new RFP in September and contracts were signed in November and there was a lapse in services because we were bringing on new contractors.
 - Dr. Bush stated she needed more feedback on the lapse in service. Dr. Bush wasn't sure where Amy received the misinformation regarding issuing an RFP since board staff has not mentioned issuing an RFP.
- Amy stated that she assumed the protocol was to either extend the contract or issue and RFP.
 - Dr. Bush stated that we are following normal Department of Labor and Louisiana Workforce Commission practices. Dr. Bush informed Amy that there has not been any lapse in service.
- Amy inquired if the contract ends on August 31 when will a determination be made on what happens with the contracts.
 - Dr. Bush stated that we are following normal protocol and there will be no lapse in service. Lapse in service is misinformation and she wasn't sure where this information was manufactured. Contractors went to work the day the last contract was signed with no lapse in service. Dr. Bush stated that there will be no lapse in service on her watch.
- Mr. Larry Richard inquired what contract was Amy referring to.
 - Amy responded by stating the contractor's contract for services extension that was set to expire on August 31, 2021.
 - Mr. Richard stated that he understood that Dr. Bush and the board staff are working through this currently. Dr. Bush confirmed that this is correct. Dr. Bush stated that she is uncertain why Miss Thibodeaux keeps bringing this up she has brought this question up at least four or five times prior. She reassured the board that she is and has been completely transparent.
 - Mike Ortego commented again regarding the task force to address the violence in the region. He inquired if a task force was created to include Workforce Board 40, the school board, the sheriff, the city marshal, city officials and the city judges would this be more productive. Dr. Bush responded yes. Mr. Ortego stated that this could be replicated across the region. Dr. Bush responded yes again. Dr. Bush stated that the chief of police in Lafayette informed her that he would like to talk to her about a task force on the state level to deal with this same issue. Dr. Bush stated that Mike's suggestion of pulling together key stakeholders to form this task force is correct. She concluded by saying that if we can solve other issues such as transportation, we can get the youth jobs and by solving issues in advance it would enable youth to stay on the job.

XIII. Adjournment

- Mr. Patrick Fontenot entertained a motion for adjournment by Bob Manuel and the motion was seconded by Rebecca Shirley. With no opposition or abstentions, all members were in favor and the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 04:30 pm.



Mr. Patrick Fontenot, LWDB #40 Chairperson



Adrienne Auzenne, LWDB #40 Recording Secretary