

Minutes of the Local Workforce Development Board #40

Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

10: AM

I. Call to Order

The Local Workforce Development Board #40 Meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Chairman Patrick Fontenot, Local Workforce Development Board #40 Chairperson.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman 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	Patrick Fontenot
April Porterfield	Lynel Wilson	Reggie Dupre'
Bob Manuel	Michael Pritchard	Suzanne Kidder
Brenda Thibeaux	Nathaniel Chaisson	Tessa Brown
Craig Mathews	Norman Rene'	
Judy Bruno	Patricia Cottonham	

Absent

Joshua Sonnier	Mike Tarantino	Jason LeMaire
Mike Ortego	Willie Singleton-Guillory	

Quorum: Yes

Guests in Attendance:

Jessie Bellard, CEO
Jonathan Zeigler, Eckerd
Keidrian Kunkel, Eckerd
Germaine Simpson, SLCC
David Crochet, SLCC
Belle N. LeBlanc, Lafayette Consolidated Government
Mary Sliman, Lafayette Consolidated Government
Lauren Womack, Ticket to Work Program, LCG
Eric Taylor, LWC, Local Veteran's Employment Rep.
Bruce Gaudin, AWS Attorney

Guests Continued....

Dr. Emma Bush, AWS ED
Brenda Foulcard, AWS Staff
Stephen Broussard, AWS Staff
Danielle Howell, AWS Staff
Garrick Brown, AWS Staff
Cecily Howell, AWS Staff
Jacque Meche, AWS Staff
Kendra Neal, AWS Staff
Philip Streva, AWS Staff

IV. Welcome

Chairman Fontenot welcomed everyone to the fourth-quarter meeting of Workforce Development Board 40.

V. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the August 18, 2021, board meeting was provided for review by the board. Chairman Fontenot called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 18 meeting. Patricia Cottonham made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 18 board meeting. The motion was seconded by Norman Rene'. With no opposition or abstentions, all members were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

VI. Executive Director's Update

Executive Director, Dr. Emma Bush, shared a presentation with updates of Acadiana Workforce Solutions Board Staff activities. Some highlights included:

- Partnership with The Department of Children and Family Services is still in place and will allow Workforce Development to serve more people. They will refer more clients to us to be served through the job centers.
- More than 200 gas cards were issued to WIOA clients in our region
- More than 200 In-school youth were enrolled for summer work experience from June to August
- Re-start Conference was pushed back to 2022 due to COVID.
- Disaster Dislocated Worker Grant (DDWG) has employed 15 individuals to date and 10 are pending employment as of October.
- Dr. Bush also shared some Public Relations activities, a fiscal report, and data from transportation, youth performance, youth enrollment, adult programs, adult enrolled in job training, and business services data.
- Dr. Bush stated that the board staff is working with the state on the MOU. The approval process is different this year. State is reviewing the MOU and giving more guidance in what they would like to see in the MOU. They will send their feedback back to board staff and board staff edits based on feedback and guidance provided and returns information to the state.

VII. Finance Committee Report

Brenda Thibeaux gave the Finance Committee Report.

- Miss Thibeaux gave a recap of The Finance Committee Meeting, which was held on Thursday, September 9, 2021, via Zoom.
- Amanda Cain, SLPG Finance Director/COO reviewed the SLPG 2020 audit specifically referencing Workforce Development. Revenue and projected expenses were explained from original budget, the information was referenced on page 40 of the board packet. Ms. Cain stated that the budget could be subject to a budget variance due to SLPG operating on a calendar year and Workforce operating on a different date for their fiscal year.
- Mrs. Foulcard requested that the committee revisit a budget line policy to accommodate budget line transfers between an approved line item with a percentage cap on an as needed basis. She recommended that the Board President and the Finance Chair accept the approval and the budget be ratified in the next scheduled board meeting. She stated that this would minimize challenges when closing the grant year or any unforeseen activity. A draft will be presented to the committee at the next meeting. The finance committee accepted the request to move forward and will review the draft budget revision policy at the next scheduled finance committee meeting.
- Miss Thibeaux inquired if there were any questions regarding the meeting or the packet. Chairman Fontenot stated that he had a question. Regarding Board Expense line item. The budget, actual and balance does not add up. Mrs. Foulcard stated that the balance is incorrect, and a correction will be made.
- Chairman Fontenot accepted a motion to approve the Finance Committee Report. The motion was made by Norman Rene' to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Tessa Brown to accept the Finance Committee Report. Without any opposition or abstentions, all members were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Election of Officers

- Chairman called for election of officers. Norman Rene' nominated Mr. Patrick Fontenot for Chairman of the board. Patricia Cottonham seconded the motion. Without any further nominations, after three calls from the Chairman Mr. Fontenot was re-elected Chairman of the board.
- The Chairman opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair of the board. Suzanne Kidder nominated Amy Thibodeaux for Vice-Chair. Tessa Brown seconded the motion. Without any further nominations, Chairman Fontenot welcomed Miss Thibodeaux as Vice-Chair of the board.
- The Chairman opened the floor for nominations for Treasurer of the board. Norman Rene' nominated Brenda Thibeaux for Treasurer. Judy Bruno seconded the motion. Without any further nominations, Chairman Fontenot welcomed Miss Thibeaux to continue as Treasurer of the board.

IX. New Business

- Reggie Dupre' inquired with staff about the substantial number of unemployed individuals and inquired why we are still having a significant unemployment problem. He inquired if the issue was due to transportation skill sets, or other reasons. Dr. Bush responded that there was no answer, it is a national issue. However, board staff is beginning to look at sectors, taking the Louisiana Workforce Commission mobile unit to communities and ramping up marketing. Workforce Board programs contractor contact for Eckerd, Inc, Keidrian Kunkel commented that there has been a decline in unemployment claims and unemployment numbers. Chairman Fontenot asked Ryan LaGrange of Lafayette Economic Development Authority (LEDA) for comments. Mr. LaGrange stated that LEDA received a grant from Louisiana Economic Development that allowed LEDA to host additional job fairs and recruitment events and job seeker attendance has been down across the board. Applicants are more experienced but fewer in numbers. Germaine Simpson commented that Workforce Board is headed in the right direction by partnering with other agencies.

X. Other Business

- There was no other business conducted.

XI. Public Comment

- Lauren Womack of Ticket to Work, inquired if board meetings will be held in-person next year since the mask mandate has ended. Dr. Bush informed Miss Womack that this Zoom meeting was the result of the majority of the board voting for Zoom format instead of an in-person format. We will monitor COVID and decide between now and the next scheduled board meeting the format.
- Mr. LaGrange commented that he was thrilled to see that enrollment numbers of individuals receiving services have risen, he encouraged the board to get creative and push funds down to the people that need it the most.

XII. Adjournment

- Mr. Patrick Fontenot entertained a motion for adjournment by Norman Rene' and the motion was seconded by Reggie Dupre'. With no opposition or abstentions, all members were in favor and the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.



Mr. Patrick Fontenot, LWDB #40 Chairperson



Adrienne Auzenne, LWDB #40 Recording Secretary