

Minutes of the Local Workforce Development Board #40
Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, May 25, 2022
10:05 AM

I. Call to Order

The Local Workforce Development Board #40 Meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Vice Chairperson Amy Thibodeaux.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chairperson Amy Thibodeaux, led all members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Rita Patterson conducted the roll call. The attendance was as follows:

Present

Amy Thibodeaux	Michael Pritchard	Diane Porter, New Member
April Porterfield	Patricia Cottonham	Christina Johnstone, New Member
Jason Lemaire	Suzanne Kidder	
Jennifer Stelly	Tessa Brown	

Absent

Bob Manuel	Judy Bruno	Norman Rene'
Brenda Thibodeaux	Mike Ortego	Patrick Fontenot
Craig Mathew	Mike Tarantino	
James Foster	Nathaniel Chaisson	

Quorum: Yes

Guest in Attendance

Mandy Mitchell	L.E.D.A.
Rayan LaGrange	L.E.D.A.
Brenda Foulcard	AWS Staff
Claudette Nickerson	AWS Staff
Keidrian Kunkel	Eckerd
Stephen Broussard	AWS Staff
Phillip Streva	AWS Staff
Danielle Howell	AWS Staff
Garrick Brown	AWS Staff

Guests Continued....

Ingrid Hayes	AWS Staff
Germaine Simpson	S.L.C.C.
Colandra Authorlee	AWS Staff
Rita Patterson	AWS Staff
Lauren Womack	L.C.G

IV. Induction of New Members

Diane Potter representing CGI and Christina Johnstone of DCFS was sworn in and introduced as new board members.

V. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the March 23, 2022, board meeting were provided for review by the board. Vice Chairman Thibodeaux called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 23rd meeting. Michael Pritchard made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 23rd meeting. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Stelly. With no opposition or abstentions, all members were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

VI. One-Stop Stop Committee

Jason Lemaire, Committee Chair provided a portion of the committee's report.

- The committee has been meeting at the career centers in order to familiarize themselves with the daily operations of the centers. Thus far, St. Landry and Lafayette centers have been visited and provided an open invitation to anyone who would like to visit the centers with along with the committee.
- Additionally, he provided an update on the Customized Respiratory Program and created a Zoom meeting with guest speaker Karen Wyble who provided information.
- Ms. Wyble stated that the pandemic has created a shift in respiratory therapy. The need has shifted from hospital care to in-home respiratory care. Therefore, Representative Dustin Miller charged Ms. Wyble to design a Respiratory Packet that will incorporate families that are underprivileged.to obtain this type of care.
- Monies have been set aside for 10 participants to be trained. While in training, they will receive an opportunity to be hired by Ochsner. This is an apprenticeship program and is called Earn While You Learn. She indicated that the apprentice program will be made available to all hospitals, home health, and any other forms of health care within the state of Louisiana.
- Ms. Mandy Mitchell with Lafayette Economic Development Authority (LEDA) presented information regarding the collaboration of Workforce Development (AWS) with the Customized Training Apprentice Program discussed by Ms. Wyble.
- Ms. Mitchell stated that the Customized Training will be an intense collaborative effort with Workforce Development, LSU-E, and Ochsners Health Care System.
- LSU-E has a 100% success rate and Ochsners has agreed to hire all WIOA participants on the first day of the program.

- Mrs. Foulcard stated that LWDB #40 is accustomed to issuing short-term training agreements. She noted this customized training application includes mentorship and tutoring. Also, noted, when an approved WIOA participant enters the program, an apprenticeship in a health care environment will be available while pursuing their academics. Also, the participants will receive a career counselor who will be a faculty member that will manage them through the program.
- Ms. Foulcard indicated that she did reach out to the State for guidance on the application. She stated that the State, as of today, did not respond. She also noted that this process was initiated and has been debated for at least three years. During that time period, it has been revisited many times to fit the parameters of customized training.
- Ms. Foulcard stated that this is just an application, and the board needs to vote to enter into a binding agreement. Mrs. Foulcard said if the agreement is approved, it will go through legal.
- Vice-Chair, Amy Thibodeaux called for a motion that the Customized Training is moved from an application to a contract. The motion was made by Michael Pritchard and seconded by Jennifer Stelly. All members were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

VII. One-Stop Committee Report (Continued)

Garrick Brown – Operation Administrator presented the report to the committee.

- Committee meetings were held during the months of April and May. Meetings will be held on a monthly basis.
- The team is involved with preparing for the Summer Youth Program and stated that there will be new components to the program.
- Changes and updates will be made to the Career Scholarship Policy and will be presented to the One Stop Committee for review.
- Currently going through contract evaluations and the review will be rolled out shortly.
- Additionally, state monitoring is being conducted at this time, and are working to finalize the report.
- Germaine Simpson reported on the RESEA. She indicated that individuals that are currently receiving unemployment benefits are about to end and that RESEA has started administering services in Lafayette, Franklin, and St. Landry offices. Ms. Simpson also explained the functions of the One-Stop Operator. They oversee the nine centers and are responsible for the facilities, maintenance, furniture, and customer service.
- Keidrian Kunkel explained the program side of WIOA. Eckerd oversees the adult, dislocated worker, and youth categories. She stated that training was provided for 553 participants. They are also looking forward to working with the upcoming summer youth program. Also, she presented a success story of Odra Smothers.
- Stephen Broussard provided the Business Services report. The business team has been involved with the youth services program and has acquired businesses

in every parish. Also, he indicated that more applications for OJT have been acquired. Currently, there are 8 individuals that are active and working in the OJT program.

- Vice-Chair, Amy Thibodeaux called for a motion that the One-Stop Committee Report is accepted. The motion was made by Tessa Brown and seconded by Jason Lemaire. All members were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

VIII. Executive Director's Update

- Mrs. Foulcard gave an update on the proposed WIOA Reauthorization. She stated that the reauthorization passed Congress and now the bill is with the Senate. If the Senate approves, it will be available on July 1, 2022.
- The Local Plan for 2020 – 2024 was submitted to the state and was not approved by the State. A new draft was sent on 5/24/2022. If approved, it will go out for public approval. Once approved, it will be presented to the board for final approval.
- State Monitoring – The state is trying to play catch up due to the pandemic. They are currently monitoring the 2019-2020 program year.

IX. Finance Committee Report

Brenda Foulcard – Workforce Development Director, presented the report for the Finance Committee Chairperson.

- The Finance Committee met Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at the Lafayette Career Center.
- In a collaborative effort, a satellite office will be located on the LSU-E campus. The use of the building will be at no cost.
- The PY 22-23 budget will not include a 20 percent or greater of carry-over funds for the upcoming year. The carry-over obligated funds will be 20 percent or less.
- Budget Revisions – Mrs. Foulcard presented the FY21-22 budget revisions to the committee. The Finance Committee agreed to forward all budget revisions to the full board.
- A request was submitted to transfer funds from Dislocated Worker to the Adult to assist with ITAs.
- The FY22/23 contract has not been received from the State with the attached final allocation. However, it was noted that the state will receive a 4-million-dollar budget cut and it will impact the upcoming allocations.
- Vice-Chair, Amy Thibodeaux called for a motion that the Finance Committee Report is accepted. The motion was made by Jason Lemaire and seconded by Patricia Cottonham. All members were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

X. By-laws Committee Report

Tessa Brown presented the report on the By-laws Committee Meeting.

- The committee feels that the by-laws must be reviewed and updated in order to make the verbiage clearer and more understandable.
- Some recommendations to be reviewed include the use of outside organizations, developing an executive committee, and defining the role of the board.
- There will not be any set time limit on updating the by-laws however, the committee will try to meet once per month. Also, she stated that once the by-laws have been revised, they will be requesting technical assistance from a consultant.
- Ms. Brown stated the committee was given examples of other WIOA providers and all the by-laws are not the same but do have some similarities.
- Vice-Chair, Amy Thibodeaux called for a motion that the By-law Committee Report be accepted. The motion was made by Michael Pritchard and seconded by Amy Porterfield. All members were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

XI. Upcoming Events/Updates

There were upcoming events to report.

XII. New Business

- The Board Training will be held at the University of Louisiana. Dates for the training will be sent out.
- Board Retreat – In the process of scheduling and looking at Lake Charles to hold the retreat. Updates will be provided when scheduled.

XIII. Old Business

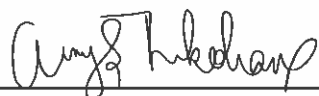
There was no old business to discuss.

XIV. Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

XV. Adjournment

Ms. Amy Thibodeaux entertained a motion for adjournment by Michael Pritchard and the motion was seconded by Tessa Brown. With no opposition or abstentions, all members were in favor and the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.



Ms. Amy Thibodeaux, LWDB #40, Vice-Chairperson



Rita Patterson, LWDB #40 Recording Secretary