

**Minutes of the Local Workforce Development Board #40  
Quarterly Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 1, 2024**

**10:07 AM**

**Acadiana Workforce Development (AWS) Office, 1638 Creswell Lane, Ste. 1,  
Opelousas, LA 70570**

**I. Call to Order**

The Local Workforce Development Board #40 Meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM by Tessa Brown, Chairperson.

**Roll Call**

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

**Present**

Tessa Brown	Amy Thibodeaux
William LaBar	James Trahan
Michael Pritchard	Lauren Trahan
Crystal Romein	Ricardo Williams
Jennifer Stelly	
Aaron Loupe – Via Zoom	
Mike Tarantino – Via Zoom	

**Absent**

Nathan Carbo	Stacey Perrodin
Dr. Bobbie Decuir	April Porterfield
James Foster	Kevin Richard
Halli Kennerson	Taylor Richard
Jason LeMaire	Chad Williams
Dawnia Willis	

**Quorum: No**

**Guest in Attendance**

Brenda Foulcard	AWS Staff	Kedrian Kunkel	Eckerd
Garrick Brown	AWS Staff	Germaine Simpson	SLCC
Rita Patterson	AWS Staff	Andre Perez	SLCC

**Because a Quorum was not met, the Action Items could not be acted upon.**

**2. Action Items**

**2.1 Minutes of the March 6, 2024 Board Meeting were reviewed. There were no questions, concerns, or changes. It was not acted upon due to the lack of a quorum.**

## **Action Items (Continued)**

### **2.2 Youth Policy 2**

Garrick Brown, Program Administrator explained that revisions in the policy include the State recommendations to align with their current policy. Additionally, all policies will be reviewed to make sure that they are in line with the State and Best Practices. This item was not acted upon due to the lack of a quorum.

## **3. Discussion Items**

### **3.1 2024 Summer Youth Academy**

- Start date is the first week of June 2024.
- New tracts were developed.
- 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders will do 4 weeks of employment and one week of Boot Camp at SLCC.
- The rising 12<sup>th</sup> graders will have 4 weeks of employment and 2 Boot Camps. The Boot Camps will be divided into one week with SLCC and one week in residence with LSUE.
- Out-of-school youth will have 8 weeks of employment and will have access to many career services.
- College students will also have 8 weeks of employment and will have access to many career services.
- The Boot Camps will include, career exploration, S.T.E.M., industry exploration, digital literacy, math, English, soft skills, guest speakers, and a lot of hands-on activities.

### **3.2 The State Plan**

- Located on the Louisiana Workforce Commission website and was available for comments until April 26, 2024. Copies of the draft state plans were provided.
- Once the plan is accepted and finalized, it will be presented to the Federal government.
- Once the Federal government approves the plan, each of the 15 LWC Boards will have to draft a plan for their area. Once these plans are drafted and finalized, the plan is sent to the State for approval.
- The State's main focus will include a regional approach/open door model to expand work base initiatives.
- The key word is collaboration - how do you connect and who do you connect with; The goal is to make it effortless and seamless for our customers.
- The State audit of LWC indicated that we did well on training but not well on connecting them to high demand jobs. Though we trained our customers their job status was either the same or lower.

### **3.3 The Stronger Workforce for American Act (H.R. 6655)**

- The bill has passed Congress and has been sent over to the Senate.
- The Senate has passed the bill on to the Health and Education Committees for review.
- The bill proposed moving the training requirement from 20% to 50%. If this is done, it will strongly affect operating and staffing the American Job Centers.

### **3.4 Funding Limits – Participants**

- OJT and WEX is currently at \$4,800.00. We are recommending \$5,000.00 across the board.

### **FYI Acadian Middle School Career Expo**

- Acadian Middle School requested AWS to help facilitate a Career Expo at their school.
- The Expo will be held May 8, 2024, from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.
- The entire school will participate as well as other schools such as Carencro Middle, and Northside High.
- The parents and any family member who lives in the household will be able to attend.

### **Reports**

#### **One-Stop Committee Report – presented by Michael Pritchard**

- The committee met on Wednesday, April 24, 2024.
- Germaine Simpson provided the One-Stop Operator report. Center Visit information was provided from July 2023 to March 2024 and 2022 to 2023. Ms. Simpson referred members to the chart regarding the reasons that the customers are at the job centers.
- The customer satisfaction survey was reviewed by the committee. The Morgan City Center and Evangeline Center have a limited amount of foot traffic. Ms. Foulcard mentioned adjustments to the dates and hours of operation services would be made. However, closing the center is not an option because it is a parish decision.
- Keidrian Kunkel provided the Program Services report.
- Reviewed a success story of the participant Cierra who was having trouble with basic skills. She has since achieved the skills and is now enrolled at Grambling University. She has also started a small business of her own. Cierra was nominated for the Eckerd Excellence Award of \$2,500.00 to utilize for other school necessities.
- Mr. Brown discussed the PY 23 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter performance.

#### **Finance Committee Report – presented by Brenda Foulcard on behalf of Stacey Perrodin**

- The committee met on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Lafayette American Job Center.
- The committee discussed submitting a request to LWC concerning transferring funds from FY24 Dislocated Worker to FY24 Adult.
- Also discussed the ETA Compete grant with One Acadiana. Three additional positions are being requested. These positions will be BSRs to serve 240 businesses per year and to enlist 720 hiring commitments in Iberia, Lafayette, and St. Landry parishes. This is a four-year grant.
- Another proposed grant is W.O.R.C. (Workforce of Rural Communities) which is in the 6<sup>th</sup> round. This grant begins September 30<sup>th</sup> and lasts for 36 months. This is an endeavor to bring resources to the rural communities.
- The Finance committee will request the board to convene a special call meeting to utilize the carryover funds until we can finalize the budget with the actual allocations.

### **Public Comments**

- Lauren Womack, via Zoom encourages subscribing to LRS subscriptions which can be used for employee surveys.
- The Partnership Plus Plan is included in the State Plan

### **Next Meeting Date Announced**

- The next meeting date will be Wednesday, August 7, 2024, and the location will be announced later.

### **Upcoming Events/Updates/Reminders**

- Ethics/Sexual Harassment Training
- Personal Financial Disclosure – Must be done by May 15, 2024, or there will be a personal fine that will be charged.

### **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 am.



Ms. Tessa Brown, LWBD #40 Chairperson



Rita Patterson, LWDB #40 Recording Secretary