

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

### **Quarterly Meeting**

Acadiana Workforce Solutions Office

1638 Creswell Lane

Opelousas, LA 70570

**Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 9:00 AM**

#### **1. Call to Order**

The Local Workforce Development Board #40 Meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Tessa Brown, Chairperson.

#### **Roll Call**

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

#### **Present**

Tessa Brown	Taylor Richard
James Foster	Crystal Romein
Halli Kennerson	Jennifer Stelly
Suzanne Kidder	Amy Thibodeaux
William LaBar	James Trahan
Jason LeMaire	Chad Williams
Michael Pritchard	Ricardo Williams
Hilda Wiltz	

#### **Absent**

Nathan Carbo	April Porterfield
Dr. Bobbie Decuir	Kevin Richard
Aaron Loupe	Mike Tarantino
Stacey Perrodin	Lauren Trahan

**Quorum:** Yes

#### **Guest in Attendance**

Brenda Foulcard	AWS Staff
Garrick Brown	AWS Staff
Rita Patterson	AWS Staff
Philip Streva	AWS Staff
Keithen Domingue	AWS Staff
Kyler Killmer	AWS Staff

#### **Guest in Attendance**

Germaine Simpson	SoLAcc
Deanna Tolliver	Eckerd

## **2. Action Items**

Action items reviewed and voted on include the August 7, 2024 Board Meetings Minutes, the December 2, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes, the 2025 Quarterly Meeting Dates, the AJC Dress Code Policy, and the Eligible Training Provider Policy. Hilda Wiltz moved, and Amy Thibodeaux seconded, that the Action Items be accepted. With no opposition or abstentions, all members were in favor, and the motion was carried unanimously.

## **3. Discussion Items**

- W.I.O.A. Reauthorization – A Stronger Workforce for America Act – Update was presented.
- Governor Task Force Report: The report recommends the consolidation of social services and the development of a regional-based approach.
- The State will conduct annual monitoring on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The BESE Board has implemented new accountability measures. The new model requires the presence of a certified teacher to provide 26 hours of professional development and 106.5 hours of paid work-based learning. Local Workforce Development 40 will collaborate with region 4 school boards.
- The Local Plan is completed and is on our website. The Local Plan follows the State Plan, which is located on the LWC website. The Local Plan indicates how we are going to assist the State with its initiatives. The plan was posted on March 6<sup>th</sup> for 30 days on the website.
- Country Road Inclusion Project – As a mandate of the grant, 1,500 people exposed to the healthcare industry and 450 people placed in employment in the healthcare industry within three years. Priority applicants must be from the rural areas of the 8 parishes we serve. Supportive services such as transportation to and from school or work will be provided. As of this date, we have received 110 applicants. Sixty-seven of the applicants have been contacted and are ready to go through professional development.

## **4. One-Stop Committee**

- The one-stop committee meeting report was presented by Jason LeMaire. Germaine Simpson provided an overview of the One-Stop Operator Report. Deanna Tolliver provided an overview of the Service Provider Report.

## **5. Finance Committee**

- Financial reports were presented to the board for review and discussion.

## **6. Public Comments**

- There were no comments at this time.

## **7. Upcoming Events/Updates/Reminders**

- Board members were reminded to complete the Ethics and Sexual Harassment Training and to provide a copy to the office to be placed in the file.

## **8. Next Meeting Date Announced**

- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., and the location to be announced later.

9. **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

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Tessa Brown – Chairperson

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Rita Patterson – Recording Secretary

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

**Quarterly Meeting**

First Federal Credit Union

2235 S. College Road,

Lafayette, LA 70508

**Wednesday, May 28, 2025, 9:06 AM**

**1. Call to Order**

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

**Roll Call**

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

**Present**

Tessa Brown	Suzanne Kidder
Suzanne Kidder	William LeBar
James Foster	Lauren Trahan
Michael Pritchard	Hilda Wiltz
Jason LeMaire	Stacy Perrodin
April Porterfield	Mike Tarentino
Amy Thibodeaux	Lauren Trahan
Chad Williams	Ricardo Williams
Crystal Romein	

**Absent**

Dr. Bobbie DeCuir	James Trahan
Halli Kennerson	Nathan Carbo
Aaron Loupe	Jennifer Stelly
Kevin Richard	Taylor Richard

**Quorum: Yes**

**Guest in Attendance**

Brenda Foulcard	AWS Staff
Rita Patterson	AWS Staff
Philip Streva	AWS Staff
Kyler Killmer	AWS Staff
Germaine Simpson	SOLAcc
Deanna Tolliver	Eckerd
Joy Latiolais	LWC
Bruce Gaudin	Law Firm
Andre Perez	SOLAcc
Ryan LaGrange	LEDA

**2. Action Items**

2.1 Approval of Minutes, March 19, 2025, Motion by Lauren Trahan and Seconded by Hilda Wiltz. Motion Carried

2.2 Approval of LWDA 40 Local Plan, Motion by Hilda Wiltz, and seconded by Jason

LeMaire, Motion Carried

2.3 Approval of Stipend Policy, motion by Michael Pritchard to forward it to the One Stop Committee, and revisit at the next board meeting. Second by Jason LeMaire. Motion Carried

2.4 Approval By-Laws Amendment, it was motioned by Amy Thibodeaux to begin submitting revisions of sections with a red line version to the board for review and approval. Seconded by Jason Lemaire. Motion Carried

### 3. Discussion Items

- A presentation was made by Tessa Brown, Chairperson, concerning the importance of the board's roles and responsibilities.
- The Youth Summer Academy program is scheduled for June 1, 2025. The participants will engage in one week of professional development, three weeks of work-based learning, and one residential week to engage in medical, leadership, teambuilding and academics at LSUE.
- Updated information was shared concerning Louisiana HB bill 624.

### 4. One-Stop Report

- Germaine Simpson presented the report for the One-Stop Committee.
- She indicated data for the number of visits to the centers, how many veterans and individuals, etc., during the period of July 1, 2024-March 30, 2025. The numbers were in comparison to the same period of 2024.
- There was a total of 18,182 individuals that visited the American Job Centers.
- Referring to the report in the packet, she referenced that there were several reasons for the visits to the centers.
- Deanna Tolliver presented the success story and an update on program services referring to the One-Stop Packet.

### Finance Committee

- Presented by Brenda Foulcard. She indicated that the Finance Committee did not meet. However, she referenced information in the packet.
- She presented the budget amendment and a contract modification to the full board.

### Youth Committee

- Presented by Laren Trahan. She stated a youth committee meeting was held on April 28, 2025. She gave updates on ongoing initiatives, future events, and member recruitment.

### 5. Public Comments

- There were no comments at this time.

### 6. Upcoming Events/Updates/Reminders

- Board members were reminded to complete the Ethics and Sexual Harassment Training and to provide a copy to the office to be placed in the file.

### 7. Next Meeting Date Announced

- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 6, 2025.

8. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 pm.

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Tessa Brown -- Chairperson

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Rita Patterson -- Recording Secretary