

**MEETING OF THE
The Workforce Connection Board**

(The Workforce Innovation Board serving Boone, Winnebago and Stephenson Counties)

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

Regional Design Center, 315 N. Main St.
Rockford, IL

- I. Board Meeting Call to Order:** Chairman Karen Brown called The Workforce Connection Board meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.
- II. Board Members Present (24):** Eric Black, Karen Brown, Nathan Bryant, Michelle Cassaro, Gary Evans, Dr. Lori Fanello, Pamela Fettes, Einar Forsman, Dr. Daniel Grohens, Jerry Guinane, Greg Harle, June Hazzard, Vanessa Hughes, Dr. Doug Jensen, Amy Ott, James Pirages, Frank Rotello, Sam Schmitz, Amanda Smith, Craig Steege, Mark Stefanic, Dr. Rudy Valdez, Dave Young, Jeff Zeal

Board Members Absent(10): Todd Cagnoni, Linda Campos, Candice Cavalier, Alan Golden, Bob Guirl, Tim Hood, Paul Logli, Jordan Priest, Crystal Soltow, Kimberly Wichman

Staff Present: Lisa Bly, Cathy Cornelius, Mike Johnson, Valerie Johnson, Robert Jones Jr., John Strandin

Guests and Partner Staff Present: Tom Austin, Cira Bennet, Thomas Bona, Courtney Geiger, Kim Haley, Jeff Hefty, Dan White,

III. Approval of Consent Agenda:

- Meeting Minutes
 - a. TWC Board 02/06/2018
- Committee Reports:
 - a. Operations Management Council
 - b. Youth Council
 - c. Executive Committee
 - d. Employer & Public Engagement
 - e. Performance Accountability

Motion: Valdez Second: Pirages Approved

IV. Change in Fiscal Entity from RRTC to TWC, effective 07/01/2018 (Action Item):

Rock River Training submitted a letter asking to discontinue the Fiscal Agent Agreement effective August 31, 2018. The Executive Committee and CEOs decided that the transition would be smoother if we were in line with the Program Year.

Motion to approve CEO designation of the fiscal to The Workforce Connection effective July 1, 2018

Motion: Harle Second: Forsman Approved

Employment by industry has expanded its manufacturing, transportation, and healthcare employment.

Overall, the unemployment rate has continued to decline in the area, but our labor force has also declined, which has contributed to the difficulty our local employer's are experiencing in finding workers.

VIII. Business Team

- **Employer Forums:** The Business Team held 2 employer forums in Stephenson County and 1 employer forum for employers in Boone and Winnebago counties. These forums were coordinated with the Economic Development organizations and the Chamber of Commerce. An attendance, follow-up and outcome data report for each forum was presented.
- **Success Story with Staffing Agency (Cardinal Staffing)**
Cira Bennett of the Business Team spoke to the group about a coordinated effort between The Workforce Connection and a staffing agency to meet a Boone County employer's needs. Magna in Belvidere works with Cardinal Staffing to meet some of their staffing needs. The team worked with Cardinal to design a class sized training program for Certified Forklift Operator to quickly get Magna the staff they needed. This was the first project of this type and was very successful.

- IX. Announcements:** The Rockford Area Economic Development Council had opportunities for funding and The Workforce Connection applied for specific funding for Business Services but was not selected. However, we are a part of an initiative with R1PC, Rock Valley College and TWC that got funding.

Karen Brown announced that Lisa Bly will be graduating with her Doctorate of Education and Educational Leadership.

June 21, 2018 will be the Board Retreat from 8am – 12 noon at OSF Healthcare Cardiovascular Institute. The agenda planned will be a Board Assessment, an update of the Regional goals and also Lisa will share her vision.

Amanda Smith announced that on Thursday, May 10th the RVC Adult Education and ELL graduation will be held. Dr. Jensen encouraged everyone to attend this special event.

Amy Ott thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend the National Association of Workforce Board Annual Forum and commented that it helped reinforce that we are focused on the right initiatives. It was also a great opportunity to hear new ideas. The visit to the Washington D.C. Excel Center High School was very informational.

- X. Member Comments:** Dave Young gave an update on WIOA Regional Goal 1 work group whose focus is on Collaboration. This is an effort to integrate Economic Development, education and workforce organizations. The Business Team is creating awareness and their efforts are a good way to move this forward. Employers and HR staff, business to business promotion is now the best way to get the word out how business needs can be addressed by the collaboration.

- XI. Public Comments:** None

- XII. Adjournment:**
Motion to adjourn at 8:50 am.

Board Motion: Smith Second: Valdez Approved

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Cornelius

Date: May 16, 2018

Included in Meeting Packet
TWC Meeting Minutes 02/06/2018)
Committee Reports
Fiscal Agent Agreement-Action Item
One Stop Operator Mid-Year Review Report
One Stop Operator Subaward Agreement Renewal – Action Item
03/31/2018 Financial Reports
Workforce Information Update for LWIA 3