

**MEETING OF THE
The Workforce Connection Board**
(The Workforce Innovation Board serving Boone, Winnebago and Stephenson Counties)
And Chief Elected Officials

Tuesday, June 4, 2019
Regional Design Center, 315 N. Main St.
Rockford, IL

1. **Board Meeting Call to Order:** Chairman Frank Rotello called The Workforce Connection Board meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

CEO Call to Order: Mayor McNamara, City of Rockford, called the Chief Elected Officials meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

TWC Roll Call-Board Members Present (22): Ben Bernsten, Len Carter, Michelle Cassaro, Gary Evans, Dr. Lori Fanello, Pamela Fettes, Einar Forsman, Dr. Daniel Grohens, Jerry Guinane, Bob Guirl, Greg Harle, Tim Hood, Vanessa Hughes, Rebecca Motley, Amy Ott, James Pirages, Kraig Reichwald, Frank Rotello, Dr. Amanda Smith, Craig Steege, Mark Stefanic, Jeff Zeal

Board Members Absent(11): Eric Black, Karen Brown, Nathan Bryant, Todd Cagnoni, Linda Campos, Al Golden, June Hazzard, Dr. Doug Jensen; Paul Logli, Jordan Priest, Troy Primus, Dr. Rudy Valdez, Crystal Soltow

CEO Roll Call-CEO Members Present (4): Thomas P. McNamara, William Hadley, Frank Haney, Cathy Ward (for Karl Johnson)

CEO Members Absent (0): None

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

Guests and Partner Staff Present: Tom Austin; Cira Bennett; Courtney Geiger; Jessica Gonzales; Kim Haley; Mary Ann Kolls

2. **Approval of Minutes:**

Approve TWC Board – 03-05-2019 minutes as presented.

Board Motion: **Ott** **Second:** **Pirages** **Approved**

Approve CEO Board –03-05-2019 minutes as presented.

CEO Motion: **Stephenson** **Second:** **Boone** **Approved**

3. **Approval of Program Year 2019 Preliminary Budget:**

Approve Program Year 2019 (7/1/19-6/30/19) Preliminary Budget as recommended by the Finance Committee, which includes funding for the subawards.

A summary of PY19 funding sources and planned expenditures compared to the current year along with the recommended funding level for the following subawards was presented:

- Goodwill of Northern IL with a subaward to Rock Valley College - Youth Services for Boone and Winnebago Counties
- Regional Office of Education #8 – Youth Services for Stephenson County
- Rock Valley College with a subaward to Goodwill of Northern IL – One Stop Operator / Adult /Dislocated Worker / Trade Career Services
- Rock Valley College – Adult English Language Learner Services

Abstentions: Ben Bernsten - employed by Goodwill Ind. Of NI); Dr. Amanda Smith - employed by Rock Valley College

Committee Motion: Finance Committee Approved
CEO Motion: Stephenson Second: Boone Approved

4. Approval of RFP Awards:

- Approval of Adult English Language Learner Provider
One proposal received, reviewed and scored by the review team. The review team recommended Rock Valley College to continue to operate the AELL contract with the new contract period beginning July 1, 2019.

Abstentions: Amanda Smith – employed by RVC

Board Motion: Ott Second: Pirages Approved
CEO Motion: Boone Second: Winnebago Approved

- Approval of Youth Proposal Award with Work Based Learning Requirements
Four proposals received, reviewed and scored by the review team. The review team recommended Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois with a subaward to Rock Valley College to provide Career Readiness services to in-school and out-of-school youth to the Youth Council as WIOA youth services provider beginning July 1, 2019. The recommendation was accepted by the Youth Council.

Abstentions: Amanda Smith – employed by RVC; Greg Harle – CCS-YouthBuild Council Member; Dr. Lori Fanello – CEANCI Fiscal Agent; Ben Bernsten – Goodwill of Northern IL

Committee Motion: Youth Council Approved
CEO Motion: Winnebago Second: Stephenson Approved

5. Work Based Training Policy Modification:

Approve a modification the Work Based Training Policy to add increased reimbursement for employers hiring special populations.

Board Motion: Harle Second: Forsman Approved

6. Access Site Move in Stephenson County:

Approve a lease with HomeStart in Freeport IL for Stephenson County access site location for LWIA 3. Approval given to Executive Director to work out all details with legal counsel. Term of lease is 1 year with rent being \$900/month.

Approval of lease subject to review and approval of legal counsel.

Board Motion: Hood Second: Fanello Approved
CEO Motion: Winnebago Second: Stephenson Approved

7. Employer and Individual Spotlights:

- **EcoLab – Laura Sage**
Laura Sage spoke to the TWC Board and CEOs about EcoLab's employment needs and how TWC's Incumbent Worker Training funds were utilized to train 13 employees in Shop Math, Metrology and Blueprint training. Morale among those training has significantly increased. The confidence they now have has empowered them and leadership is being developed in all areas. EcoLab plans to continue training in electricity blueprint and laser which will create opportunities for advancement.

- **Individual Spotlight – Adam Belman**

Adam was not able to attend because he had to go to work. He was recently laid off from Chrysler and immediately sought out options. Prior to employment at Chrysler, he applied for an apprenticeship through the Plumbers & Pipefitters and did not qualify but was advised to take some classes. Upon notice of the impending layoffs, on his own he completed online training in math and blueprint reading to better prepare him for reapplication to the apprenticeship program. He reapplied and was accepted. He enrolled in the Dislocated Worker Program through The Workforce Connection and qualified for On the Job Training (OJT). His last day at Chrysler was May 5th and he started his OJT with Total Plumbing & Heating on May 13th. The training he receives through Total Plumbing & Heating applies to his apprenticeship.

The partnership between the Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union 23 apprenticeship program and The Workforce Connection has given Adam the opportunity to pursue a career while being able to concurrently earn a living for his family. This “Learn & Earn” model creates a pathway that benefits both the student and the employer.

8. One-Stop Operator Updates (RVC, IDES and Goodwill):

Mary Ann Kolls gave an update on the Chrysler layoff. She reported that they held 13 Rapid Response Workshops and had 100 jobseekers attend the Hiring Event. In May, 137 individuals attended the Orientation, TABE testing dates have been increased to accommodate the additional applicants. IDES reported that 1148 of the 1371 laid off have filed their Unemployment Claim. 20 of those that filed have registered seeking training. We will see an uptick of those registering for training as their benefits run out. Our Local Workforce Area is still waiting to hear if this layoff will be designated as a Trade Event. A Trade Event designation provides additional federal funds for those impacted by the layoff to pursue WIOA approved training programs that lead to employment.

9. Committee Reports:

Committee Chairs for the following committees reported on the discussions and activities of the committee they represent.

- Finance – Amy Ott reviewed the Finance Report Summary noting that the Minimum Training Expenditure Requirement was met for Adult & DW and Youth Work-based Learning.
- Performance & Accountability – Bob Guirl presented the dashboard for the period PY2018 (07/01/18-03/31/19) and explained what is being tracked and how we extract the metrics. Board members and CEOs had concerns about the duplicated counts relating to available talent pool, Career Center visitors and Career Center services provided. The feedback was helpful to the reporting partners to look at ways to get more precise data.
- Employer & Public Engagement – Gary Evans reviewed the report handout highlighting the WIOA funds spent on Work-based training in Boone, Stephenson & Winnebago counties. Nearly \$400,000 was spent last year resulting in 1318 jobs being filled or upgraded. This year the budget was more than doubled to \$850,000 with 67% of the training focused in the target sectors of manufacturing and healthcare. Gary also reported on the Business Engagement activities for July 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019.
- Youth Council – Dr. Lori Fanello reported on the changes made to the RFP for Youth Services that changed the focus from High School equivalency to work-based learning. She also shared that the council has been having organization spotlights where the partners can learn more about the services that are available through the different organizations. This will promote referrals among the partner agencies.
- Operations Management Council – Dr. Amanda Smith shared that this council is an exciting group and has been working together on the PY2019 MOU negotiations and implementation. They will begin focusing on Service Integration in the new program year to include referrals and co-enrollments.

- Pathways to Careers – Pamela Fettes reported that the group is discussing different initiatives they may want to focus on as it relates to the Governor’s Executive Order and the 2020 Regional Plan. They learned about the pathways that are the focus of the Rockford Public Schools Academy model. The committee will keep their focus on the job openings and be sure they match career pathways to job openings.

10. Board Engagement:

- Kewanee Life Skills Center – Returning Citizens
Rebecca Motley, Chairman Hadley, Dr. Lisa Bly and Chris Connors visited the center which houses a One-Stop Center to learn best practices of working with returning citizens.
- TPM and Workforce Study
Based on what we learned from the TPM project and information from the Workforce Study, the TWC Board will be discussing where to focus in the upcoming year and as Regional Planning process begins. They will dig deeper into the topic at the Board Retreat.

11. Executive Director Report:

Dr. Lisa Bly provided a written report updating the TWC Board & CEOs on her participation in A National Skills Coalition roundtable discussion on the Future of Midwest Skills, Kewanee Life Skills Re-Entry Center visit, Chrysler and Suppliers, Legislator Conversations on the re-authorization of Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) 2020, meeting with Congresswoman, Cheri Bustos and Congressman Adam Kinzinger, DCEO-WIOA Summit in April and attending and presenting at the National Association Workforce Boards in Washington D.C. with board members Karen Brown and Rebecca Motley.

12. Board Chair’s Perspective:

Frank Rotello commented that he can see a lot of positive momentum and is looking forward to digging deeper at the Board Retreat.

13. Announcements: Dr. Lori Fanello will be retiring at the end of June. The Board and CEOs thanked her for her contribution to the Board during her 7 years of service.

It was announced that John Strandin, Communications Manager, will be retiring at the end of June after 13 years of service as Board Staff. John was instrumental in creating consistent branding for The Workforce Connection and its partners. John received a standing ovation.

14. Member Comments: None

15. Public Comment: None

16. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 9:30 am.

Board Motion:	Stefanic	Second:	Fanello	Approved
CEO Motion:	Winnebago	Second:	Stephenson	Approved

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Cornelius

Date: July 11, 2019

Included in Meeting Packet
TWC Meeting Minutes (03-05-2019)
CEO Meeting Minutes (03-05-2019)
Program Year Preliminary Budget Approval – Action Item
Approval of RFP Awards – Action Item

Approval of Work Based Training Policy Modification – Action Item
Approval of Access Site Move in Stephenson County – Action Item
Financial Reports