

**VERMILION COUNTY WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD – WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2021 AT 8:30A**

Members Present: Melissa Hill Erin Leverenz Darrius Tyler Willie Christian III
 Jonathan Jett Joseph Stelzer Gayle Grider Melissa Ronto
 Janice Coleman Maruti Seth Brian Hensgen Stephanie Yates
 Paula Riggle Austin Grammer

Members Absent: Annie Monyok Brittany Woodworth Tim Dudley
Chuck Jones Emily James Jody Wanless Lori Russell
Susan Reynolds Vanetta Harvey

The meeting was called to order at 8:31am.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by JJ, seconded by Melissa. No opposed, motion carried.

Motion to approve last meeting’s minutes was made by Janice, seconded by Darrius. No opposed, motion carried.

There were no audience comments.

There were no action items.

Discussion Items:

Coopetition – JJ stated they have 18 different action items in manufacturing. They range from talking about infrastructure with the city, child care issues, etc. They are talking about doing a “talent share” to be able to share employees within a certain skillset. If an employer is interviewing someone but that employer can’t use them, they’re talking about said employer referring the candidate to another employer that may be able to benefit from that candidate. JJ gave a status update on SkillsUSA, stating it is a competition-based program that he and Nick Chatterton have been working with DCEO to get here for a while. The individual would take courses at DACC with employers’ & unions’ support and advice.

Sealing & Expungement – JJ stated the numbers were low this year with only 32 people served. Chuck mentioned a lot of people had active cases, so with that Land of Lincoln could not work that case. JJ stated that you have to wait for a certain amount of time after the case is completed. He stated that next year when they put the surveys out, they will add a question reflecting their current case status.

Apprenticeship Grants – JJ stated their numbers are way over their expectations. More money has been approved but they’re waiting on legal to be able to use the money. The total number served is 530 and it includes other impacted individuals. JJ elaborated on the statistics of those served.

Build Back Better – JJ stated there is a lot of information out there, and if it’s approved and if what they say is correct, there’s \$4.5 billion that would go towards WIOA programs. There is also some competitive grant money, but it’s been hard to spend the money. He stated this money is unique in that it actually goes through 2026-2031 depending on where the money is allocated. Discussion ensued.

Member Comments:

Janice spoke about a company that trains people to be job-ready. They custom design it to the specific manufacturer. They don’t take up much space and everything is done with a headset, etc. Lindsay will

send information out to the committee after the meeting. Janice mentioned that Goodwill is willing to be a site for this training.

JJ mentioned we will need to update our regional and local plans, so he will be coming to the group asking for updates and/or feedback. Most of the changes will be related to how we've changed things with COVID. Brian stated that there are 3 areas of concentration within the plan. He also stated that, with this being a regional plan in partnership with Champaign County, we want to make sure our local economic issues are listed. He stated we needed to make sure our area's needs need to stand out as well as Champaign's. We need to ensure our data needs to be included and how COVID affected our efforts. Brian mentioned we needed to talk about how to get back on track to where we wanted to go. He stated that DCEO is focusing a lot on workforce development programs through an equity lens and they want to make sure we are including all groups to look at the overall picture for the whole area. JJ will be spending time with a diversity group at DACC to get their feedback on the things they would like to see moving forward. Brian mentioned that hopefully with partner agencies resurfacing into their offices that would allow us to start creating more workshops in our facility, which opens up a population of people who could be working or going to school. He stated the goal is to do anything we can do to identify populations as we finalize these plans. These are due at the end of March.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2022 at 8am, location TBD.

Motion to adjourn was made by JJ, seconded by Maruti. No opposed, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:51am.