



Mississippi Valley Workforce Development Board

Business Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 11:00 a.m., via Zoom

Members Present: Mandy Parchert, Stacy Borgeson, Chris Caves, Kelley Brown, Lindsay Trumbull and Emily Benjamin

Members Absent: Caitlin Bliesener (excused), Stephanie Torrance (excused)

CEO: Don Schwenker

Staff Present: Miranda Swafford, Executive Director, Mandy Tripp, Compliance Officer Tyler Lanz, Strategic Partnership Specialist

Guest: Sunday Saunders, Jamie McLaughlin, and Travis Robinson

CALLED TO ORDER

Parchert called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

QUORUM

There was a quorum to conduct business.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included agenda approval, approval of Bliesener and Torrance's excused absences, and previous meeting minutes. Brown made a motion to approve it, seconded by Benjamin and the motion carried.

RETRAIN & RETAIN GRANT INTEREST UPDATES

Lanz advised she met with Superior Tube, they also received 260 E/F grants, Lanz advised she followed up with the state for guidance on them receiving both of those plus the Retrain & Retain, the state advised it is allowed. Lanz advised she is meeting with American Power Systems tomorrow and appreciated the referral from Caves. Lanz advised Siemens was referred by the State to avert some layoffs and they are meeting later this afternoon.

COMPETENCY MODELS

Lanz advised she and Swafford met with the Superintendent of West Burlington Schools who is retiring in June. They decided to start with healthcare since they have classes and SCC has classes that align in that area. It is a tiered system to build soft skills and technical skills into the curriculum. There is a healthcare convening next week in Burlington to bring employers together to determine what skills they would like to see built into the curriculum. Lanz advised still working on a realistic timeline with the West Burlington Schools.

***RIVERCITIES ENGINEERING GRANT APPLICATION**

Lanz advised they also received 260E/F grants, so an exception will have to be requested. The committee discussed each section of the scoring rubric and the final score of 17/20 to be considered for

approval. Benjamin made a motion to award \$10,000 in grant funds and an exception to the current policy to allow even though the company receives 260 E/F grants as well., Caves seconded the motion and the motion passed.

IOWAWORKS MOBILE UNIT

Lanz advised the Mobile Unit is up and running, they did some initial runs around the Des Moines area and some issues, so they were working through those issues. It is currently in Burlington and the staff are being trained. There are events set up, however Rapid Response events will take priority.

BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATE

Lanz reviewed the business services from February and advised we are hitting our goals for new businesses. Lanz reviewed the job fairs that were held in February. Next Hire Talent Tuesday is March 19, 2024, and the next Opportunity Knocks tomorrow. There is a reverse hiring job fair for the Steamwheelers next week. We held a Leap into Inclusion event on February 29, 2024, which was attended by 7 employers. We are having a follow-up meeting on how we engage more employers to attend. Lanz advised April 18th, 2024, will be an employer education event for hiring Refugees and a job fair on May 23, 2024, in Rock Island. Lanz advised we received notification of business closure for Hackett Electric in Muscatine, a WARN was issued for Zachry Industries regarding the Bayer Muscatine facility, and we have not received a WARN yet, but have had preliminary meetings with West Liberty Foods for their upcoming spring layoffs. Caves asked if there was any technology or translation assistance for employers who want to hire refugees.

OTHER BUSINESS

Caves asked if anyone is familiar with the FAME apprenticeship through Toyota. Trumbell advised she can connect Caves with EICC CTE Dean who will have information on that since EICC has been involved for a while with it.

Parchert asked if there were any changes to the Registered Apprenticeship info that came out from the State, Swafford advised at this time there is no firm language being submitted, but there are a lot of ideas out there. Before Iowa can reapply, they will have to change some state legislation first to be accepted, they will still have to run through the DOL.

Brown wanted to shout out to Swafford and Tripp for their quick responses to help her answer an RFI.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

Caves made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Brown, and Parchert adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.