

W.I.B.

(WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD) of LWIA #15

Serving the counties of: Fulton, Marshall, Mason, McLean, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell and Woodford

MINUTES

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Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2020

12:00 (noon) to 1:30 pm (approx.)



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I. Roll Call and Introductions – Chairman, Sam Lewis

Chairman, Sam Lewis opened the meeting at 12:00 pm. Roll call was taken.

Board Members Present:

Christine Davis(Zentech), Mark DeKeersgieter(CIRBN), Wendy Hess(Unity Point), Kelli Hill(Heartland C.C.), John Hubert(CAT), Lori Johnson(Peoria Goodwill), Bill Lawrence(PLR Insurance), Sam Lewis(Pridestaff), Todd Mundorf(NRG), Curt Oldfield(SRC), Steven Petersen(Waste Management), Arnitria Shaw (ICC), Jeff Strode(Mid National Bank), Steve Timmermann(First Farmers Bank), Sergio Talavera (IDES), Lizette Tripur(DHS-DORS), David White(Connect-Transit) & Brian Wipperman(Marcfirst).

Board Members Absent:

McFarland Bragg(PCCEO), Larry Crouch(Mahoney Crouch & Mahoney Ins.), Brian Ford(Facet Tech), Darell Sarff(Kennedy-Sarff Real Estate), Chris Setti(Greater Peoria EDC), Matt Watchinski(West Central Bldg. Trades Carpenters Union) & Deborah White(MCCA).

Career Link Staff:

Steve Martin(Executive Director), Dena Weth(Assistant Director), Leeann Whitlatch-Norris (Fiscal Director), David Vaughn(Technical Specialist/Planner/EO officer), Dona Nanney(Business Service Rep-McLean County), Norm Griffin(Business Service Rep.-Peoria County) & David Taylor (Systems Manager), Kelly Schapmire(Program Manager) & Tami Rouse (Career Planner, Stark/Marshall Co.)

Guests:

Warren Cheatham(One Stop Center Manager), Jody Wanless(IDES), Dawn Fentem(ICC), Sherry Laible-White(DHS), Tony DeAssuncao(DCEO) and John Whalen, Director of LEDC (Laborers' Economic Development Council)

II. *ACTION ITEM: Approval of Wed., July 15, 2020 'Google Virtual Meeting' Minutes

A motion was made by Steve Timmermann and seconded by Mark DeKeersgieter to approve the Wed., July 15, 2020 'Google Virtual Meeting' Minutes with the amendment made to Sherry Laible-White to read DHS not IDES. Motion carried.

III. Spotlight Participant (Stark County) – Dena Weth, Assistant Director/Stark County Career Planner, Tami Rouse

Dena Weth introduced the Spotlight Participant Presenter, Tami Rouse who is Career Link's Office Manager/Senior Career Planner for both the Wyoming, IL (Stark County) and Henry, IL (Marshall County) offices. Tami Rouse shared the story of client/customer, Deidra Gallagher. *'Deidra is from Stark County and was a participant in the Adult funding with Career Link. Deidra was a single parent of a 4 yr old and a 1 month old. She was a SNAP recipient and had earned her GED not too long ago. Her desire was to go to school to become a Dental Assistant. After much deliberation and many, many meetings, Deidra decided to enroll at Midwest Technical Institute to pursue her dream. She began her training and graduated with a 3.71 GPA and earned her certification. She began applying to find her dream job. Then COVID struck and everything shut down. We worked on her resume and kept applying. Finally she was able to interview on the telephone and through ZOOM. She has been hired through a family dental office in Peoria making \$17.00/hr working around 25 hrs/week. At the end of July she had earned a raise to 17.50/hr and her hours have been increased to 35 hrs/week. She is no longer participating in the SNAP program and has recently gotten married!'* Tami stated that Deidra wanted to express to the WIB Board and Career Link staff her gratitude for the program that was available to her, as she felt that anyone that was in her shoes would have never had the ability to succeed the way that she did. She stated that these programs truly change people's lives and she hopes that more people will take advantage of these types of programs in pursuit of their dreams and get the assistance to help them be successful in their lives. Deidra expressed her thank you to everyone that helped her dreams come true. The WIB board members applauded.

IV. Report on the Re-Opening Status of Offices – Steve Martin, Executive Director

Steve Martin reported on the re-opening of the Career Link offices and One Stop Center offices. He stated that all Career Link offices are closed to the Public and the Staff remain working remotely from their homes & periodically working from their respective offices on staggered shifts. The Peoria IL One Stop Center remains unsafe to open to the Public as there have been a few unsafe incidences in the parking lot. IDES is currently paying for one (1) armed guard and the other armed guard is being paid by the One Stop Center Partners. There is an uncertainty as to when the Career Link offices will return to full time in-office status with the opening of all eight county offices. Staff continue to enroll new participants via the website application process. Steve stated that each month he sends out emails to all Career Link staff as reminders of their health and safety during these unprecedented times with COVID-19. Steven Petersen expressed his concern about armed guards being needed. Steve Martin explained that Jody Wanless and Sergio Talavera work from the Peoria, IL One Stop Center and expressed that at one time recently, an ad that was falsely placed on GOOGLE.com stated that the O.S.C. was opened and the Public became agitated over finding out this was a false ad and that they were not going to be allowed inside the Peoria, IL office bldg. Threats of guns were made to some staff and police responded. There was a priority to hire an additional armed guard to patrol the premises. Board member, Steven Petersen expressed that the well-being and safety of the staff is of the highest concern and that he is sorry that this incident occurred. There was no further discussion.

V. *ACTION ITEM: Approval of MOU 2020 revisions- Steve Martin, Executive Director

Steve Martin stated that the WIB Board members were sent the MOU 2020 revisions for their review. These revisions were requested by DCEO for the MOU that was sent in June 2020 with the additional revisions letter to DCEO that was signed off on by LWIA #15 WIB Chairman, Sam Lewis and County Board Chair, David Zimmerman (Tazewell Co. Board Chairman). **A motion was made by Steven Petersen and a seconded by Brian Wipperman to approve the MOU 2020 revisions. Motion carried.**

VI. *ACTION ITEM: Approval of Negotiated Performance Goals for 2020 and 2021 – Steve Martin, Executive Director/David Taylor, Performance Manager

Steve Martin stated that the WIB Board members were sent a 'SCORE CARD' spreadsheet with the various Funding TITLES for Dislocated Workers, Youth and Adults. He stated that Career Link had been meeting with DCEO in anticipation of the negotiation of the performance goals for the performance years of 2020 and 2021. This Score Card reflects very high scores for Career Link's performance during the last three years. These are higher, compared to the other LWIA's throughout the state. Asst. Director, Dena Weth, and Program Manager, David Taylor assisted with all of these goals. Steve stated that all of the set goals are obtainable. Steve also stated that DCEO did not want to negotiate with COVID in play with all of the affects that it is having with schools, etc. But they will be doing a statistical adjustment at the end of the year and reevaluate this later in the year. There was some discussion. **A motion was made by Steve Timmermann and seconded by Mark DeKeersgieter to approve the negotiated Performance Goals for 2020 and 2021. Motion carried.**

VII. RFQ to Procure MOU Technical Assistance - David Vaughn, Technical Specialist/Planner/EO officer

David Vaughn stated that an RFQ is needed for the MOU Negotiation for Technical Assistance. In the past, the negotiator was to be a neutral party in leading the PARTNER's MOU. W.E.S. (Workforce Enterprises Solutions) was hired for the past several years to serve as the neutral facilitator of the MOU process. These contracts are procured every three years, with a one year contract with the option to renew for two additional years. On Sept. 18, 2020, Career Link distributed the MOU RFQ (Request for Quotes) on behalf of the WIOA partners & public notices were placed in the Peoria Journal Star and The Pantagraph. Bids are due on Friday, Nov. 20, 2020. All bids received will be rated by representatives from the core partners that make up the consortium on behalf of the rest of the partners. The four (4) Core Partners are Career Link, DHS-Rehabilitation Services, ICC-Adult Education & IDES. A contract will be entered with the selected bid. There was no discussion.

VIII. MOU – Illinois Migrant Council - Steve Martin, Executive Director

Steve Martin stated that the IL Migrant Council had lost their grant to administer the National Farm Workers program and all staff were let go as of Sept. 30, 2020. It was revealed that this grant was taken up by an Agency that is located in Wisconsin; UMOS (United Migrant Opportunity Services). UMOS and IL Migrant Council are currently in contact to work on the transition process in order to start Migrant services in Wisconsin, Illinois and Missouri. Steve reached out to the UMOS Illinois contact, Shirley Ivio and she stated that they will serve under their grant, in the LWIA #15 eight-county area but they will not have an office in the LWIA #15 area. They will have an office in Rock Island, IL. Most likely there will not be a representative to sit on the LWIA #15 WIB Board nor will UMOS will not be contributing to the One Stop Center budget, but a rep. will probably sit on the LWIA #15 Partners MOU Negotiation process, when that occurs. Other topics will need to be addressed as well, during the negotiation process in the coming months. Kelli Hill asked what were the types of services were provided that the IL Migrant Council had through the grant that they lost. Steve stated that they were providing jobs for the services to migrant workers through the National Farm Workers Job Program. Sam Lewis asked if at one time had an office in Bloomington, IL. Dena Weth stated that they had representatives that would come into the Bloomington Career Link office to use the Conference room but no office in the Bloomington/Normal area. Career Link, Program Manager, David Taylor stated that they had an office in the Pekin, IL area. IDES, Jody Wanless stated that she believes that the Peoria office may be receiving a hired rep to work with Farm Workers. Steve Martin said that even though there

will also be an office in Champaign, IL they will not be co-located there. Steve stated that the only office that will be co-located will be in Rock Island, IL. Steven Petersen expressed concerns about the immigrant population to be taken care of in the LWIA #15 without having a rep. in a secured office. Steve Martin stated that he believes the migrant workers will continue to receive services the area, regardless. There was no further discussion.

IX.RFQ to procure One Stop Operator RFP – Warren Cheatham, One Stop Center Manager

Warren Cheatham stated that the One Stop Operator is a Consortium of the four (4) CORE Partners: IDES, Career Link, ICC-Adult Education and DHS-Rehabilitation Services who act as the One Stop Operator. These four entities had to write a bid to the Board and they were selected and their contract is expiring on June 30, 2021. Therefore, this bid process is required before June 30, 2021. A RFQ (Request for Quotation) was issued to find an entity to write up the RFP (Request for Proposal) that the four CORE Partners would respond to and any other entity that wanted to do so. There were no responses, by the due date of Oct. 16, 2020, therefore a new RFQ will be reissued. There is a new timeline for groups and organizations to put in a bid. The new deadline is now Jan. 8, 2021. There was no further discussion.

X.RFQ to procure Partner Website – Warren Cheatham, One Stop Center Manager

Warren Cheatham stated that one of the major initiatives that came out of the committees, that were working on service integration, was to develop a partner website. A RFQ (Request for Quotation) was issued and three (3) responsive bids were received. These were rated by a panel; One Stop Manager, Warren Cheatham, Career Link Tech. Specialist/Planner, David Vaughn and Career Link Peoria Office Mngr. Karen Burkhart. The winning bidder was 'Business Builders', who happened to also win the bid to develop the new Career Link website. They have done very good work, so far. The cost was \$8,450. All of the proposals were competitive. Business Builders had an advantage with a female-owned-business and one of the rating criteria was '*Did you have experience with the WIOA*' and Business Builders happened to, by virtue of working on two other projects; the development of the Career Link website and creation of a Resource Brochure, which they did free of charge. There was no discussion.

XI.*ACTION ITEM: One Stop Center Evaluation Plan Report Updates – Warren Cheatham, One Stop Center Manager

Warren Cheatham stated that one of the requirements for the One Stop Center Evaluation Plan was to do a formal monitoring of the One Stop Operator and the system. This is an internal document report, only, but it is a process that needs to be formalized so that it shows that the WIB Board is paying attention to what the One Stop Operator is performing and being successful. A rating tool was borrowed from another region and adopted it, to a degree, and formed a committee of the four core partners; DHS-Sherry Laible-White, Steve Martin-Career Link, Jody Wanless & Sergio Talavera-IDES and Lizette Tripur-DRS. Warren Cheatham was the facilitator. The document was sent out with the responses that the committee felt were warranted for each of the categories, along with some comments on some of them. Most responses were '*yes, we are meeting expectations*'. One area that is in the process of being accomplished is the '*Evaluation from Clients*'. **A motion was made by Dave White and seconded by Curt Oldfield to accept the results of the monitoring of the One Stop Center Evaluation Plan Report for the program year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. Motion carried.**

XII.IDES Performance Data - Jody Wanless IDES Regional Manager, Northwest Region

Jody Wanless IDES Regional Manager, Northwest Region provided an update on the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic and IDES office claims processing. She provided Statewide statistics to the Board.

*In 2019 there were 530,579 initial-claims filed for unemployment for the entire 2019 year.

*To date, in 2020 from Jan. through Aug. in 2020, there have been 1,772,977 initial-claims filed, which does not include any 'continuing' claims filed.

*The breakdown by month in 2020 were as follows: 1.) Feb. 2020 = 39,916 initial-claims filed 2.) March 2020 = 433,235 initial-claims filed 3.) April 2020 = 519,269 initial-claims filed

After April, the claims started to decline. In August, it was down to 106,042 initial-claims filed, statewide. For the EDR #3, which is where the Peoria, IL IDES office is located in, from Jan. thru Sept. there were 83,000 initial-claims filed. These numbers do not reflect any Pandemic U.I. claims. These are just regular unemployment claims. In the last three weeks ending Oct. 3rd, 2020, there were 36,267 initial-claims filed. The following week ending Oct. 10th, 2020, there were 47,528 initial-claims filed. The third week of Oct, 2020, the numbers were almost 60,000 in addition to the 7,400 filed in PUA so there were 70,000 initial-claims (first time filers). There is a significant upward climb in the claim numbers, which makes sense, since this is the busy time of the calendar year anyway, but COVID-19 cases are on an incline, as we know it, so these upward climbs may be part of the reason for the increase in initial-claim filings. The current Oct. 2020 is a 500% increase from Oct. 2019. When COVID-19 had first started, the IDES staff was staffed for the lowest unemployment rate they have had. Dealing with these unprecedented numbers has been very mind-boggling. Sam Lewis stated that it appears that we are in a low unemployment rate not a high unemployment rate. Jody Wanless expressed that many people do not want to return to work due to the additional \$600 supplement that the Feds handed out on top of their regular U.I. benefits, which began in March and ended the last week of July. She stated that some of the reasons could be that the claimants were making more on U.I. with the \$600 supplement, or they are afraid of returning back to work for fear of getting COVID, or some are just taking the U.I. benefits, that is now set for one full year rather than the initial 26 weeks, so they elect to not return back to work. U.I. offices have hired hundreds of staff to meet the high demands of initial-claims being filed, but it takes time to train the newly hired U.I. staff quick enough to handle the huge caseloads. She stated that there are

plenty of jobs available, but people are not returning back to work due to several possibly reasons: the extended length in time for receiving U.I. benefits, many childcare centers are closed, many schools are closed, the 'CARES ACT' funding, as well as the fear of contracting COVID at places of employment. Jody stated that if an employee is refusing to return to a job, the employers can fill out a form on the U.I. website to report employees refusing to return to work. There are also fraudulent claims along with data breaches. These are being addressed immediately. These fraudulent issues present a very large problem. EDR #3 area U.I. staff typically work 7 am to 7 pm (includes overtime hours) and the Service Delivery staff; those that speak to the claimants, the staff that typically work from the local office, are also working at the local office. The Call Center staff are working from home and most of the outlying staff are working from home. The Service Delivery staff are the only department in the agency that is still coming into work every day. There was some discussion.

XIII. Updates by Four Core Partners – Warren Cheatham, One Stop Center Manager

Warren Cheatham provided the opportunity for the four (4) CORE Partners to report on any significant events happening, etc.

* IDES - Jody Wanless IDES Regional Manager, Northwest Region provided updates in the last AGENDA Item XII.

* ICC (Adult Ed) - Arnitria Shaw, Dean of College & Career Readiness, provided updates and stated that ICC as a college is up and functioning but courses are being delivered in either online-anytime or online a-synchronize mode. The Adult Ed program has followed suit but also offering classes in those formats for students and bringing students to campus in small numbers was necessary to take various tests, etc. The Perkins Program is up and running. Most staff are not working on campus, so in order to reach the college, Arnitria stated their standard telephone numbers are set up 'soft' phones which will ring at staff's home computers. There are logistics with how to accommodate the numbers of people safely. Certain depts. are open such as financial aid, etc. Both the Peoria Campus and the East Peoria Campus are open and students can walk-in as well as call to make appointments. There have been reconfigurations to keep everyone as safe as possible. Dawn Fentem and Arnitria are working off campus and periodically come into their respective offices. The college campus are all fully functioning. There are other programs that are still running. Courses are staggered so that rooms can be cleaned in between for in-class students. Clinicals are still ongoing, as well, using PPE etc. In the Spring of 2020, the 'CARES ACT' funding was received to help those students who are experiencing hardships during COVID. ICC was awarded the 'GEER' grant (Governor's Emergency Education Relief) around mid-July 2020 to help students enroll in classes for Fall 2020. The target number slated to assist was 100 students but ICC was able to assist 150 students and these students had to have barriers such as case management, mentoring, tuition assistance, etc. Numbers are down, but it seems that this is attributed to Child Care for adults who are parents who do not have access to child care services that have shuttered during the COVID-19 pandemic. Challenges remain but ICC is seeing things through with well thought out planning. Technology and support seems to be the biggest challenge to students and this is being addressed, as well as books, etc. Enrollment is at a brisk pace for Adult Ed. WIB board member, Steve Petersen gave Kudos to Jeff Gardner in the Diesel Program, in which his son is enrolled in.

* DHS-Rehab. Services - Lizette Tripur, Public Service Administrator, reported that they are continuing to provide services even though their buildings are not open to the Public. They continue to be engaged with customers and referrals that are sent to them and DHS is available through phone/emails. They continue to provide services for students who want to attend college with College initiatives providing funding. Counselors have been providing counseling and guidance, placement services, physical restoration services, etc. Lizette stated that they are fully operational. There are a limited number of staff that come into the office but are fully functional. Lizette met with Normal, IL Career Link staff, Shelly Purchis, last week to coordinate services and exchange referrals for individuals that may benefit from each Agency.

* Career Link – Steve Martin provided updates in the previous AGENDA Item IV.

XIV. The National Disaster Grant Update Report – Dena Weth, Assistant Director

Dena Weth stated that the National Disaster Grant Opportunity Act is a direct result of COVID. Previously there was a 1E grant for Fulton County that was intended to help with the flood damage that occurred with Banner Marsh rebuilding etc. The National Disaster Grant is described more as humanitarian which is directed more towards non-profit business who need assistance in getting up and running again, or to keep them going if they get up and running. Career Link was asked to come up with job descriptions for 29 positions. Dena expressed that the program is set up similar to Career Link's Work Experience program with formula customers where there is an agreement contract with businesses. Career Link is the employer at-large and the work site is responsible for the supervision for the individual.

This is for 29 hours per week, which is the maximum amount of hours, and the rate of pay is an hourly rate that the organization would pay someone similar in that position. Dena reminded the Board that these positions are specific only to COVID. As an example, a custodian would not be cutting grass but work more in the field of cleaning classrooms, etc. It is expected that Career Link makes sure that nothing other than COVID related duties are taking place. The total grant \$250,444. The startup date is June 1, 2020 and runs through March 31, 2022.

Dona Nanney, McLean County Business Service Rep, stated that in Sept. 2020 Career Link placed a participant at Home Sweet Home Missions in Blmgt., IL as a relief kitchen assistant and they are sanitizing & cleaning the kitchen/dining room areas. Dona expressed the need for two other positions; Data and Administrative Support positions at MCCA (Mid Central Community Action) and Marcfirst. This is in the works to getting this taken care of. Dena expressed that the Stark County School district was originally not going to be in session but then they went into session so the job descriptions had to be changed. Generally the grant is specific to Dislocated Workers where as a person can be eligible through regular Dislocated Worker channels but now the

opportunity is now opened up to those with no work history or to those that within the last 24 months have only worked seasonal jobs or those who have lost their job more than once. This grant is specific to individuals who are looking only for the work aspect to where they do not want to go on with training at this point. The hope with this grant was that at least two participants, who worked initially with just the work aspect, would want to continue with training.

Tami Rouse, Career Planner for Stark County stated that she had a participant who was hired eff. 10-20-2020 as a COVID Safety custodial for Stark County District #100. She is sanitizing public touch points, lavatories, doorknobs, counter tops, sweeping, etc. She may want to continue further with Career Link in training aspects. Dena stated that recruitment works, is that an Ad is put into the Stark County newspaper, as well as the Career Link's website. Dona Nanney, McLean County Bus. Rep, stated to contract her with any referrals that the WIB Board members may have of anyone who is familiar with a Dislocated Worker looking for work at this moment. The positions are specific to the organization. She stated that they have to be non-profit only and she offered to send a list of the organizations and the positions that are available. This will be emailed to all WIB Board members soon.

XV. Enrollment Numbers Report: Youth, DW, Trade, Adult – Dena Weth, Assistant Director

Dena Weth provided a brief overview of the enrollment number report by county of the populations and what they stand for.

- 1.) **Adults** are low income or basic skills deficient.
- 2.) **Dislocated Workers** have either been laid off from their job due to no fault of their own and the position is listed unlikely to return or there has been a business closure or a substantial layoff.
- 3.) **Youth** are either attending post-secondary or are in a high school prevention program or in the out-of-school drop-out recovery program
- 4.) **Trade** customers are those whose business has moved outside of the states: Businesses include ATI, Populus, Ardois and Mitsubishi

Dena stated that there are numerous in-school and out of school programs and due to the hybrid set up, online or even in person, it has been very difficult to obtain paperwork from parents, the students and even the schools. She stated that they anticipate after certification a total of 490 registrants in LWIA #15.

XVI. Review of Online Assistance/Assessment of Customers – Kelly Schapmire, Program Manager

Kelly Schapmire, Career Link Program Manager stated that all offices are currently closed to the Public but the offices are fully functioning; both remotely and in-office. The Office Managers are continuing in receiving client applications via electronically and mail-in applications from customers for both training and career services. These are then referred to the Career Planners as needed. Career Planners are creative in how to meet with customers whether by ZOOM, GOOGLETEE, telephone or text messaging. In order to obtain signatures, there is a program called 'SIGN NOW' that is being utilized and very easy to use for customers and Career Planners to get signatures via electronically to prepare files for certification. The Resource Room Technicians are helping customers via telephone and answering any questions and also referring them to other agencies for additional assistance as well as printing resumes for customers and mail them out, all without opening the offices to the Public. There was no discussion.

XVII. *ACTION ITEM: Follow-up Policy Changes - Dena Weth, Assistant Director

Dena Weth referred to the Follow-up Policy Changes documents. The two-way communication technique is an 'absolute' whether via telephone, in person or through social media. Follow-up contact was agreed to, however, after every effort to contact the exited participants which presented a problem. The solution is for the benefit of the entire state. She referred that when a customer that does not respond to any contact attempts, they can still be exited after every attempt to contact them has been made. A change of the Follow-up policy will be to add customers who were offered follow-up, who have not obtained unsubsidized employment. Also, there is an additional guideline for Youth who are unable to be located or contacted. **A motion was made by Mark DeKeersgieter and seconded by Steve Timmermann to approve the updated Follow-up Policy. Motion carried.**

XVIII. Business Services Rep. Reports {OJTs, IWTs, etc.} – Norm Griffin (Peoria Co. Rep) & Dona Nanney (McLean Co. Rep)

Norman Griffin stated that the OJTs are continuing. There is one at Custom Power Products where the customer is doing very well. There are several Incumbent Worker projects that should have been completed, but due to COVID, they have been extended; Morton Industries in Morton, IL and Bogar in Wyoming, IL. HVAC company, and an insulation company for the incumbent workers training, which continues to be very important to these smaller companies and allows them to free up resources and send individuals for training making them more valuable to the company and if that individual leaves the company, they carry with them a certification in their position. Oct. is 'Manufacturing Month' so five (5) companies will be participating in a **Virtual Career Fair on Oct 27th from 1 – 2:30 on IllinoisworkNet.com.** Those companies include Bella Elevator, Caterpillar in Mapleton, Natural Fiber Welding, Zentech in Blm/Nrml & J-tech Industries in East Peoria. This Virtual Career Fair will allow individuals that are potentially collecting benefits, to be aware of positions in manufacturing and will follow the base objective for Manufacturing Month that continues to support Manufacturing in the area and continues to be a high demand occupation. There is hope for great attendance. He asked the WIB Board members to inform all that may be interested in attending the **Virtual Career Fair on Oct 27th from 1 – 2:30 on IllinoisworkNet.com.**

Dona Nanney expressed that last month an OJT enrollment was completed and ended and there are currently four(4) Incumbent Workers. 1.) Zentech (formerly Camtech) of Blmtn, IL recently finished a contract, 2.) ACC Electronics in Normal, IL has Incumbent Worker Training Contract for ERP Record Systems training 3.) Bridgestone has Incumbent Worker Training Contract for

Multi Skill Maintenance & Reliability training and 4.) Heritage Operations recently had a LPN client obtained her RNA and working with another client employee attending Heartland C.C. and will obtain her A.S. in nursing in May 2021. There are three pending incumbent worker projects soon to be running. There was no discussion.

XIX. Laborer's Apprenticeship Grant Report – Steve Martin, Executive Director/Dena Weth, Asst. Director

Steve Martin commented on the Apprenticeship Grant report. Currently there are three people in the program. The enrollment is low due to the COVID. One client is certified and receiving mileage from Fieldcrest, IL that is in the Laborer's Apprenticeship and an additional person that is certified is from Olympia that lives in Stanford, IL who is not receiving mileage but they are certified and Career Link is paying for their tuition. There is a third student that paperwork is being completed. Hopefully next year the enrollment will be expanded ten-fold. On **Nov. 8 -14, 2020 is Apprenticeship Week**. Career Link's Business Representatives will reach out to Laborers Apprenticeship and Bridgestone to see if they want to highlight their services and programs as part of Apprenticeship week. Dena Weth added that she spoke to the Director, Tom Frazier, of B.A.C.C. (Bloomington Area Career Center) regarding the Construction Laborers' grant. Mr. Frazier indicated that he attended a meeting with 25 counselors representing the seventeen(17) schools that feed into the B.A.C.C. and discussed about the enrollment next year into the Apprenticeship program.

John Whalen, Director of LEDC (Laborers' Economic Development Council), which is an affiliate of LiUNA (Laborer's International Union of North America), expressed that last year in 2019 there were four (4) participants at the Stanford school with one of the four who had to drop out. Part of the reason for the low numbers was that the contracts were trying to get aligned and the word didn't get out about the Apprenticeship Program, as anticipated. John Whalen feels that the Laborers' Apprenticeship program is in the right place now and the timing is right, so that next fall 2021, they will get the full 15 participant compliment that it is anticipated, after the COVID-19 pandemic settles down. There was no discussion.

XX. Other Comments

There was no other comment.

XXI. Public Comments

CEO of IL Migrant Council, Maggie Rivera, reported, as did Executive Director, Steve Martin, that IL Migrant Council lost their grant to Wisconsin and that all staff were laid off in Illinois. Maggie expressed that the Migrant Council is not going away and they will continue to support the process and there are other projects that are in the making. She provided her email and phone number for anyone who would like to contact her at (815) 995-0300 and mrivera@illinoismigrant.org to get more information. She expressed her thankfulness in all the Partners and Career Link's efforts and involvement with IL Migrant Council. Steve Martin expressed his thoughts regarding all those who have lost their employment status and expressed his gratitude for Mary Phalen's involvement and hopes for the best for all those affected by the loss of the IL Grant. There was no discussion.

In addition, Steve Martin expressed that Career Link's Fiscal Director, LeeAnn Whitlatch was married in Sept. this year and her new name is now LeeAnn Norris. LeeAnn spoke briefly and was very happy for the recognition! 😊

XXII. *ACTION ITEM: Adjournment

A motion was made by Mark DeKeersgieter and a seconded by Arnitria Shaw to adjourn. Motion carried. 2:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Kotte, recording secretary
Executive Secretary

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