

# W.I.B.

## (WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD) of LWIA #15

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

### MINUTES

Wed., October 16, 2019

12:00 (Noon)

#### LOCATION:

Carpenters Local Union No. #237,  
2412 N. Main St., East Peoria, IL 61611



#### **I. Roll CALL and Introductions**

President Chairman Sam Lewis opened the meeting at 12:00 with a roll call of board members and guests present. He introduced new WIB Board members and each gave a brief introduction: Kelli Hill Chris Setti, Brian Sarrif, Chris Setti and Brian Wipperman

**Board Members Present:** Mark DeKeersgieter, Brian Ford, Wendy Hess, Kelli Hill, John Hubert, Lori Johnson, Andrew Kerr, Sam Lewis, Laura Mass, Ronn Morehead, Curt Oldfield, Steven Petersen, Mary Phelan, Brian Sarrif, Chris Setti, Jeff Strode, Steve Timmermann, Lizette Tripur & Brian Wipperman.

**Board members Absent:** McFarland Bragg, Larry Crouch, Christine Davis, Vince Knight, Bill Lawrence, Todd Mundorf, Matt Watchinski, Dave White & Deborah White.

**Career Link staff:** Dena Weth-Assistant Director, LeeAnn Whitlatch-Fiscal Director, Warren Cheatham-One Stop Center Manager, David Vaughn-EEO Officer-Planner-Tech Specialist.

**Guests:** Dawn Fentem, ICC, Robin Gathers, PPEOC, Jody Wanless, IDES, Tony DeAssuncao, DCEO and Angela Kerry, DORS, Kerry Urquizo (HCC) and John Whalen of LiUNA.

#### **II. \*ACTION ITEM: Approval of the June 19, 2019 WIB Minutes**

**A Motion was made by Mark DeKeersgieter and seconded by Laura Maas to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2019 WIB meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **III. Participant Spotlight-Participant Recognition of IL Workforce Partnership State Award Winner: Havana, IL (Mason Co.) Presenter; Carol Kuchan, Mason Co. Career Planner (Introduction by: Dena Weth, Asst. Director)** Dena Weth briefly introduced Carol Kuchan



At age twenty Emily Ogden faced many overwhelming barriers, including grave medical problems, family dysfunction and debt. Emily surmounted these obstacles with courage, grace & hard work, making her an excellent example for all.

Emily had serious health problems throughout adolescence. While having no health insurance, Emily had undergone many procedures. Medical bills incurred before Emily's majority had not been paid. Emily could not receive treatment locally due to these bills which she was led to believe were her responsibility. Emily's car was on her mother's insurance, and Emily paid half the bill. However, after an accident, Emily

learned that the policy had lapsed. A high school student, Emily had to pay for damages; she was fined and forced onto high-risk insurance. Two years later, she was swimming in debt. Debbie Yetter, Career Link teacher at Havana High referred her to us.

Emily had done some coding work for the state one summer. She wanted to be a medical coder. When advised that coding was a difficult course of study, Emily's resolve didn't soften. "I can do it," she replied. Emily was referred to DHS for food stamps and Medicaid. Having to leave her part-time job for school, Emily began work experience at the Havana Career Link office where her hours were tailored to her class schedule. In a calm and nurturing atmosphere, Emily received encouragement and financial counseling. She disavowed any medical bills incurred when she was a minor. She was separated from her mother's high-risk insurance. Angry over Emily's growing independence, her mother made life at home impossible.

Emily moved to Beardstown with a friend. Driving to Springfield for classes, then to Havana for work, and back to Beardstown every day necessitated a round trip over 200 miles per day. Emily's car was insufficient to the task. Six months into her schooling, Emily had an accident on an icy road that totaled her car. Using her new budgeting skills, Emily had already saved money for a down payment on a reliable car. Emily was transferred to MTI for work experience shortening her drive where she received outstanding support from Shelia Wilson. Throughout her program, Emily suffered expensive and extensive medical diagnostics and treatments. She also suffered emotional anxiety due to her the possibility of life-changing surgery, and her mother's on-going problems. Emily persevered and maintained all A's at school, despite her illness and stress. Fearing that she would have to have surgery, Emily took her medical AAPC test in early December prior to doing her externship. She scored the 5<sup>th</sup> highest of anyone who has ever taken that test at MTI.

Emily graduated with straight A's and was honored by being asked to speak at graduation in May. She is employed fulltime at Springfield Memorial as a medical coder. She has medical insurance and reliable transportation. She moving closer to Springfield to avoid a long commute and family conflict. She has stopped taking responsibility for actions other than her own. Her radiant smile is ever-present.

#### **IV. Core Partner Reports - Warren Cheatham, One Stop Center Manager**

- **IDES**
- **DHS Vocational Rehabilitation**
- **Career Link**
- **Illinois Central College**

Warren stated that at the last Core Partner meeting they discussed that the WIB Board is a Board for all partners and therefore the culture of it being just Career Link vs representatives from all Partners to be represented at the future WIB meetings. There were some partners that provided the WIB board with their services that they provide. Jody Wanless of IDES, Lizette Tripur of DHS Vocational Rehabilitation Services Dena Weth of Career Link and Andrew Kerr and Dawn Fentem of ICC each provided a brief description and report of the recent year practices at each of their agency. Sam Lewis provided kudos to Warren for his hard work throughout his reporting. Dena Weth extended her thanks for the work that Warren has provided.

#### **V. Executive Committee Report – Warren Cheatham, One Stop Center Manager**

Warren provided information on the Executive Committee meeting that had the approval of documents for the state regarding the Service Integration and the Apprenticeship Program, which were approved by the Board. There was no discussion.

#### **VI. Service Integration Update – IDES Jody Wanless, Interim Regional Manager, Northwest Region and Warren Cheatham, One Stop Center Manager**

Warren explained what Service Integration is and he and Jody Wanless were partnered to implement this region #15 strategy for the five levels of Service Integration. He provided a hand-out to the board members to review.

- VII. **Update on OSO Marketing – Warren Cheatham, One Stop Center Manager**  
Warren provided an update on the One Stop Operator Marketing. The MOU negotiations last year decided on what is the costs for each partner. One of the negotiations was for to market employer engagement for services. He stated that there are public Orientation sessions as well as Job Fairs each month. Also there is a Facebook. Also a website page is being set up for public to access which is an all-inclusive for all partners. There was no discussion.
- VIII. **One-Stop Operator Annual Report - Warren Cheatham, One Stop Center Manager**  
Warren provided an Annual report for the board to review. There was no discussion.
- IX. **\*ACTION ITEM: One Stop MOU Revisions - David Vaughn, Tech. Specialist, Planner, EEO officer**  
David Vaughn stated that on Sept. 27, 2019 a letter was received with some simple changes that needed to be made. After these minor changes, the MOU must be resubmitted to the State. **A Motion was made by Dave White and seconded by Brian Ford to approve the One Stop MOU Revisions. Motion carried unanimously.**
- X. **DCEO Monitoring Reports – Dena Weth, Assistant Director**  
Dena Weth provided a handout and gave a report on DCEO Monitoring. She stated that we had an excellent monitoring from April 2018 to March of 2019. There was no discussion.
- XI. **Enrollment Numbers – Dena Weth, Assistant Director**  
Dena Weth provided a handout and gave a report on Enrollment Numbers for the Career Link Program. There was no discussion.
- XII. **Youth Programs – Dena Weth, Assistant Director**  
Dena Weth provided a report on Youth Program school year of 2019 and 2020. The listing provided the class and school locations and GED recovery programs and the transitional youth programs.
- XIII. **Public Comments**  
There was no public comment
- XIV. **Other Discussion**  
There was no other discussion
- XV. **\*ACTION ITEM: Adjournment**  
**A Motion was made by Mark DeKeersgieter and seconded by Andrew Kerr to adjourn. Motion carried. Adjournment 12:57 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Theresa Kotte, recording secretary  
Career Link, Executive Assistant