

Minutes
Twin Districts Workforce Development Area
Local Elected Officials Board

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 9:30 AM
914 Sullivan Drive, Hattiesburg

PRESENT

Wayne Barrow, Bobby Bolton, Lorenzo Carter, Marvin Chapman, Curtis Gray, Kenneth Harris, Calvin Newsom, Joe Norwood, Dwight Norris, Burkett Ross, Bobby Rushing.

STAFF

Allison Hawkins, Patricia Morrison, Marilyn Minor, Kenny Jett, Shari White, Emlyn Jackson, Shonta Duncan, Marvin Dickey, Natalia Diaz, Grant Wesley.

ABSENT

Terry Bass, Clark Bond, Jackie Bradford, Henry Cochran, Christopher Cole, Travares Comegys, Donald Hart, Arthur Keys, Marlin Ladner, Kirby Nazary, Obbie Riley, Greg Shaw.

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

LEO Chair Calvin Newsom greeted those in attendance and called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Mr. Wayne Barrow motioned to approve the agenda; Mr. Marvin Chapman seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Mr. Curtis Gray motioned to approve the minutes from last meeting (July 20, 2021); Mr. Marvin Chapman seconded. Motion carried.

TWIN DISTRICTS UPDATE

Ms. Allison Hawkins presented the Twin Districts Update. SMPDD recently had a monitoring Exit Call with MDES; there were no findings. Ms. Hawkins thanked Ms. Patricia Morrison and Ms. Shari White for ensuring the process went well. With this success, there should be no problems with the upcoming audit.

MDES is being monitored as well, which will include several SMPDD/TDWDA programs.

Ms. Hawkins introduced a new SMPDD Staff member, Ms. Natalia Diaz, who is the new Economic Development Project Manager. Ms. Diaz expressed her gratitude to be a part of the team, and is looking forward to working with the Board on future projects.

Following Mr. Melton Harris' unfortunate passing, a special election is currently underway in Jackson County to select his replacement.

Ms. Judith Redshaw has resigned from the Workforce Board after many years of faithful service, and has moved to Missouri to be closer to her family.

Ms. Lana Dobbins, who was appointed to the Workforce Board by Mr. Wayne Barrow, has declined her nomination. She is already serving on multiple boards in addition to running her company. However, Ms. Dobbins did express interest in the TDWDA, and hoped to be more involved in the future.

Mr. Ryan Miller has implemented his first new project since becoming Executive Director of the Office of Workforce Development/Accelerate MS. This new project involves a much needed Diesel Mechanic Program utilizing Workforce Enhancement Training (WET) Funds that were previously administered by the Community College Board.

Mr. Miller and his staff have been very cooperative with SMPDD and other workforce entities.

The Office of Workforce Development/Accelerate MS has also divided the four Mississippi Workforce Board Areas into eight distinct workforce "ecosystems." This will allow for more unique programs tailored to each specific region, and to the business and industries that they contain. In addition, each "ecosystem" will have its own committee to give input. These are not meant as a replacement for the current system, but as a complement.

Mr. Newsom inquired about the WET Funds, and if these new programs would end up siphoning money from the Community Colleges and their programs. Ms. Hawkins explained that it was an administrative/organizational change, and that the Colleges would still be well funded. This new Office of Workforce Development will allow for a wider range of training opportunities both in and outside of the Colleges.

TWIN DISTRICTS FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Newsom called on Ms. Shari White to present the Financial Report.

Ms. White began her report with the PY21 Overview of Current Funding. On June 24, 2021, TDWDA received PY21 NFA #1, which allocated \$2,823,202 to Youth funds.

On July 22, TDWDA received NFA #2, which allocated \$980,583 to Adult and Dislocated Worker funds. OGM issued this NFA authorizing TDWDA to expend and request a limited amount of these funds.

On October 19, TDWDA received NFA #3, which allocated \$4,387,283 also for Adult and Dislocated Worker funds. This NFA authorized the remaining Adult and Dislocated Worker funds for PY21.

These allocations bring PY21's Total Funds Available to \$15,661,301.71.

Ms. White continued with the Obligation and Expenditures Summary. Program Year 21 began on July 1, 2021, and will end on June 30, 2022. The expenditures reported are for cost through 09/30/21.

As for Obligations, Adult was 86.2% obligated, Dislocated Worker 85.6%, Youth 73.5%, and Rapid Response/Layoff Aversion 17%.

As for Expenditures, Adult was 18% expended, Dislocated Worker 16%, Youth 14%, and Rapid Response/Layoff Aversion 4%. Overall, TDWDA has expended 16% of its PY21 Obligations.

As for Expenditures by Quarter, we have expended \$1,917,367.26 in this 1st Quarter. Ms. White also explained that our expenditures this time last year were only \$1,507,067.39, so they are trending upwards. We are expecting the expenditures to continue that upward trend.

Ms. White had one more update. At our last meeting, we discussed the unexpended PY19 youth funds. SMPDD submitted our PY19 Closeout to the Office of Grant Management, returning \$357,681.70 in youth funds. OGM has informed us that they will be returning those youth funds to TDWDA.

Mr. Marvin Chapman asked about the total amount of WIOA funds allocated to the State, and how it was divided among the Workforce Areas. Ms. White explained that she did not have that information on hand, but would have report for next meeting showing the funding breakdown between the Workforce Areas.

Ms. White concluded her report. Mr. Newsom called for a motion to accept both Ms. Hawkins' and Ms. White's reports.

ACTION: Mr. Dwight Norris motioned to accept the reports given by Ms. Shari White and Ms. Allison Hawkins; Mr. Marvin Chapman seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Calvin Newsom presented Ms. Lucy Lamberth as an appointment to the TDWDA Workforce Board. Ms. Lamberth is the Director of Workforce Grants & Development at Meridian Community College. Mr. Newsom called for a motion to accept the appointment.

ACTION: Mr. Joe Norwood motioned to approve the TDWDA Workforce Board Appointments; Mr. Wayne Barrow seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Dwight Norris asked about the Workforce Board member qualifications. Ms. Allison Hawkins explained that the majority of seats available were for the owners and/or managers of a private business within the Twin Districts Workforce Development Area. However, appointments were not limited to the county the LEO member represented; i.e. any LEO member could appoint someone from any TDWDA county.

Mr. Norris also took a moment to congratulate Mr. Calvin Newsom on being appointed as First Vice President of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors, the position formerly held by the late Mr. Melton Harris.

ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, Mr. Calvin Newsom motioned to adjourn the meeting.

ACTION: Mr. Lorenzo Carter motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Dwight Norris seconded. Motion carried.