

Minutes
Twin Districts Workforce Development Area
Local Elected Officials Board

Tuesday, January 25, 2022 9:30 AM
914 Sullivan Drive, Hattiesburg

PRESENT

Wayne Barrow, Marvin Chapman, Henry Cochran, Christopher Cole, Curtis Gray, Sr., Kenneth Harris, Arthur Keys, Calvin Newsom, Dwight Norris, Obbie Riley, Burkett Ross.

STAFF

Allison Hawkins, Patricia Morrison, Marilyn Minor, Shari White, Penny Patterson, Marvin Dickey, Natalia Diaz, Grant Wesley.

ABSENT

Terry Bass, Bobby Bolton, Clark Bond, Jackie Bradford, Lorenzo Carter, Travares Comegys, Donald Hart, Marlin Ladner, Kirby Nazary, Bobby Rushing, 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. Christopher Cole motioned to approve the agenda; Mr. Wayne Barrow seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Mr. Curtis Gray motioned to approve the minutes from last meeting (November 16, 2021); Mr. Dwight Norris seconded. Motion carried.

TWIN DISTRICTS UPDATE

Ms. Allison Hawkins presented the Twin Districts Update. She began stating that SMPDD is working closely with the State on the Combined Workforce Plan update. It will be submitted in the Spring, and will be available to view on the SMPDD website, as well as the State's.

We are working closely with the Department of Education on the Perkins Plan, which covers students in K-12. SMPDD is providing input based on our Workforce experience

and accumulated data aligned with our Sector Strategy, particularly on Career and Technical programs.

Youth Procurement is underway, and ads have been posted in the local newspapers. The bid package will be available on the SMPDD website on Monday, January 31. A Bidders' Conference will also be held at the SMPDD Hattiesburg Office and via Zoom on Monday, February 7. Attendance is not required for potential bidders, but will provide important details and information on the bidding process.

Youth Program monitoring has been completed. Along with contracted Youth Provider sites, SMPDD also operates four Youth sites on its own. A third-party monitor was hired by SMPDD to evaluate these sites. There were no major findings; however, the monitor recommended that the separation of duties within the program could be improved. Based on this recommendation, Shonta Duncan, who runs the SMPDD Youth Program, will no longer be involved in the procurement process. Procurement will now be handled by other staff.

Since the start of the pandemic, enrollment numbers for the WIN Job Centers and other workforce programs have been low. In an effort to address this, SMPDD has partnered with the Governor's Job Fair Network and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College to host two upcoming job fairs. The first will be at MGCCC Jackson County Campus on February 14, and the second at their Harrison County Campus on February 15.

Ms. Hawkins introduced Ms. Penny Patterson to the LEO Board. She joined SMPDD early last summer as a Project Manager in Economic Development. Mr. Henry Cochran took a moment to thank Ms. Patterson and SMPDD as a whole for their work in grant writing, and in helping George County.

After some discussion, Ms. Hawkins and the LEO Board set the date for the next TDWDA Board meeting for April 26, 2022.

Ms. Hawkins concluded her report.

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 December 14, 2022, TDWDA received PY19 NFA #7 Youth in the amount of \$315,892.50. As reported at the last meeting, the PY19 Youth Funds that were not expended at 06/30/21 have been officially been returned to TDWDA. That now brings TDWDA's PY21 Total Funds Available to \$15,977,194.21.

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 12/31/21.

As for Obligations, Adult was 99% obligated, Dislocated Worker 86.1%, Youth 80.9%, and Rapid Response/Layoff Aversion 17%.

As for Expenditures, Adult was 33% expended, Dislocated Worker 29%, Youth 26%, and Rapid Response/Layoff Aversion 5%. Overall, TDWDA has expended 29% of its PY21 Obligations. Ms. White also noted that PY21 Youth Work Experience Rate is at 44.3%.

As for Expenditures by Quarter, we have expended \$1,917,367.26 in the 1st Quarter, and \$1,970,652.92 in the 2nd Quarter, totaling \$3,888,020.21. Ms. White explained that our Expenditures this time last year were only \$2,971,749.54, so they are continuing to trend upward.

Ms. White continued with the PY21 WIOA Local Area Allocations. This data was requested by the LEO and Workforce Board at the last meeting.

Ms. White presented a Transfer of Funds Request, which would move \$500,000 from the Dislocated Worker stream to the Adult Funding stream, due to the fact that 99% of current Adult Funds have already been allocated. Ms. White called on Mr. Newsom to request a motion to approve the request.

ACTION: Mr. Joe Norwood motioned to approve the Transfer of Funds Request; Mr. Arthur Keys seconded. Motion carried.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Calvin Newsom presented three new appointments to the TDWDA Workforce Board: Mr. John Poelma from MGCCC, Ms. Laura "Missy" Lewis from PM Farm Supply, and Mr. Cory Nelson from Boondocks Deer Processing. Mr. Newsom called for a motion to accept these appointments.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

ACTION: Mr. Marvin Chapman motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Wayne Barrow seconded. Motion carried.