

Minutes
Twin Districts Workforce Development Area
Local Elected Officials Board

Tuesday, July 26, 2022 9:30 AM
914 Sullivan Drive, Hattiesburg

PRESENT

Wayne Barrow, Jackie Bradford, Lorenzo Carter, Kenneth Harris, Arthur Keys, Calvin Newsom, Joe Norwood, Burkett Ross, and Greg Shaw.

STAFF

Allison Hawkins, Patricia Morrison, Shari White, Shonta Duncan, Marvin Dickey, Grant Wesley.

ABSENT

Terry Bass, Bobby Bolton, Clark Bond, Randy Bosarge, Marvin Chapman, Henry Cochran, Christopher Cole, Travares Comegys, Curtis Gray, Sr., Donald Hart, Marlin Ladner, Kirby Nazary, Dwight Norris, Obbie Riley, and Bobby Rushing.

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Mr. Jackie Bradford motioned to approve the agenda; Mr. Lorenzo Carter seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Mr. Greg Shaw motioned to approve the minutes from last meeting (April 26, 2022); Mr. Kenneth Harris seconded. Motion carried.

TWIN DISTRICTS UPDATE

Ms. Allison Hawkins presented the Twin Districts Update. She began by stating that all Program Year 2022 contracts are in place, and that we are close to finalizing the One-Stop Operator subaward with MDES.

The Emergency WIOA Out-of-School Youth RFP procurement process has been completed, pending approval at the TDWDA Workforce Board meeting immediately following this meeting.

SMPDD has partnered with MDES to host job fairs, but as we approach the Holidays attendance is expected to decrease.

SMPDD is negotiating performance with the State. Once finalized, the results of which will be shared with the other Workforce Areas.

The TDWDA Annual Meeting will be hosted overnight in Meridian, with a tentative date set for the week before Thanksgiving. As with previous annual meetings, one day will be for hosting Workforce-related workshops, while the second will have the LEO and Workforce Board meetings.

Accelerate MS released a RFP for high school career coaches. This one-year pilot program will place grant-funded career coaches at participating high schools.

Ms. Hawkins took a moment to introduce Mr. Edward Hargrove, who will begin working with Accelerate MS as an Ecosystem Coordinator on August 1. Mr. Hargrove will be operating in our Workforce Area.

The deadline for the Local Plan Update has been extended to September 30. Since this will be before the next TDWDA Board meeting, SMPDD will request authorization from the Board to allow the Executive Committee to approve the Local Plan.

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 May 31, 2022, TDWDA received NFA #500-20-7, which extended the ending date for the PY20 Youth funds and the PY20 Layoff Aversion/Rapid Response Funds.

June 30, 2022 would have been the ending date for these funds; however, SMPDD submitted an extension request to the Office of Grant Management (OGM). OGM approved the extension request for an additional seven months. The revised ending date is now January 30, 2023.

As a reminder, the Layoff Aversion activities include:

1. Strategic Planning
2. Business Outreach
3. Incumbent Worker Training
4. Performance Data Collection and Tracking

5. Economic Analysis
6. Dislocated Worker activities

Ms. White continued with the Obligation and Expenditures Summary. Program Year 21 began on July 1, 2021, and ended on June 30, 2022. The expenditures reported are for cost through 06/30/22.

As for Obligations, Adult was 100% obligated, Dislocated Worker 100%, Youth 100%, and Rapid Response/Layoff Aversion 14.1%.

As for Expenditures, Adult was 77% expended, Dislocated Worker 61%, Youth 42%, and Rapid Response/Layoff Aversion 28%. Overall, TDWDA has expended 58% of its PY21 Obligations. Ms. White also noted that PY21 Youth Work Experience Rate is at 44.03%.

As for the remaining funds, all PY21 Unobligated funds carry forward into PY22. PY21 Closeout packages are due from the adult and youth providers by August 15, 2022. All unexpended funds will be de-obligated, and those funds will carry forward into PY22.

As for Expenditures by Quarter, we have expended \$1,917,367.26 in the 1st Quarter, \$1,970,652.92 in the 2nd, \$1,923,342.35 in the 3rd, and \$3,077,597.58 in the 4th, totaling \$8,888,960.14. Ms. White explained that last year's expenditures at this time was \$6,796,384, which is a \$2 million increase, so our expenditures are continuing to trend upwards.

Ms. White continued with the PY22 Overview of Current Funding. The PY20 and PY21 estimated Carryover is \$7,788,234.07. We will not know the actual carryover amount until the PY21 Closeout package is received in mid-August. The PY22 Allocation is currently \$2,431,193 for Adult, \$2,428,377 for Dislocated Worker, and \$2,569,189 for Youth (on July 8, 2022, TDWDA received NFA #500-22-1 which is the first NFA for PY22, and it allocated TDWDA youth funds). This brings us to a total allocation of \$7,428,759, and the Total Funds Available to \$15,216,993.07.

Ms. White finished with the PY22 Obligation and Expenditures Summary. Program Year 2022 began on July 1, 2022, and will end on June 30, 2022. Adult funds are 96.6% obligated, Dislocated Worker 86.5%, Youth 81.7%, and Rapid Response/Layoff Aversion 14.7%. Ms. White noted staff have been very busy getting the PY22 sub-awards in place, and that services to the TDWDA area have continued.

Mr. Newsom asked about the Layoff Aversion funds, and why they have not been used as much as the other funds. Ms. Hawkins explained that Layoff Aversion funds cannot normally be used until needed, such as for mass layoffs or business closures. However, more recently, we have been able to implement them with job fairs.

Ms. White concluded her report.

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

ACTION: Mr. Lorenzo Carter motioned to accept the reports given by Ms. Shari White and Ms. Allison Hawkins; Mr. Wayne Barrow seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Newsom introduced Ms. Valerie Wilson, Director of the Petal Chamber of Commerce, as Mr. Burkett Ross' appointment to the TDWDA Workforce Development Board. Mr. Newsom called for a motion to confirm Ms. Wilson's appointment.

ACTION: Mr. Burkett Ross motioned to appoint Ms. Valerie Wilson to the TDWDA Workforce Development Board; Mr. Greg Shaw seconded. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ACTION: Mr. Lorenzo Carter motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Wayne Barrow seconded. Motion carried.