

Minutes
Twin Districts Workforce Development Area
Local Elected Officials Board

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 9:30 AM
914 Sullivan Drive, Hattiesburg

PRESENT

Wayne Barrow, Clark Bond, Marvin Chapman, Arthur Keys, Marlin Ladner, Calvin Newsom, Joe Norwood, and Burkett Ross.

STAFF

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

ABSENT

Terry Bass, Bobby Bolton, Randy Bosarge, Jackie Bradford, Lorenzo Carter, Henry Cochran, Christopher Cole, Travares Comegys, Curtis Gray, Sr., Kenneth Harris, Donald Hart, Kirby Nazary, Dwight Norris, Obbie Riley, Bobby Rushing, and 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. Arthur Keys seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Mr. Arthur Keys motioned to approve the minutes from last meeting (November 30, 2022); Mr. Clark Bond seconded. Motion carried.

TWIN DISTRICTS UPDATE

Ms. Allison Hawkins presented the Twin Districts Update. She began by stating that the TDWDA Local Plan Update has been approved by the Governor's Office. The Update extends the Local Plan another two years, at which point it will require a full re-write.

Of the 15 allotted AccelerateMS Career Coach positions, 13 have been filled. The remaining two slots are in Neshoba and Newton County School Districts.

State Legislators appear to be in favor of increasing AccelerateMS Career Coach funding from \$8 million to \$16 million. This would effectively double the number of Career Coach positions. While it is likely the pass, the specific Bill number is unknown. Once that is determined, however, a template letter will be provided to the LEO members to send to the Legislators to garner further support.

The Mississippi Associations of Supervisors (MAS) Mid-Winter Conference is next week (January 24-26). Ms. Hawkins and Ms. Patricia Morrison will be in attendance.

Ms. Hawkins took a moment to introduce Ms. Elena Borel, who is the new EWD Finance Specialist and will be working with Ms. Shari White.

Federal and State regulations require that the WIOA TDWDA Board administered programs be monitored for compliance and performance at least once annually. Since the TDWDA Board staff work in tandem with the program operators to implement activities and services to our job seeking customers, procuring an independent monitor should alleviate any appearance of potential conflict of interest and maintain proper firewalls and internal controls. If approved, the Request for Proposals (RFP) for PY22 WIOA Monitoring Services will be released January 30, 2023, with an expected contract start date of April 1, 2023. Ms. Hawkins requested that the LEO approve the Solicitation Schedule for this RFP. Mr. Newsom called for a motion.

ACTION: Mr. Marlin Ladner motioned to approve the PY22 WIOA Monitoring RFP Solicitation Schedule; Mr. Marvin Chapman seconded. Motion carried.

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 PY22 Overview of Current Funding. At the November meeting, the LEO approved the transfer of \$750,000 from PY21 Dislocated Worker fund to PY21 Adults funds. On December 14, 2022, MDES OGM approved that transfer request. The Funding Overview reflects that transfer. The Total Funds Available remains at \$15,216,993.07.

Ms. White continued with the Obligations and Expenditure Summary. Program Year 22 began on July 1, 2022, and will end on June 30, 2023. The expenditures reported are for the Second Quarter costs - the period ending 12/31/22. The Obligations were as follows: Adult was 100% obligated, Dislocated Worker 80.9%, Youth 88.6%, and Rapid Response/Layoff Aversion was 40.7 %. The overall obligation for all funds was 85.4%.

As for Second Quarter (12/31/22) Expenditures: Adult was 42% expended at \$1,828,631.45; Dislocated Worker 25% at \$640,683.82 (Please note that Adult expenditures are nearly three times higher than Dislocated Worker expenditures); Youth 27% at \$1,463,035.61; and Rapid Response/Layoff Aversion was 84% expended at \$514,105.73. Overall, TDWDA has expended 34% of its PY22 Obligations. Please note that the PY22 Youth Work Experience Rate is at currently at 38.82%.

Next, Ms. White points out to the LEO that we currently have \$613,821.51 in unobligated Dislocated Worker funds, and to keep this in mind. We have \$706,445.69 in unobligated Youth funds. SMPDD Staff are currently working with one more Youth provider, and that sub-award should be executed soon. In regards to Rapid Response/Layoff Aversion funds, SMPDD has submitted a request to the Office of Grants Management to transfer the unexpended PY20 Rapid Response Layoff Aversion funds to PY20 Rapid Response Dislocated Worker funds. This will free up approximately \$297,000 in Formula (Regular) Dislocated Worker funds. This will be in addition to the \$613,821.51 currently unobligated Dislocated Worker funds. Since Dislocated Worker expenditures are only 25%, Ms. White requests that \$500,000 be transferred from PY22 Dislocated Worker funds to PY22 Adult funds to meet projected obligations and expenditures.

ACTION: Mr. Arthur Keys motioned to approve the Transfer of Funds request to move \$500,000 from Dislocated Worker to Adult; Mr. Marvin Chapman seconded. Motion carried.

Ms. White continued with the Expenditure by Quarter Report. Expenditures for 2nd quarter were \$1,961,163.82, with total expenditures this year at \$4,446,456.61. In comparison to last year expenditures at this time (total expenditures were \$3,888,020.21) is an increase of \$558,436.40, so our expenditures are continuing to trend upwards.

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

ACTION: Mr. Clark Bond motioned to accept the reports given by Ms. Allison Hawkins and Ms. Shari White; Mr. Arthur Keys seconded. Motion carried.

ONE-STOP COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Newsom called on Ms. Rebecca Brown to present the One-Stop Committee report. Ms. Brown began with the One-Stop Certification status. She explained to the LEO that multiple WIN Job Centers were conditionally certified as One-Stop Operators through December 15, 2022, to allow them to address minor issues that barred them from full certification. However, mostly due to circumstances outside the WIN Centers' control, some of these issues have yet to be rectified. Other Centers were conditionally certified through a later date, but they may not be able to address the Committee's findings within the time given. These WIN Centers include Carthage, Philadelphia, Columbia,

Pascagoula, Gulfport, Meridian, and Hancock County. Ms. Brown suggests to the LEO that the conditional certifications that have expired, or will expire, for non-compliant WIN Job Centers to be extended to April 30, 2023. This will give them time to make the necessary changes and allow for follow-up visits preceding the April TDWDA Board meeting. Mr. Newsom called for a motion to approve this extension.

ACTION: Mr. Arthur Keys motioned to approve the extension of the One-Stop Conditional Certifications; Mr. Wayne Barrow seconded. Motion carried.

Ms. Brown continued, and presented the Solicitation Schedule for the One-Stop Operator and Career Services Provider. The Request for Proposals (RFP) will release February 14, 2023, with a due date for proposals set for March 16. Proposals will be evaluated by the One-Stop Committee through March/early April, with the selected proposal(s) presented to the TDWDA LEO/Workforce Board at the April meeting (exact date TBD). Ms. Brown requests that the LEO approve the Solicitation Schedule. Mr. Newsom called for a motion.

ACTION: Mr. Marvin Chapman motioned to approve the One-Stop RFP Solicitation Schedule; Mr. Joe Norwood seconded. Motion carried.

Ms. Brown concluded her report.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Newsom announced that the meeting packet includes copies of the TDWDA LEO By-Laws and the TDWDA Conflict of Interest policy. In order to maintain WIOA compliance, every LEO member must read these items and sign the corresponding Acknowledgement forms. Signed forms must be returned to SMPDD staff as soon as possible.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ACTION: Mr. Marvin Chapman motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Arthur Keys seconded. Motion carried.