

**Minutes**  
**Twin Districts Workforce Development Area**  
**Local Elected Officials Board**

**Thursday January 22, 2026 9:30 AM**  
**914 Sullivan Drive, Hattiesburg**

**PRESENT**

Christopher Cole, Stephen Lee, Calvin Newsom, Joe Norwood, Obbie Riley, Greg Shaw, Steve Stringer, George Walters

**ABSENT**

Nathan Barrett, Terry Bass, Demarrio Booth, Randy Bosarge, Steven Crowell, Terry Frazier, Donald Hart, Hal Hayes, Jon R. Jones, Arthur Keys, Darron Keyes, Frankie Massey, Dillon McInnis, Kirby Nazary, and Tim Wise

**STAFF**

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

**WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**ACTION: Mr. Greg Shaw motioned to approve the agenda; Mr. Steve Stringer seconded. Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION: Mr. Christopher Cole motioned to approve the minutes from last meeting (October 1, 2025); Mr. Greg Shaw seconded. Motion carried.**

**TWIN DISTRICTS UPDATE**

Mr. Newsom called on Ms. Allison Hawkins to present the Twin Districts Update. She began by announcing that Mr. Kenny Jett has retired after 20 years of service to SMPDD and the TDWDA Board.

WIOA will most likely receive level funding this year, based on Congressional activity. However, Adult Education funding, is still questionable.

As announced last meeting, MDES received \$5.7 million as part of the Industry-Driven Skills Training Fund, which will be directed to shipbuilding efforts. Ms. Hawkins introduced Ms. Stephanie Murray of Bollinger and Ben Weldon of Huntington-Ingalls Shipbuilding, who are in attendance and will be utilizing these funds.

Ms. Hawkins concluded her report.

## **TWIN DISTRICTS FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Newsom called on Ms. Shari White to present the Financial Report. She began her report with the Program Year 2025 (PY25) Funding Overview. The total PY24 carryover, which included the Unobligated and the Unliquidated Obligations totals \$3,075,301.12. The PY25 Allocations, which included a 10% decrease from the prior year, are as follows: Adult \$1,804,473; Dislocated Worker \$1,877,566; Youth \$1,889,355. The total allocation for PY25 is \$5,571,394.00, and the total funds available are \$8,646,695.12.

Ms. White then went over the PY25 Funding Highlights. On December 18, 2025, TDWDA received PY25 NFA #4, which provided the TDWDA the authority to expend and request PY25 Adult Advance funds, in the amount of \$1,461,623.00. Also, on December 18, 2025, TDWDA received PY25 NFA #5, which provided the TDWDA the authority to expend and request PY25 Dislocated Worker Advance funds, in the amount of \$1,483,276.00. On December 30, 2026, The OGM approved TDWDA's PY25 transfer request. At our last board meeting, the Transfer of \$317,000 from PY25 DW Advance funds to PY25 Adult Advance funds was approved. Copies of these NFAs can be found in the meeting packet.

Ms. White continued with the Obligations and Expenditure Summary. The expenditures reported are for the Third Quarter costs - the period ending 3/31/25. The Obligations were as follows: Adult was 97.9% obligated, Dislocated Worker 88.9%, Youth 100%, and Rapid Response/Layoff Aversion was 100%.

Ms. White then summarized the expenditures through December 31, 2025, and made special note that the MDES expenditures for December 2025 have not yet been reported, and are not included in the totals. Adult was 25%, Dislocated Worker 27%, Youth 46%, and Rapid Response/Layoff Aversion was 33% expended. Overall, TDWDA has expended 33% of its PY25 Obligations, equaling \$2,707,244.82. Please note that the PY25 Youth Work Experience Rate is at currently at 40.78%.

Next, Ms. White went over the Unobligated Remaining Funds. Unliquidated Obligations are funds that were obligated, but not expended. The Unobligated funds were as follows: Adult funds totaling \$65,865 and Dislocated Worker \$266,018.

Ms. White continued with the Expenditure by Quarter Report. Expenditures are as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter expended \$1,280,944.45 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter \$1,426,300.37.

Ms. White concluded her report. Mr. Newsom called for a motion to accept both the Twin Districts Update and the Financial Report.

**ACTION: Mr. Steve Stringer motioned to accept the reports; Mr. Obbie Riley seconded. Motion carried.**

## **YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Newsom called on Ms. Lillie Graves to present the Youth Committee report. Ms. Graves began with the current enrollment. Program Year 2025 is off to a good start, despite lower funding. The number of Youth being served is close to pre-COVID levels, with 121 Out-of-School youth and 33 In-School youth served so far.

SMPDD Youth Program monitoring will also begin soon, and updates on that will be available at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Graves then presented the PY25 SMPDD Youth Subaward Modification. This includes a Budget Modification to better align with our current expenditure projections. Cost adjustments were made in the Direct Training, Work Experience, and In-School/Out-of-School categories; however, no additional dollars have been added and the total subaward amount is unchanged. The other subaward provisions also remain unchanged. Mr. Newsom called for a motion.

**ACTION: Mr. Greg Shaw motioned to approve the PY25 SMPDD Youth Subaward Modification; Mr. Christopher Cole seconded. Motion carried.**

Ms. Graves concluded her report.

## **ONE-STOP COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Newsom called on Ms. Rebecca Brown to present the One-Stop Committee Report. Ms. Brown began by announcing that the Meridian WIN Center has moved into a new location. Because of this, the new location needs to be certified. One-Stop Committee members visited the site on January 9, 2026, and the Center opened on January 20. At the time of the visit, there was still some work that needed to be completed, including some painting, ADA signage installation, and updating Google Maps. Most of the work has been completed or will be soon, and the One-Stop Committee recommends that the new Meridian WIN Center be conditionally certified through March 31, 2026. Mr. Newsom called for a motion.

**ACTION: Mr. Obie Riley motioned to conditionally certify the Meridian WIN Job Center through March 31, 2026; Mr. Steve Stringer seconded. Motion carried.**

Ms. Brown concluded her report.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Newsom announced that three new appointees have been put forward to serve on the TDWDA Workforce Board: Grant Crowder, District Vice President at Jones College; Lindsay Brown, Executive Director of the Petal Area Chamber of Commerce; and April Stennett, Economic Development Director for Greene County. Mr. Newsom called for a motion to approve their appointments.

**ACTION: Mr. Greg Shaw motioned to approve the appointments of Grant Crowder, Lindsay Brown, and April Stennett to the TDWDA Workforce Board; Mr. Christopher Cole seconded. Motion carried.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

**ACTION: Mr. Steve Stringer motioned to adjourn; Mr. Greg Shaw seconded. Motion carried.**