



LWDB 20 – Geaux Jobs February 25, 2025

The Local Workforce Development Board met on February 25, 2025, at 11:00 am. at Duke's Seafood and Steakhouse located at 2591 S. Range Road, Denham Springs, LA

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Roderick Matthews. He welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mrs. Chappell called roll. Upon taking roll call, a quorum was reached.

Mrs. Chappell introduced our newly appointed board member, Mr. Chad Williams. Ms. Roper asked everyone to introduce themselves and their respective job titles and how they're represented on the LWDB board.

Vice-Chairperson Mr. Matthews resumed the meeting.

MEMBERS' PRESENT

Errick Baldwin, Annette Beuchler, Terri Cook, Jason Dedon, Karen Fontenot, Craig Kaiser, Carissa LeBeouf, Ismary McLemore, Roderick Matthews, Ronnie Rosser, Michael Thornhill, Chad Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT

Joseph Ardoin, Sadie Mannino-Bennett, Jaye Collura, Mike DiVicenti, Lisa Dugas, Anthony Howell, Jayson Purdey, Penni Saul, Sandy Summers, Lisa Williams

GUEST: None

WIOA STAFF: Tina Roper, Shalonda Chappell

PUBLIC INPUT: None

MINUTES OF December 3, 2024, BOARD MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Ronnie Rosser and seconded by Mr. Craig Kaiser to approve December minutes as presented. Votes were as follows:

Yeah: Errick Baldwin, Sadie Mannino Bennett, Annette Beuchler, Terri Cook, Jason Dedon, Karen Fontenot, Craig Kaiser, Carissa LeBeouf, Ismary McLemore, Roderick Matthews, Ronnie Rosser, Michael Thornhill, Chad Williams

Absent: Joseph Ardoin, Sadie Mannino-Bennett, Jaye Collura, Lisa Dugas, Mike DiVicenti, Anthony Howell, Jayson Purdy

Nays: None

Abstained: None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Roper presented the Director's Report as follows:

Financial:

- Allocations/Expenditures - Ms. Roper discussed and reviewed allocations for the budget comparison of PY 24 and PY 25. She shared with the Board that January FY 24 expires on 6/30/25. It is expected that PY 25 funds will be opened in April. There are no new allocations.
- \$300,000 was opened in January and \$75,000 to \$90,000 was allocated per office and will be used to complete training such as ITA's and OJT's based on the 10 Parish allocations
- There are currently 16 youth enrolled into the Work Experience Program which absorbs most of our required Youth expenditure of 20% for Work Experience.
- Ms. Roper stated that the current funding from PY 24 and FY 25 will cover operations for the 25-26 state fiscal year.

LWC Monitoring and Regional Local Plan:

- The Regional Local Plan is almost complete and will be submitted to the board for viewing after the public comment period ends. The local Area 20 and Local Area 21 are submit a combined Regional Local Plan that is written every four years to LWC. The Local Plan must align with the State plan and cannot be done until the State plan is completed.

Reauthorization Bill (A Stronger Workforce for America Act):

Ms. Roper followed up on the Reauthorization Bill a Stronger Workforce for America Act Bipartisan, Bicameral Bill Summary with the board. The bill mandates that 50% of funds be utilized for training. That means that 50% of funding expenditure is mandated to include ITA's, OJT's and Work-Based Learning. If this is maintained in future versions it would mean we have to consider closing several offices and reducing staff to meet this mandate.

- Since the bill did not pass in the last session there are some conversations in Congress on the Reauthorization Bill, however currently priority focus is on the budget

K-12 Programs

Ms. Roper shared that they have asked Jessica Vallelungo to request a meeting with the CTE's in her region, bringing everyone to the table to discuss a presence in K-12 education.

- Ms. Roper noted that Geaux Jobs is very beneficial to K-12. The program is already offering In-School Work Experience throughout all the Parishes.
- TPG has purchased a Digital Literacy Program that is currently used by Adult Education and our offices to use as part of soft skill training for all customers who are interested in advancing their digital literacy skills. The Geaux Jobs staff have been trained and

received certification to proxy the test. There are currently 14 Youth that are enrolled into the digital literacy program.

LAWASS Task Force Pilot:

- The LAWASS Task Force is an integrated pilot program between LWC, DCFS and Geaux Jobs Workforce. The program will integrate services across the State.
- LWC, DCFS and Geaux Jobs has been working on the Pilot for approximately 8 months and are currently in the Operational stage of creating standard operating procedures. Staff are also being cross trained on programs such as HIRE and TUAPath. Site visits have been done at all 5 locations of Geaux Jobs with LWC and DCFS to look at co-location dynamics. Ms. Roper and Mr. Bryan Moore (One Stop Operator) and others visited Utah in December for a site visit to look at their integrated program of services. Ms. Roper believed there was some positive intake on the Utah model because it allows for the braiding of funding at the State level. However, it would be difficult to follow the same model when comparing the State's Poverty. Having the State run the programs directly takes the flexibility of local dynamics and could create hardships due to having to work with the State civil service. We currently have vacancies in positions that is State merit Staff due to positions and budget issues with the State.
- Ms. Roper also stated she would also like to visit the Florida and Texas integrated model. She noted these two models also allow for the braiding of funding at the State level. However, the funding is still allocated to the local level for program operations.
- She noted that the most important recommendation is to create a centralized workforce known as Act 330.

BOARD INPUT/DISCUSSION

- Ms. Roper reminded the board that we are still in need of 2 additional private sector board members. Ms. Roper also stated she is continuing to work with our local chambers with possible replacements and has asked board members to share with her any potential board members.

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

Mr. Matthews thanked everyone and appreciated their attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Jason Dedon and seconded by Ms. Lisa Williams to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:


Roderick Matthews


Vice
Board Chairperson