

<b>Region 4 Workforce Board</b> <b>Meeting Minutes – June 19, 2024</b> Location: WorkOne Kokomo	<b>NEXT MEETING</b> Wednesday, September 25, 2024 Location: Lafayette, IN
---	---

**Directors Present:**

Randy Vernon, Chair  
 Matt Lewellen, Vice Chair  
 Holly Moore, Treasurer  
 Steve Snyder, Secretary  
 Dennis Carson  
 Alicia Hanawalt  
 Melissa Harwood

Judy Hasselkus  
 Ethan Heicher  
 Matt Huston  
 Shannon Turner  
 Amy Wood

**Excused:**

Spenser Buchanan  
 Deb Close  
 Elva James  
 Donte Wilburn

**Staff Present:** *Gregg Notestine, CEO; Deb Waymire, COO; Mellisa Leaming, Director of Operations; Blake Sempsrott, Controller; Kathy Burns, Lead Business Consultant and Data Analyst; and Tina Overley-Hilt, Executive Assistant*

**Call to Order and Welcome**

On June 19, 2024, the WDB meeting was held at WorkOne Kokomo in Kokomo, IN. The meeting was called to order and attendees were welcomed at 8:35AM by Chair, Randy Vernon. Board members in attendance introduced themselves. A quorum was present.

**Consent Agenda**

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

**Motion: Ethan Heicher**

**Second: Matt Lewellen**

**Action: Unanimous approval**

**New Business**

**Operations**

**Update on Rural Healthcare and Infrastructure Grants**

- **Rural Healthcare Grant (RHG)** ends January 31, 2025. The grant is progressing well, and we anticipate all goals will be met or exceeded. There is still time to spend all the funds. There are eight other regions across the state participating in the grant working together to achieve the success.
- **Pathways to Infrastructure Grant** is a five-year grant ending September 2028. Slow to start which was to be expected since it is a development track grant but is now moving forward well. The Electric Vehicle Partnership team met. A process is in place to connect with individuals during the interview process for positions with StarPlus Energy. About 30% of the individuals met the criteria of the grant. There are 37 individuals enrolled in the grant. A group of incumbent workers received training in November 2023. There is potential movement across the three partners StarPlus Energy, Stallantis, and Sun Charging stations.

**PY 23 Performance - 3rd Quarter ending March 31, 2024**

Region 4 is meeting or exceeding all performance measures for Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter ending March 31, 2024. The measures goals are set for a two-year period. Negotiations for the next two-year period are in the works.

## **PY 24 Performance Negotiations**

Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) negotiates with the U.S. Department of Labor for statewide performance goals. Based on those goals, DWD negotiates with the regions and sets performance goals to achieve statewide performance. For PY 24, goals will be reviewed with a local statistical adjustment model. It is a regression model that looks at the demographics of the region that positively or negatively impact the proposed performance metrics would be. Region 4 will negotiate with DWD what the goals should be. When the program year is over, there will be a lookback and the measures can be adjusted.

## **JAG 6 for 6 Performance**

The Region 4 JAG Program met all the metrics this year. There are six metrics to meet. The metrics are graduation rate, job placement, total in full time jobs pf 30 plus hours, total full-time outcome such as going to post-secondary or employment, further education rate, and connectivity rate. All regions in Indiana met the 6 of 6 performance.

## **Board Administration**

### **Election of Region 4 Board Officers**

The Executive Committee presented the following slate of officers to the Board for approval. The officers will serve a two-year term.

Board Chair	Matt Lewellen
Vice Chair	Steve Snyder
Treasurer	Holly Moore
Secretary	Randy Vernon

A motion was made to approve the slate of officers as presented and the new officers were elected.

**Motion: Steve Snyder**

**Second: Judy Hasselkus**

**Action Unanimous Approval**

## **Regional Local Plan**

The Local Plan is a compliance requirement of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to develop a comprehensive four-year workforce plan. The Local Plan describes how Region 4 WDB will deliver services and training to align with federal and state programs. The focus of this Local Plan is diversity and equality. Our goal is to complete the draft plan in early August for the Board to review prior to sharing with stakeholders and partners and posting on the Region 4 Workforce Board website for a 30-day public comment period. It is due by September 30, 2024

## **Board Strategic Plan**

The pillars of the DWD Strategic Plan were reviewed with the Board members and Region 4 2021 Strategic Plan goals were shared. Sessions will be scheduled to go through the previous plan and reassess the Region 4 goals. We are proposing 1 ½ days to get together and brainstorm the direction Region 4 wants to head. A scheduling poll will be sent to select a date. Proposed dates for the first session are October 1, October 10 and October 24, 2024. The tentatively location is the Event Center in Logansport. The day will be from 9:30am to 4:30pm. The schedule will include continental breakfast, a morning session, lunch, and an afternoon session. An additional half day on the day of teh November WDB meeting will be used to finalize the Board Strategic Plan.

### **High School Diploma Redesign – Proposed**

Portions of the Department of Education presentation on the proposed high school curriculum changes were shared with the Board members. Ethan Heicher commented on the responses of the proposed changes from school corporations runs the full spectrum. Topics shared were expanded pathways, themes driving the curriculum changes, diploma trends by the type of diploma, future diplomas offered, and apprenticeships and work-based learning. Some concerns include:

- The elimination of the Academic Honors Diploma which is most often pursued by college bound students.
- The new diplomas will not allow the class time necessary to complete the basics necessary to meet college entrance requirements
- Will employers be able to step-up and meet the internships required to fulfill the work-based-learning (WBL) requirements
- Student roadblocks to fulfilling WBL requirements:
  - Under 18 years of age
  - Transportation to/from employers, especially in rural areas
  - Making internships at colleges, hospital, manufacturing companies meaningful

### **Recognition – Kathy Burns Retirement**

Kathy Burns was recognized for her 25 years of service to workforce development, economic development organizations and Region 4. She plans to travel out west this year and stay busy with her grandchildren.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion: Steve Snyder**

**Second: Matt Lewellen**

**Action:** Unanimous approval

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tina Overley-Hilt  
Executive Assistant

-----  
Stephen Snyder, Secretary  
Tecumseh Area Partnership, Inc.  
d/b/a Region 4 Workforce Board