



Program Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2024

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

via Google Meet

Members Present: Mike Hesketh, Christine Tarquinio, Jenny Lampton, Caitlin Blair

Staff: Michael Gritton, Alicia Pardo, Chris Locke, Angella Wilson, Bailey Preston, Evelyn Woock, Patrick Garvey, Aleece Smith, Jaime Disney, Dana Moorner, Brian Luerman, Stacy Roderick, Chris White

Contractors/Guests: Kimberly Boyd-Lane, Yvonne Jones, Rena Sharpe, Renee Walters, Eric Hicks, Ashley Janicki, Sara Dodeci, Rodney Cross, Martha Stephenson, Kimberly Harrison, Betty Fox

Welcome and Greetings– Chairman *Mike Hesketh*

Chairman Hesketh welcomed the Program Oversight Committee, staff, and guests to the meeting.

Vote Needed: Review & Approve Minutes from January Meeting 2024 Minutes – *Mike Hesketh*

A motion to approve the January minutes was made by Jenny Lampton and seconded by Christine Tarquinio. The motion passed without opposition.

Vote Needed: Review and Approve Staff Recommendation to Issue an RFP (Request for Proposals) for Adult and Dislocated Worker Services Across the 7-County Region – *Angella Wilson*

Angella stated that the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires service provider contracts to be competitively procured every five years. The Adult Career Services contract was last procured in 2019 and is currently in its last year of 5 one-year renewable contracts. Angella announced that the RFP will be available and released the week of February 26th. Angella invited committee members to participate in the review process, and she referred to the memo sent out prior to the meeting for details of the anticipated bidding schedule. She opened the floor for discussion.

Christine Tarquinio asked about the capacity of this effort and the target population for the services provided. Angella highlighted that there are over 20 staff members, but this can vary based on the potential service provider and their execution of the services. The current service provider is on track to place 450 people in employment. Michael explained the three funding streams under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and the challenges faced due to the shrinking federal funding.

Angella pointed out that she is lobbying a review team of committee members to dive deeper into those conversations. Rena Sharpe expressed enthusiasm for the new Goodwill West Louisville Opportunity Campus, the relocation of the Kentucky Career Center to that new campus, and the potential for partnership opportunities, particularly in connecting job seekers with various services. Sara Dodeci discussed the potential for increased traffic at the new campus and the benefits of co-locating services for job seekers, highlighting plans for a joint job fair and expungement clinic.

KentuckianaWorks sought approval to issue a Request for Proposal in February 2024 to procure a contractor to provide services using Adult and Dislocated Worker funds in the region. Although the budget



has yet to be finalized, it will not exceed \$1.7 million annually. The motion was made by Caitlin Blair and seconded by Jenny Lampton. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote Needed: Review and Approve Staff Recommendation to Fully Fund KentuckianaBuilds out of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Funds in FY2025 – Michael Gritton, Angella Wilson

Michael summarized the history of the Kentuckiana Builds program. Governor Bevin, Governor Beshear, and the state Workforce Cabinet have been funding about 50% of Kentuckiana Builds for eight years. However, no Administration likes to fund “pilot” programs year after year with Governor’s discretionary WIOA dollars, so the time has come for the Board to decide if it wants to solely fund this effort out of our limited Adult and Dislocated Worker dollars. Michael highlighted that the Louisville Urban League has made Kentuckiana Builds a highly successful program since 2016, and 586 people have completed the training with 432 graduates gaining employment.

Michael announced that KentuckianaWorks will receive roughly \$4 million in WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker funds in FY25. The approximate budget for Kentuckiana Builds will be \$600,000. Because the program aligns with the Board’s major objectives, the staff recommended committing to fully funding the program through WIOA funding in FY25.

A motion to approve the Board committing to fully funding the Kentuckiana Builds program in FY25 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025) out of the Adult and Dislocated Worker funds it receives from WIOA with an approximate cost of \$600,000 was made by Christine Tarquinio and seconded by Jenny Lampton. The motion was approved.

Executive Director’s Report – Michael Gritton

Michael congratulated Kim Harrison, the new Executive Director of the KentuckianaWorks College Access Center (KCAC). Kim has been with KCAC since the 1990s as a high school-educated clerk. She has since earned her Bachelor’s degree and her Master’s degree, working her way up to Deputy Director and now Executive Director. She has an amazing testimony, and her dedication to the work has not gone unnoticed. Michael also highlighted that the 10 workforce development boards of Kentucky are currently having conversations with legislators in Frankfort, Kentucky about potentially funding both young adult work and a new effort to help graduating high school seniors. Upon success, this will be the first funding stream at the state level that will focus on this particular group.

In conclusion, Michael shared that the JCPS school board approved the grant, also approved by the JCPS Education Foundation, for \$2.5 million to support the new organization we are building to lead the community’s work on the Academies of Louisville. The partnership between KentuckianaWorks, Greater Louisville Inc. (GLI), and JCPS has now raised \$2.7 million of the \$3.6 million to launch this new organization. The goals of this organization are to get 90% of graduates to be deemed post-secondary ready by the KDE standard in 3 years and gain national recognition in the Wall Street Journal talking about the way Louisville has connected its employers and high schools to build a talent development system.

Adjourn - Mike Hesketh

Chairman Hesketh thanked everyone for participating. The Program Oversight Committee will be meeting on Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 9 a.m. With there being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.