

**Employer Engagement Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2020**

The Employer Engagement Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Cary Robbins.

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT
Jim Andreoni		X	Emily Legel		X
Mary Boogemans	X		Dave Mennie		X
Linda Burt		X	Kris Noble	X	
Debbie Clausen	X		Cary Robbins	X	
Jerry Corcoran	X		Amy Soltis Stawn	X	
Mike Dean		X	James Weed		X
Patty Head	X		Robert White		X
Deana Jones	X				
Kevin Lindeman	X				

OTHERS PRESENT: Carrie Folken, Dianna Schuler

Business Meeting

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the February 4, 2020 Minutes and to accept the April 7, 2020 Meeting Summary was made by Jerry Corcoran and seconded by Deana Jones. Motion carried.

Update on RTPI

Dianna reported that when the stay-at-home order was issued in March that all RTPI projects were placed on hold. These projects were all hiring focused projects. Since the CoVid 19 crisis began the state has worked on a virtual job fair platform and staff have attended a virtual demonstration on how it will work. She reported that there will further training on the platform and that perhaps this will be an avenue that the RTPI Team can tap into to restart those hiring projects. Jerry Corcoran suggested contacting Lisa Witalka as she might be an additional resource. IVCC had cancelled their annual job fair because of the CoVid crisis.

Business Services Report

Dianna explained that the report is informational only. There was one question about Whiteside County numbers and why it appeared that there were none reported. Dianna explained that to print it at a reasonable size for the mailing the alignment for Whiteside gets messed up. She drew member's attention to the 3 asterisks notes that it leads to a footnote about IDES numbers being reported by the 2 offices within the workforce area and that those mess up the alignment. That if you follow to the left from the asterisks those are the Whiteside numbers.

Apprenticeship Expansion Grant

Dianna reported that BEST, Inc. had been selected to receive one of the new Apprenticeship Expansion Grants. She stated that a request for an updated timeline and budget had been made by DCEO and those

have since been submitted to the state. She said that the Project Manager would be hired just as soon as BEST was given the green light to do so.

CoVid 19 Impact on Employers Survey Results and Next Steps

Dianna reported that the suggested changes from the April working meeting were made to the survey and that it had been sent to the NCI Works membership – private sector only. She stated that only 9 respondents had completed the survey, mostly from manufacturing. She said that the top concern was hiring. She asked the membership if they wanted her to go ahead now and release it to the greater mailing list that she has. Deana and Patty both commented to go ahead and send it out with other members agreeing. Dianna will get that out to the mailing list and also forward the NCI Works sample's results once she figures out how to download the survey results summary.

Committee Initiative for PY 20

Dianna asked the committee to be thinking about what they would like to see as their initiatives for the new program year. She stated that she and Carrie had talked prior to the meeting and that they agreed that they'd like to know what the committee would like to see done. Kevin suggested that the results from the larger survey could give some insights to help them. Debbie suggested ongoing CoVid Support including best practices. Kris added that it would be nice to have industry specific best practices and that the chamber has a dedicated site for all the resources available. Dianna invited Kris to be a guest for the July podcast recording to talk about all that is available to the business community. Kris accepted the invitation.

Other Business

Dianna shared with members that in mid-April the state announced a new grant for small businesses with a CoVid 19 Layoff Aversion focus. The grant is the Rapid Response Emergency Assistance Grant funded through the state's rapid response fund. She informed the committee that \$5m was set aside by DCEO specifically for this grant. She stated that businesses submitted their grants for initial review to BEST and then BEST forwarded on to DCEO for final consideration. At the time of the meeting 13 companies had been approved for an award. Awards for companies within LWIA 4 total \$155,261.02. Dianna reported that 29 companies had submitted applications and the state closed consideration of new applications on May 8, 2020. Dianna reported that allowable costs included this that allowed for social distancing, remote work, and other layoff aversion strategies to address the CoVid 19 restrictions.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Debbie Clausen. Motion was seconded by Kevin Lindeman and carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Dianna Schuler