

**EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 4, 2025**

The Employer Engagement Committee Meeting was called to order at 12:08 by Patty Head, Committee Chair. Roll Call was taken.

Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent
Tera Bedei	X		Patty Head	X	
Deana Jones	X		Tracey Morris	X	
Jesse Nauman	X		Palani Sakthi		X
Sandi Warthan		X			

OTHERS PRESENT: Dianna Schuler, Carrie Folken, Jo Ann Johnson

Approval of Minutes

Tracey Morris motioned to approved the June 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Tera Bedei. Roll Call vote was taken.

Name	Yes	No	Name	Yes	No
Tera Bedei	X		Patty Head	X	
Deana Jones	X		Tracey Morris	X	
Jesse Nauman	X		Palani Sakthi		
Sandi Warthan					

Motion carried.

Business Meeting

Business Services Report – Title 1 Only: Handout Attached, informational only

Dianna reported that the Business Services Report that was included with the meeting materials include Title 1, Incumbent Worker and Apprenticeship grants. Dianna said that 2 Incumbent Worker projects were added last week. One was added in December, she said, but it does not start until February. Dianna told members that BEST is coming close to exhausting the \$40,000 budget for Incumbent Worker Training.

Dianna informed members that 4 Rapid Response Workshops were held in December for the employees of Owens in Streator who lost their jobs due to closure.

Dianna told the members about the Job Search Assistance projects with the Streator, Sterling and Walnut Libraries. She said that this project is being supported with supplemental funds that BEST received from the State of Illinois. She said that each of the libraries have had successes with customers obtaining full-time employment.

Apprenticeship Update

Referring to the typed report that was included with the meeting materials, Dianna said that numerous reporting issues with the Apprenticeship site continue. She said that Borg Warner CNC standards were approved and signed. Dianna said that she is working on the expansion of the para-pro to teacher apprenticeship that was originally established at Sterling Elementary Schools. She said that interest from all four Regional Offices of Education and the State Director of the Regional Superintendents has prompted a discussion to move forward with this project.

Dianna said that staff are in conversation with Jo Daviess County Transit as they are interested in apprenticeship programs and is soliciting support from their stakeholders. She said that staff will follow-up with them to solidify their interest. Dianna also noted that she and Jesse Nauman are in discussion about possible apprenticeship projects.

Regional Business Services Team Update

Dianna reported that the Regional Business Services Team started to meet informally in 2019 with a neighboring Local Workforce Area and was established as a networking event. She said that she had to miss the last two meetings, and it seems that the neighboring Local Workforce Area has changed the focus of the meetings. Dianna told members that she plans to have a conversation with them to determine the future of the Regional Business Services Team.

Dianna reported that staff are seeing a lot of manufacturing layoffs and potential closures.

Other Business

Tera informed Dianna that she provided Dianna's contact information to Alloy Specialties in Streator who is looking for assistance with transition welders from school to work.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson