

**KENTUCKIANAWORKS BOARD MEETING  
GREATER LOUISVILLE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
Thursday, February 27, 2020  
8:30 A.M.  
Greater Louisville Inc.**

**Members Present:** Tony Georges- *Chair*, Tom Quick, Deana Karem (proxy for Sarah Davasher-Wisdom), Sean O’Leary, Eric Friggle, Mike Hesketh, Willie Byrd, Jonathan Westbrook, David Bizianes, Firas Hamza, Jenny Lampton, Jackie Beard, Vincent James, Tami Hatfield, Sadiqa Reynolds, Dr. Marty Pollio

**Recognition of Special Guests** – *Tony Georges, Michael Gritton*

Mr. Georges introduced Eric Friggle from Computershare as the newest Board member.

Mr. Gritton introduced Rebeccah Hollenbach to the group. She has joined Sarah Ehresman on the Labor Market Intelligence team for KentuckianaWorks.

**Review and Approve Minutes** – *Tony Georges*

Mr. Georges asked for a motion to approve the January 30 minutes. Mr. Quick motioned to accept the minutes. Ms. Beard seconded. Motion carried.

**Vote Needed: Review and Approval of Consent Agenda Items from the Program Oversight Committee** – *Cindy Read*

The following items were reviewed at the February 21 meeting of the Program Oversight Committee. There was a quorum, and the committee recommended Board approval for all the items listed.

Recommendation to issue Request for Proposals for WIOA Youth Program – Regional Counties

Contract Renewals

- JCPS Adult & Continuing Ed. Contract for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families-Power of Work Program (Education Services) for \$10,000.
- JCPS Adult & Continuing Ed. Contracts to Operate the Kentucky Youth Career Center (Louisville) for \$350,000 and \$210,000
- JCPS Adult & Continuing Ed. Contracts to Operate the Reimage Program for \$70,000
- JCPS Adult & Continuing Ed. Contract for Reimage Federal Reentry Grant (Compass Rose) for \$65,000
- JCPS Adult & Continuing Ed. Contract for Youth ShelterWorks for \$3,000

Allowable Cost Policies

There were no questions. Mr. O’Leary made a motion to accept the Committee’s recommendations, seconded by Mr. Hesketh. There were no objections and the motion carried.

**Presentation and Discussion: Opportunity Youth and the Possibility of New Funding Coming to KentuckianaWorks to Expand Services for 16-24 Year Olds who are Not in School and Not Working – Vincent James, Cindy Read, Michael Gritton**

Mr. Gritton went over the annual funding for the Kentucky Youth Career Center and Reimage programs operated by KentuckianaWorks. Mr. James shared with the group that with the Louisville Metro Youth Detention Center closing down there is an opportunity to use some of the budget savings to continue to reach disconnected and justice-involved youth through partnerships. The city is looking at ways to focus dollars upstream to realign resources as well as realign the scope of work from the current Office of Youth Development, which resides within the Office of Resilience and Community Services. There is also a goal of being able to develop a funding source to help build out the initiatives of existing programs that serve disconnected youth; KYCC and Coalition Supporting Young Adults are two organizations that are being looked at. Mr. James said that along with the realignment of the Office of Youth Development, they are partnering with the University of Louisville and have a joint appointment in the works. The Director will also be a Professor at the University of Louisville who has a background specifically in this area. Currently the KYCC is located on Fourth Street and isn't very visible, transportation isn't ideal, and there is no outreach capacity in terms of funding. With this new funding stream, there is potential of building two Centers: One in the YMCA in West Louisville, one in the First Street JCTC area. Louisville has 16,000 disconnected youth, so this is going to have to be a collective impact model; no one organization is going to be able to solve the problem. There are several organizations on board to help carry this out.

Mr. Quick asked if there is a reason we wouldn't want to focus on having one dynamic Career Center instead of spending funds for rent at multiple locations; Mr. Gritton answered the thought is to have resources east and west of Ninth Street. We want to raise visibility of the efforts and find more young people to serve. Another option is to possibly find a location that would house the Youth and Adult Career Centers together. Mary Rosenthal on the KentuckianaWorks team is still researching locations.

**Program Highlights and Concerns - Cindy Read**

Ms. Read pointed out that KentuckianaWorks runs programs through contractors, who they meet with monthly to discuss the programs. Some contractors don't prefer the term "concerns," so that may be changed to "challenges." We wanted to highlight this document to remind you of all the programs viewed by the Program Oversight Committee on a monthly basis and provide you the current status of those programs. Mr. Gritton encouraged any Board members to reach out to Ms. Read if they are interested in joining the Committee.

**Discussion: Feedback from the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Workforce and Education Summit on Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Work – Michael Gritton**

Mr. Gritton gave a special shout out to Board member Firas Hamza and his colleagues at Microsoft for their lead sponsorship of the recent Summit. The event has grown from roughly 300 five years ago to over 1,000 attendees this year. KentuckianaWorks hosts the event (along with community partners including GLI, Greater Louisville Project, 55,000 Degrees and others); however, KentuckianaWorks does the bulk of the physical preparation. Part of what we wanted

to do today was try to gauge whether we think this kind of event as the Workforce Board is beneficial to do, if the Board thinks it's a good use of time, identifying pros and cons, etc.

Mr. O'Leary asked what would we do if we didn't do the summit, how would that time be spent. Mr. Gritton answered when so much leg work is being done to pull together such an enormous event that research isn't being done, reports aren't being compiled. It is somewhat easier now that Rebecca Hollenbach has joined the team, but it still takes up a significant amount of time from the Labor Market Intelligence team (as well as other KentuckianaWorks staff). Ms. Reynolds asked if we have thought about building another few thousand into the budget to maybe hire a consultant to help do all the registrations, etc. Mr. Gritton replied that we actually have done that for multiple years now, but it still takes a lot of internal staff work as well to pull it off – particularly when it gets as large as the even this year.

The consensus around the table was that it was a well put together event and very insightful. Mr. O'Leary said he did not think two days after the event is enough time to see the value. There were some things with the sound system and from an operational perspective that could have done better, but generally speaking, it was a great event. Mr. Hamza gave a big thank you to Ms. Ehresman and her team and all the partnerships that came together to make the summit happen. Mr. Hamza said Microsoft wants to know if folks thought the information provided was useful and what they would like to see differently next year. Ms. Beard said as she was walking around the room, she heard mostly positive chatter. There seemed to be real excitement around where folks viewed us. It was reassuring to hear we appear to be further along than we give ourselves credit. Mr. O'Leary suggested we continue to bring companies from outside of Louisville to speak, so we can learn best practices from elsewhere; Mr. Gritton confirmed this aligned with the Mayor wanting the workforce summit to become more of a regional event. Mr. Hesketh asked if there were objectives for the event; Mr. Gritton answered the objective was to raise the community's IQ level about artificial intelligence and what is coming with automation.

**Presentation and Discussion: Possibility of New Funding and New Responsibilities Coming to KentuckianaWorks for the Kentucky Career Centers that Serve Adults – Michael Gritton**  
Referencing the presentation from Mr. James, Mr. Gritton pointed out that there may be some more funding coming available to work on the disconnected youth effort; stay tuned for more information.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (“WIOA”) puts the KentuckianaWorks Board of Directors in charge of overseeing the effectiveness and service delivery strategies of all of physical adult career centers. ResCare contracts with KentuckianaWorks for \$2m. The KCC at Cedar in downtown Louisville serves as what the law refers to as a “comprehensive center,” meaning it includes all or most of the required workforce partners and has been certified as a Comprehensive Career Center by the KentuckianaWorks Board. This Center is different than the other three, because it has a substantial number of state employees who work side-by-side with the ResCare workforce staff we fund and oversee. These state merit employees are funded by a separate federal law (the Wagner-Peyser Act) and, importantly, they do NOT take their direction from the KentuckianaWorks Board or from us as your primary staff representatives; they take their direction from the state; subsequently, we have limited control over them. The Trump Administration is trying to change things, and these decisions have yet to be settled in the court

system. As recently as 2016, there were 33 Wagner-Peyser-funded and veteran staff across our 7-county region, and they provided the majority of staff people at not just the downtown KCC at Cedar, but also at fully-staffed KCCs in Shelby County and Bullitt County, as well as on Preston Highway. In February 2017, under former Governor Matt Bevin, the state closed 31 career centers (reducing the number of centers across the state from 51 to 20). During this reduction, the state closed three centers in the KentuckianaWorks region: Preston Highway, Bullitt County, and Shelby County. At the same time, they reduced Wagner-Peyser-funded staffing across the state from roughly 200 to 40; what used to be 33 Wagner-Peyser staff in our region is now down to roughly 10. Ms. Read pointed out the mobile team is still working in the surrounding counties, so we haven't abandoned them.

The important "heads up" to the Board is that our state colleagues appear interested in being among the first states to take advantage of the new regulations from the Department of Labor that would allow them to hand the Wagner-Peyser funding (and the responsibilities that go with it) to the local workforce boards – rather than keeping this work as a function of state employees. Stay tuned – there is no announcement yet, but we are certainly exploring this possibility with the state.

**Remarks from JCPS Superintendent – Dr. Marty Pollio**

Dr. Pollio said he is two years in on the job. He wanted to highlight the changes and improvements that have happened in that time. The Academies of Louisville in particular is seeing incredible results; other examples include racial equity, the "backpack of success" program, and building new schools and repairing existing schools. One thing Dr. Pollio has realized in his two years on the job is "if we want incremental change, we'll keep doing the things we're doing ; if we want transformational change, we're going to have to change major structures in this district that haven't changed in decades." He is looking at important changes that will have to be made, such as the student assignment plan, school start times, bus lines, instructional time, principal and teacher pay, and so on. "I don't think the community at-large knows the type of need our kids are challenged with every day," Dr. Pollio said. "Six percent of our student population is homeless." Some of our facilities are falling apart; the *newest* high school is 52 years old; in comparison, Lexington/Fayette County has built eight new schools since 2008. Jefferson County's tax rate for schools is one of the lowest in the entire area, contrary to popular belief. As a community, we're going to have to decide how much investment we are willing to put into the school system.

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2020.

**Staff:**

Michael Gritton  
Mary Rosenthal  
Bailey Preston  
Regina Phillips  
Aleece Smith  
Joi McAtee  
Brian Luerman  
Jennifer Novak  
Rebecca Hollenbach  
Sarah Ehresman  
Elizabeth Terhune  
Latricia Swope  
Cindy Read  
Patrick Garvey

**Observers:**

Josh McKee  
Jennifer Welch  
Regan Wann  
Jessie Schook  
Marsha Berry  
Lisa Thompson  
Kristin Wingfeld