

KENTUCKIANAWORKS BOARD MEETING
GREATER LOUISVILLE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Thursday, January 24, 2019
8:30 A.M.
Greater Louisville Inc.

Members Present: Tony Georges- *Chair*, Jackie Beard, David Bizianes, Derek Bland, Willie Byrd, Rebel Chreste, Steve Cunanan, Tami Hatfield-Kennedy, Kent Oyler, Marty Polio, John Snider, Lisa Thompson (proxy for Sadiqa Reynolds), James Vincent, Jonathan Westbrook, Mary Ellen Wierderwohl

Recognition of Special Guest- *Tony Georges, Michael Gritton*

Mr. Gritton introduced Joshua McKee of Louisville Forward to the group. Josh's roll is to essentially try to be the connection between Workforce Development and Economic Development at Louisville Metro Government and Michael noted that he is off to a good start.

Review and Approve Minutes –*Tony Georges*

Mr. Georges asked for a motion to approve or deny the November 15 minutes. Steve Cunanan motioned to accept the minutes with the addition of adding him to the attendees list. Latricia Swope acknowledged the minutes will be corrected. Steve Cunanan motioned to approve the minutes, Kent Oyler seconded. Motion carried.

Presentation and Discussion –*Deana Karem*

Ms. Karem explained that GLI has been hearing from a number of employers of their interest to try to identify and tackle issues that may be making harder for them to attract and retain workers – especially those at the entry level. As they begin the work, she wanted to ensure the KentuckianaWorks Board that the work is meant to be complimentary to the work the Board is already leading.

As GLI begins to convene some of these employer groups, they are coming together to discuss barriers to work and how to put some private resources together to help eliminate those barriers. Ms. Karem stated one of the biggest barriers is drug usage issues but that is an issue on the national level and is being discussed on a bigger platform. Locally one of the biggest hang-ups is transportation. The digital divide and child care are also big barriers to employment we have locally. Some employers have reported that Child Support garnishments have kept employees from staying inspired to work and have half of their salary taken each paycheck. Getting people back to work after they have had some unfortunate experiences is one of the goals that has brought the subject of record expungement to the table.

This collaboration is not to start a new program or duplicate any program that KentuckianaWorks already has in place, nor is it about training and developing people. Its focus is to try to fill some of the holes that KentuckianaWorks isn't able to fill and to collaborate with our regional partners in doing so. Deana opened the floor for discussion. Derek Bland made a suggestion that while thinking of the committee as a sort of "think tank" on these issues, to be sure to have HR representation at the table. John Snider stated that one of the things his organization is doing is looking at a "heat map," which is trying to determine the zip codes of employees to determine where the masses are coming from to help figure out a bus route. Deana noted that the group would be coming together and start meeting the first quarter of this year and updates will be given to the KentuckianaWorks Board as they unfold.

Report Out and Votes Needed on Recommendations from the Program Oversight Committee – Cindy Read, Deana Karem

Ms. Read explained that the Adult Career Services contract (currently held by ResCare Workforce Services) will be coming to an end on June 30, 2019. The current contract is in its fifth year and by law has to be rebid. Therefore, KentuckianaWorks staff is preparing to release a Request for Proposal (RFP) for continuing operations. Cindy stated KentuckianaWorks requests approval to issue a RFP for the contract to secure Adult Career Services for our seven county region in a contract amount not to exceed \$2,052,279, the current amount of the contract. Without any further discussion or questions motion was made by John Snider to approve the request to release the RFP. The motion was seconded by Willie Byrd and Dr. Pollio. Motion carried.

Standing Agenda Item for 2019: Alignment Issues- Update and Discussion re: JCPS Academies of Louisville Work –Superintendent Marty Pollio, Tony Georges

Dr. Pollio stated there are 14 high schools in the Academies of Louisville. Eastern High School is the only school currently not a part of the Academies that isn't a Magnet School. Dr. Pollio gave credit to his staff, KentuckianaWorks, GLI and the business partners for the success of the program. JCPS now has 10 apprenticeship program they offer to students ranging from IT, HVAC to Automotive and other paid apprenticeships. Ms. Chreste asked what are the Board's future plans to have that same type of intensive engagement with the other public school systems in our region? Michael Gritton answered that there are exciting things going on out in the surrounding counties. The challenge is to get the Board and staff engaged with them at the same level as we've been with Dr. Pollio and JCPS. We need to bring the Superintendents in to speak with the full Board to try to assist with that. The staff will also be making a round of calls and visits to the region's other superintendents to deepen our involvement with them.

Standing Agenda Item for 2019: Radically Scaling Up the Region's Tech Talent- Special Presentation and Discussion – Mary Ellen Wiederwohl, Eric Burnette

Mary Ellen Wierwohl introduced Eric Burnette who gave the Tech Talent presentation. Kent Oyler made a suggestion of tying in Academies to the Tech Talent drive. Eric continued with his presentation and expressed that we have put in asks to several colleges and universities to up their numbers in the Tech Talent field. Mary Ellen Wiederwohl was happy to announce that University of Kentucky has already announced that they are going to dramatically expand their Computer Science Department and have already hired four new Professors. Eric continued, a study done on West Louisville shows a significant amount of households that do not have access to Internet including a smart phone. The city does have a digital inclusion plan that is run out of the Mayor's office of Civic Innovation but we need more employers to be involved with that.

Eric stated there is some research that shows that there is a future in gaming. Playing video games helps you acquire and retain Tech skills. There are now varsity E-sports teams and college scholarships for people who are good at E-sports. Kent Oyler asked is it possible for the Code Louisville basic curriculum to be replicated and used as a standard course across the city? Could colleges offer the curriculum and give students credit for it? Could JCPS offer this as dual credit? Michael Gritton stated that those things are parts of discussions we are currently having. Eric went through the last slides of the presentation and Michael Gritton assured the Committee that the presentation will be sent out to the full Board.

Executive Director's Report – Michael Gritton

Mr. Gritton alerted the group that KentuckianaWorks was notified in December that the state decided not to execute the Medicaid program through the 10 local Boards. The budget presented to the Board

took a \$5,000,000 cut with the loss of the program. Michael asked the group to be mindful that if the state runs the Medicaid program it would potentially bring a new contractor into the Centers that does not report to KentuckianaWorks and initially it will make service delivery more difficult to clients.

Mr. Gritton wanted to let the Board know that the Degrees Work program may not be feasible to continue. It's fee for service model – which relies on revenue from employers who pay for “college coaching” services for their employees, and revenue from colleges who partner with us because they hope to receive more adult students as a result – is not generating enough revenue from either source to sustain the program, despite its good work. There have been discussions with Mayor Fischer and his staff about the finances of the Degrees Work program. Up to this point it does not look like there will be a way to continue to execute the program. Unless something unlikely occurs, we will be shutting the program down by the end of February.

Lastly, Mr. Gritton let the group know the Governor has set up a special task force on Workforce. Mr. Gritton has been nominated to that task force as the representative of the 10 local WIB Directors and will be attending the meetings in Frankfort representing the KentuckianaWorks Board and the other local Workforce Boards.

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2019.

Staff:

Michael Gritton
Angella Wilson
Sarah Ehresman
Huston Monarch
Lori Hiser
Elizabeth Davis-Terhune
Rider Rodriguez
Chris Locke
Latricia Swope
Patrick Garvey
Jennifer Novak
Phil Miller
LaShala Goodwin
Regina Phillips
Brian Luerman
Joi McAtee
Aleece Smith
Stacy Roderick
Cindy Read

Observers:

Ryan Troutman
Joyce Griffith

Guest(s):

Eric Burnette
Joshua McKee

