



## Bay Area Workforce Development Board

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### Bay Area Local Elected Officials Board MEETING MINUTES

September 3, 2020

**Present:** Troy Streckenbach (Chair), Cinde Nichols, Tom Romdenne, Marvin Klosterman, Richard Virlee, Robert Ziegelbauer  
**Absent:** Fran Damp, Elmer Ragen, Ben Warrington, Tom Nelson, John Guarisco  
**Others:** Larry Abitz (representing Tom Nelson)

Mr. Streckenbach called the virtual meeting to order at 1:07 PM. The Minutes of the June 11, 2020 LEO Board meeting were adopted as presented on a motion by Mr. Virlee and a second by Ms. Nichols.

Mr. Golembeski stated that our WIOA Title 1 programs are serving enrolled program participants well during the pandemic. Job centers are closed but contracted Career Service Specialists are staying in touch with the people on their caseloads and helping to work through training programs. With many Job Service staff now moved over into the Unemployment Insurance Division, there is no indication of when job centers might reopen.

Mr. Golembeski admitted, however, that his predictions for what would happen in August when the federal unemployment subsidy ended have not occurred. We are not seeing a significant influx of job seekers asking for services, nor have we received WARN alerts about permanent closings. Some notices of furloughs continue to trickle in. Sectors of the economy, such as manufacturing, continue to hire, as do some service sector and retail industries such as grocery stores and delivery services. Mr. Virlee indicated that the tourism season in Door County was very robust. The construction sector is slowing down, but still hiring. There is a noticeable trend toward employees working from home offices and that trend may continue post-COVID. One large Sheboygan area employer indicated that employee retention has increased significantly among employees working virtually from home. This is driving an increase in the need for people with computer/IT skills to safely connect to home offices. Microsoft is offering free computer training in ten occupational areas through March 31, 2021. Members had received information about that training earlier this summer and there is a link on Bay Area WDB website.

Bay Area WDB and our partners successfully held a “Drive Through Job Fair” in Green Bay on July 15. Seventy employers provided information about open positions and how to apply for them on paper flyers. Those flyers were assembled into packets and distributed at the Riverside Ballroom parking lot. Over 400 people came to pick up those information packets. Another

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Additional information, and auxiliary aids and services for individuals with disabilities, is available by contacting James M. Golembeski, EO Officer at [jgolembeski@bayareawdb.org](mailto:jgolembeski@bayareawdb.org) | (920) 431-4100 | TDD/TTY Dial 7-1-1 Toll-free

round of Drive Through Job Fairs will be held throughout the state on September 17, including sites in Green Bay, Sheboygan, and Shawano.

Mr. Golembeski also admitted that he was wrong in his hope that congressional action to support the national workforce system would come through during the summer. Obviously, there has been no agreement on an additional pandemic stimulus bill. There are still several funding opportunities in the works, but Bay Area staff will meet next week to look at the WIOA Budget situation and make adjustments by the end of September as necessary.

Mr. Golembeski and the staff continue to address the issues raised in the PY 2019 DWD monitoring. The issue about the questioned costs of \$4,628 for staff cell phones is being addressed with the assistance of our independent auditor, Wegner LLC. Mr. Golembeski believes this will be resolved in a way that will not place the liability on the counties for this issue. He expressed his concern that the DWD focus on compliance has become so overwhelming that the real work of the board is suffering.

LEO members were asked about the progress to reauthorize the County Consortium Agreement by the county boards. Kewaunee and Manitowoc have done that. Mr. Golembeski will send out a signature page and he would like to have a single page with all the autographs. Several members indicated that they did not receive the request to reauthorize the Agreement. Mr. Golembeski will follow up with them.

The new WIOA requirements to have Memoranda of Understanding and Resource Sharing Agreements for the job centers in place is being addressed. MOUs and RSAs for PY 2019 are in place, but DWD is still working out the process for reimbursing the workforce boards for the share owed by DWD programs. The MOUs and RSAs for PY 2020 are almost complete for our area.

The Executive Search Committee began interviewing yesterday for the Executive Director position. Since Mr. Golembeski plans to stay in place until January 1, 2021, the process is on track.

Federal and state updates had been provided in prior discussion above. There are many questions about what the workforce world and job centers, will look like post-pandemic.

Bay Area WDB has been engaged in a major strategic planning effort led by our board Chair, Dr. Michael Troyer. LEO members received the most recent strategic planning document via email for their review. This is very timely with the coming change in staff leadership as well as in facing the challenges of the post-pandemic world. Mr. Golembeski noted how Bay Area WDB has effectively responded to the workforce challenges over the last 20 years and done so in a way that organizations such as NEW North, NEW Manufacturing Alliance, and state agencies have taken over responsibility for those efforts. That is a good legacy. This leaves Bay Area WDB free to address the new challenges that will arise in the years ahead.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM on a motion by Ms. Nichols with a second from Mr. Virlee.

**The Bay Area LEO Board will meet next on Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 1 PM.**

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