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BayAreaWDB.org

## **BAY AREA BOARD OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**Thursday, February 3, 2022**

**1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.**

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Tom Romdenne (Kewaunee), Fran Damp (Sheboygan), Richard Virlee (Door), Marvin Klosterman (Shawano), Cinde Nichols (Florence), John Guarisco (Marinette), Thomas Nelson (Outagamie); Matt Valiquette, Nan Macy (staff)

**Absent:** Troy Streckenbach (Brown), Eva Johnson (Menominee), Robert Ziegelbauer (Manitowoc), Elmer Ragen (Oconto)

**I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** – Meeting was called to order at 1:08 P.M. at the Bay Area WDB office at 520 N Broadway, Green Bay, WI, by Matt Valiquette. A quorum was present

#### **II. OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW**

**A. PY22 WIOA Service Provider Procurement (3-year contracts)**

WIOA requires competitive procurement for services. There are two RFPs for Board approval on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 1) WIOA Youth/Young Adult sub-awards; and 2) WIOA Adult/Dislocated Worker sub-awards. These are each 3-year contracts. Proposals will be due April 15<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipated that a contract extension will be offered to four of our current providers/counties. Proposal review committees are in place and will provide recommendations to the Board of Directors at their May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**B. Committee Updates**

- i. Strategic Leadership Committee – Chair, Matt Rentmeester leads a committee of eight and will be setting their agenda and meeting schedule.
- ii. Finance and Personnel Committee – Committee of seven will hold their first meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

**C. New Funding Updates and Opportunities**

- i. Afghan Refugee Resettlement Task Force - Bay Area WDB is establishing itself as one of four organizations assisting in this effort. Others include Forward Services, W2, Catholic Charities and Green Bay Chamber of Commerce. We can expect 200-400 refugees to resettle in the Green Bay area over the next 12-months. Translation and workforce services are among the needs for assistance.
- ii. WAI - Digital Literacy/Equity Skills RFP is being released, the result of \$1.6M received from the Worker Advancement Initiative. The Digital Literacy RFP offers up to \$400K to provide digital literacy skills to those members of the workforce that will benefit by having greater skills to offer and for employers needed workers with these skills.

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WAI – Hidden Talent RFP will be released to target and engage underserved populations that have not previously engaged in programs and services available to them through WIOA or other workforce development opportunities. Bay Area WDB recognizes that more meaningful work with greater equity, inclusion and belonging. The focus for this grant will be on outreach and engagement with people of color, individual with limited education and abilities, veterans, and those exiting the corrections systems.

- iii. DOC - Expansion of Windows to Work (W2W) – With meaningful and sustaining employment a key factor to preventing recidivism, Bay Area WDB will continue its work and join the expanded service initiative set forth by the Department of Corrections to serve the 1,000+ offenders returning to NE Wisconsin every year. The program gives us the ability to connect with inmates in the prisons, 6-months prior to release and provide career services in preparation for their job service and self-sufficiency once released.

The controversy over why so much money is being spent on criminals was noted but the Bay Area WDB believes that being involved in these programs finds and prepares “Hidden Talent” to join the workforce which will benefit employers. Having a good paying job with the added sense of belonging and inclusion may dissuade individuals from reoffending to become a benefit to the community versus a detriment considering the higher cost of incarceration.

In addition to employment, housing is a challenge for returning citizens. While there are financial resources, finding a suitable location based on restrictions, affordability, and other relative criteria.

- iv. H1B - Wisconsin Rural (COW) Grant – Good progress on getting participants into the program. This opportunity provides training in seven select healthcare fields to those committed to living and working in rural areas.

### III. FINANCIAL STATUS - PY21 Mid-Year Financial Summary

After 20+ years we have a change in personnel with the addition of Mistine Habeck as Controller taking on Debbie Spevacek’s role upon her retirement.

Currently, we are sitting on more funds that we want to be primarily due to having more money than clients. We will be promoting, not only our training and career services, but the wrap around services we provide to assist those in training as it relates to childcare, housing, and transportation costs. These are vital to help support those upskilling or pursuing their education and needed support for the cost of those things that become barriers to taking the time to go to school.

### IV. CONSORTIUM BUSINESS

- A. LEO Board Minutes – The November 4, 2021, Minutes were unanimously approved with a motion and a second from Tom Romdenne and Richard Virlee, respectively.
- B. 2020-2022 LEO-WDB Joint Agreement Modification (page 3) – 2020-2020 LEO-WDB Joint Agreement Modification was unanimously approved with a motion from Fran Damp and Cynde Nichols, respectively.
- C. Board of Directors Nominees, Upcoming Term Expirations, “In-Active List” – For the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting the LEO Board will address (7) Term expirations, (1) new appointee to finish the term of a member unable to complete due to work requirements, and (3) Board members that have not maintained attendance in compliance with Bylaws. Matt will contact those with expiring terms to ask if they would like to be reappointed to another 3-year term.

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D. DWD Monitoring Update – Responses to questions related to our initial submittal have been returned and we expect any outstanding monitoring findings or concerns will be resolved and confirmed as such before our next meeting in May.

E. Recent News

- i. [Georgia Pacific \\$500M capital investment creating 150 new jobs](#)
- ii. [J.J. Keller Foundation awards Bay Area WDB \\$70K grant for its' Transitions to Success opportunity youth program](#) in honor of [30-yrs and \\$70 Million milestone of giving.](#)
- iii. Business News Article: [Connecting the Disconnected](#)
- iv. [Great Resignation Myth Interview/DOL Secretary](#)

**V. FEDERAL, STATE, AND COUNTY UPDATES**

There are three (3) LEO Board members that will not be running in their county elections in April: Ran Damp (Sheboygan), Richard Virlee (Door), and Marvin Klosterman (Shawano). A County Board Chair, County Executive, or a designee of will take their seat. We may also see new names of our County Board Chairs and/or County Executives.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT - NEXT MEETING MAY 5, 2022** – Adjournment unanimously approved at 2:11 P.M. with a motion from Tom Nelson and John Guarisco, respectively.

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