

**Lucas County Workforce Development Board**  
Meeting Minutes for: April 17, 2024, 2:00PM  
Location: Lucas County Shared Services Building  
3737 Sylvania Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43623

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**Board Member Roster**

P	LaTonya Boyd	N	Matthew Kibler	N	Brandon Sehlhorst
N	Khary Carson	P	Jeremy Knisely	P	Denise Smith
P	Lee Daher	P	Karyn McConnell	P	David Takats
P	Tom Demitrew	P	Michelle McDougall		
P	Vanessa Gonyer	P	Valarie Moffitt		
N	Luke Grabel	P	Teresa Moore		
P	Candice Harrison	N	Debra Morris		
P	Scott Hayes	P	Mike Pfeiffer		
P	Laura Jenkins	N	Scott Potter		

**Board of County Commissioners**

P	Lisa Sobecki	N	Pete Gerken	P	Anita Lopez
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**Staff, Visitors, and Others**

P	Tonia Saunders	P	Dave Glaza	P	Chris Varwig
P	Romulus Durant	P	Rachel Hannon	P	Mike Sigov
P	Dana Pierce	P	Dave Timmerman	P	Burma Stewart
P	Darlene White	P	Katie Perry		
P	Angela Miller	P	Christine Richmond		
P	Alexus Miller-Schmenk	P	Sarah Elms		

**Call to Order**

The meeting of the Lucas County Workforce Development Board was called to order by Board Chair Scott Hayes on April 17, 2024, at 2:06 pm. It was determined by a roll call voice vote that quorum was reached.

**Approval of Minutes**

Chair Hayes allowed a few moments for the Board to review the minutes of the February 21, 2024, meeting of the full Board and asked for a motion to approve. A motion was made by Lee Daher and seconded by Teresa Moore. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Career Services RFP Presentation**

Chair Hayes introduced Board Member Laura Jenkins for an update on the Career Services RFP process. Chair Hayes requested Board Member David Takats recuse himself from this portion of the meeting. Ms. Jenkins introduced the RFP team and the process taken by the committee to score each proposal. Proposals were received from the Zepf Center, Harbor and Goodwill. Interviews were then conducted with the top two

scoring candidates. After interviews the choice from the committee was unanimous to award Harbor the Career Services Contract.

Chair Hayes asked for a motion to accept the committee's recommendation for the Career Services RFP to be awarded to Harbor. A motion was made by Lee Daher and seconded by Karyn McConnell. The motion passed by unanimous vote, with Board Member Michelle McDougall abstaining.

Chair Hayes introduced Commissioner Sobecki to address the board and give an update on the work of the commissioners. Commissioner Sobecki also thanked Dr. Durant for the partnerships with Toledo Public Schools.

### **Policy Updates**

The Board was briefed by Burma Stewart, Department of Planning and Development Deputy Director on changes to Eligible Training Provider Policy. Deputy Director Stewart told the board about updates from the state on the Eligible Training Provider Policy which had required changes to local policy. Changes to the policy included eligibility requirements and monitoring language. A motion was made by Laura Jenkins and seconded by Tom Demitrew. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **Approval of In-Demand Occupation List**

The Board was briefed by Burma Stewart, Department of Planning and Development Deputy Director on the updated Local In-Demand Occupation List. There was discussion. Commissioner Lopez asked if these occupations were Lucas County specific. Deputy Director Stewart answered that these numbers come from the state and were based on four regions throughout the state. Director Saunders added that the data also aligns with the CEDS, local economic development plan. Board Member Michele McDougall asked about the expected annual growth tab and how those numbers are used by the state. Director Saunders said the trends of unemployment and job loss and the forecast from the state and used to gather these numbers. Deputy Director Stewart added that even though an occupation has had a history of a declining growth rate in the community does not mean that we would want to take it off the In-Demand list, as we would not be able to fund training for these occupations. A motion was made by Denise Smith and seconded by Karyn McConnell. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **Strategic Plan Goal 1: Prepare a pipeline of work-ready individuals based on the needs of employers**

Chair Hayes instructed the board that this would be a report only item and no action needed from the Board.

### **Strategic Plan Goal 2: Provide proactive and adaptable business services and solutions through meaningful employer engagement**

Chair Hayes instructed the board that this would be a report only item and no action needed from the Board.

### **Strategic Plan Goal 3: Provide holistic, customer-centric, streamlined, and team-based career services**

Chair Hayes instructed the board that this would be a report only item and no action needed from the Board.

### **Strategic Plan 4: Enhance public perception of the Lucas County workforce system by providing effective, timely, and accurate communication**

Chair Hayes instructed the board that this would be a report only item and no action needed from the Board.

### **Financial Report**

Chair Hayes instructed the board that this would be a report only item and no action needed from the Board.

### **Other Business**

Chair Hayes introduced Director Saunders for an update on In-Demand Jobs Week 2024. In-Demand Jobs week is the first week of May (6-10<sup>th</sup> ) and DPD will be hosting a hiring event on May 9<sup>th</sup> with local employers looking to hire students for summer and beyond employment. Students from TPS and Washington Local school districts will be attending.

Board Member Demitrew introduced Toledo Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Romulus Durant for a brief presentation to the board. Dr. Durant told the board about numerous initiatives at TPS including career pathways to employment, various apprenticeship and internship programs, strategies to maintain local talent in Toledo, and enhance parental involvement. He introduced the board to the Aerospace and Natural Science Academy located at the Toledo Airport and the Toledo Botanical Garden, the advanced manufacturing and robotics program at the Toledo Technology Academy, the Toledo Early College High School, located on the campus of the University of Toledo, the Pre-Medical and Health Science Academy sponsored in part by ProMedica, the Jones Leadership Academy of Business, the upcoming Scott Park campus, and new CDL training program,. Dr. Durant shared that TPS maintains partnerships with the University of Toledo, Owens Community College, and various local and international employers.

Board Member Daher asked how these new programs differ from skill center programs in the early to mid-1990s. Dr. Durant answered that while skill centers still exist as viable opportunities for students to obtain skill-based certifications, today's programs are geared toward students who share in the same program interests and offer alignment between core academic subjects and the specific career tech education.

Chair Hayes asked if there were any transportation issues with getting students to these specialized schools, Dr. Durant answered, that students are bussed to their school from

their neighborhood school and that all core classes are held at the career tech school and that staffing is set by school enrollment.

Commissioner Sobecki asked about the EV program and whether any thought had been put into adult education at TPS. Dr. Durant said that TPS is working with UAW Local 14 to ensure that these programs are in the pipeline. Commissioner Sobecki added that the partnership with TPS is important and that we are working together to ensure these connections are made.

Hearing no other business, Chair Hayes called for a motion to adjourn the meeting that was made by Candice Harrison, seconded by Vanessa Gonyer, and approved by unanimous voice vote by the board. The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 pm.