

**SOUTHERN 14 WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD, INC.**  
**MINUTES for MARCH 10, 2026**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The March meeting of the Southern 14 Workforce Investment Board, Inc. was held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026. Shane Neuman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Southeastern Illinois College in Harrisburg, IL and via zoom. A quorum was met.

**ROLL CALL**

**ABSENT**

Michael Belford  
Scott Cohoon (Zoom)  
Brad Cross  
Shawn Healy (Zoom)  
Lean Hicks (Zoom)  
Tim Hocking (Zoom)  
Joel Huffman (Zoom)  
Chris Howton  
Shane Neuman (Zoom)  
Angie Peyton (Zoom)  
Beth Rister (Zoom)  
Leah Seals (Zoom)  
Steve Smith (Zoom)  
Chad Wargel  
Dawn Williams (Zoom)  
Denna Williams (Zoom)  
Rick Wilson (Zoom)

Kaylee Adams  
Lori Cox  
Connie Duncan  
Lindsay Duval  
Wayne Eichorn  
Matt Fowler  
Ginger Harner  
Libby Lingafelter  
Wendy Aly  
Neil Wagner  
Tory Woods  
Rocky Wright  
Dean Rogan  
Beth Wilson  
Patricia Wilson

Also in Attendance: Pam Barbee, Sheryl Walker, Victor Duckworth, and Ryan Trueblood

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**II. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 9th BOARD MINUTES**

A quorum was met and December 9th minutes were approved.

1<sup>st</sup>: Chris Howton

2<sup>nd</sup>: Brad Cross

Voice Vote: Motion Carried

**III. ACCEPTANCE FINANCIAL REPORTS**

All expenses were presented in member packets for the December 2025, January 2026, and February 2026 expenses and were accepted.

1<sup>st</sup>: Brad Cross

2<sup>nd</sup>: Chris Howton

Roll Call Vote: Motion Carried

**IV. CHAIRMAN COMMENTS**

None provided.

**V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

To say we have had a busy couple of weeks is an understatement. With no notice employees were notified that they would not be returning to work as Champ Labs was officially closing. This caused a flurry activity. We held a series of rapid response meetings for the affected employees giving them information. I have spent a large amount of time talking with employers who are potentially hiring those affected employees about WIOA options for them. We are going to do ten OJTs at Motorad and I anticipate quite a few others at different employers. At this moment we do have some dislocated funds remaining in our allocated funding, but I plan to request additional funding in our 1E grant to be able to serve the need once we have a better idea of what the individuals may plan to do. This event will put a strain on not only the Board office staff, but also WADI staff, but I am confident that we are up for the challenge. IECC has offered to assist us by testing the individuals, this will alleviate about two hours of the career planner's time making the process more manageable.

My employee evaluation brought up questions about our succession plan. My idea was always to train Jessica to step into this role in two, or so, years. I think that she is more than qualified, both in education and attitude, to accept the responsibilities. Depending on our budget for next year, I had planned to request an incremental increase in her salary to compensate her for the added responsibilities as she learns my job. I would also like to reclassify her position as associate director or something similar. In addition, Sheryl will be learning my fiscal duties like budgeting and reporting. My goal is that between the two staff they will be comfortable picking up where I left off and running with it! I will bring proposed personnel actions to the Board once we have our budget for next year. I am just throwing this out to start you all thinking.

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Next thing to think about is our current office. The WIOA act dictates that Title 1(that's us) has a presence at the One Stop Center. In the past, Rita's part time position fulfilled that spot. With her retirement, we are not completely in compliance. My staff have been taking turns a few mornings a week staffing the location. This brought up a potential plan. If we were to move our office to the One Stop Center it would save about \$12,000 per year, since we would not have rent or phone and internet. I have spoken with Karen Wiess and we think that it is doable, but no decision has been made. I am just looking at the possibilities and will bring a proposal to the June meeting. One of the ideas Board staff working in the office a couple of days a week and remotely a couple of days a week. I have also talked to IECC about the possibility of one of us being in Fairfield one day a week. Again, no action to take tonight, I am just starting the thinking process.

As always thank you for your trust and confidence in me!

### VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### **One Stop Committee:**

The One-Stop Committee met on February 24th at 10:00 am via Zoom, we did have a quorum. A motion was made by Lena Hicks and seconded by Dawn Williams to accept the PY26 MOU as presented and approve its submission.

The Committee then brought this to the board.

1<sup>st</sup>: Committee

Voice Vote: Motion Carried

#### **Policy and Planning Committee:**

The Policy and Planning Committee met on February 26th at 10:00 am via Zoom, we did not have a quorum.

During the board meeting a motion was made by Tim Hocking and seconded by Brad Cross to accept the Regional Plan as presented and approve its submittal.

1<sup>st</sup>: Tim Hocking

2<sup>nd</sup>: Brad Cross

Voice Vote: Motion Carried

The Policy and Planning Committee met on February 26th at 10:00 am via Zoom, we did not have a quorum.

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During the board meeting a motion was made by Tim Hocking and seconded by Brad Cross to accept the Local Plan as presented and approve its submittal.

1<sup>st</sup>: Tim Hocking

2<sup>nd</sup>: Brad Cross

Voice Vote: Motion Carried

### **Personnel Committee:**

The Personnel Committee met on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10 am via Zoom, we did have a quorum. A motion was made by Shane Neuman and seconded by Shawn Healy to accept the Personnel Evaluations as presented.

The Committee then brought this to the board.

1<sup>st</sup>: Committee

Voice Vote: Motion Carried

The Personnel Committee met on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10 am via Zoom, we did have a quorum. A motion was made by Lena Hicks and seconded by Shawn Healy to accept and award the Employee Incentives as presented.

The Committee then brought this to the board.

1<sup>st</sup>: Committee

Roll Call Vote: Motion Carried

## **VII. SERVICE PROVIDER COMMENTS:**

### **Shawnee Development Council:**

#### **Monthly Narrative: Meeting Goals**

\*Spring 2026 semester classes started on January 12 but there are short term programs that start in February & March which include CNA, Phlebotomy, CDL, and EKG that depend on which SCC extension the classes will be held. We have 43 enrolled for the Spring so far, 15 are new enrollees.

#### **Work Experience notes:**

\*We are putting on WEX workers for the State WEX funds which will be enough for about 7 Adult workers. There are 3 employed at this time; one in Alexander County and 2 in Pulaski County. The process is ongoing.

For the Out of School Youth WEX, we have 4 employed. There are 2 in Pope County, 1 in Union County, and 1 in Alexander County. The process is ongoing also.

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\*As of this writing today, we are contacting other WEX workers specifically in Massac & Union counties. We are wanting to put Dislocated Workers on WEX as well because we have funding available.

### **\*Meetings/ trainings/events attended:**

\*WIOA Case Note & Data Entry Training is to be rescheduled at some time.

January 8<sup>th</sup>: Snap Benefits webinar as it pertains to WIOA (postponed)

January 13<sup>th</sup>: Exit Conference for DCEO Monitoring

January 21<sup>st</sup>: PROWD Zoom meeting

January 22<sup>nd</sup>: Business Services Team Zoom

### **Upcoming Events/Trainings:**

February 4<sup>th</sup>: Area Planning Committee meeting @ SCC

February 25<sup>th</sup>: WIOA Presentation at the SCC Metro Center with GED class

March 4<sup>th</sup>: WIOA Presentation at the SCC Anna Center with GED class

### **Wabash Area Development Inc.:**

Program: We just had 2 CDL students complete their programs as well as have placed 6 in the current class. This semester, we will have 13 nursing students graduate along with 2 criminal justice, 2 cosmetology, 1 occupational therapy assistant, and 1 pharmacy tech students.

We are working with Frontier Community College and Fairfield Memorial Hospital to begin a Healthcare Professional Pre apprenticeship for 6 individuals. It is a hybrid work experience and classroom program.

In partnership with Wabash Valley College, Head Start is in the early stages of developing an Early Childhood Education apprenticeship that should begin in the fall.

Following the Champion Labs closure, we attended the Albion Chamber of Commerce Job Fair on March 4<sup>th</sup> where we spoke with about 100 dislocated workers. We also attended the Frontier Community College Rapid Response on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. We are gathering their information and place them in Work Experience or Career Education. With the help of Pam and Jessica, we have created a OJT partnership with MOTORAD out of Mt. Carmel to place 6 dislocated workers immediately. Concerning the Skillforge Program, we have 4 potential candidates to place in there.

We are going to attend case note training on April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> with Robin Kralman as well as attending IWDS 2.0 training on May 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

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Outreach: Ryan Douthitt and Maddison will attend the SIC Kids Fair on March 26<sup>th</sup> and the SIC Job Fair on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Nelda attended the OCC Job Fair on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Success Story:**

In the winter of 2024, Debora came into the WADI office in McLeansboro for a LIHEAP appointment. During that time, she began talking about how her life had taken a turn for the worse. Her mom and brother got sick and passed away. Also, during this time, her own health was declining due to her need for a hip replacement. She had finally been able to get her hip replaced, but knew she needed to find a new career path. She had always worked in nursing homes or grocery stores and that meant being on her feet. She knew she would be unable to stand for 8 hours a day.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Brad Cross made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Shane Neuman, carried via Voice Vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm by Shane Neuman.

Minutes Approved by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_