

SOUTHERN 14 WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD, INC.

MINUTES for JUNE 9, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The June meeting of the Southern 14 Workforce Investment Board, Inc. was held on Tuesday, June 9, 2026. Dean Rogan 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

Scott Cohoon
Lori Cox (Zoom)
Brad Cross
Lena Hicks (Zoom)
Tim Hocking (Zoom)
Joel Huffman (Zoom)
Chris Howton
Wendy Aly (Zoom)
Beth Rister
Neil Wagner
Chad Wargel
Dawn Williams (Zoom)
Denna Williams (Zoom)
Rocky Wright (Zoom)
Dean Rogan (Zoom)

ABSENT

Kaylee Adams
Michael Belford
Connie Duncan
Lindey Duvall
Wayne Eichorn
Matt Fowler
Ginger Harner
Shawn Healy
Libby Lingafelter
Shane Neuman
Angie Peyton
Leah Seals
Steve Smith
Beth Wilson
Patricia Wilson
Rick Wilson
Tory Woods

Also in Attendance: Pam Barbee, Sheryl Walker, Jessica Barbre, Sandy Jones, Victor Duckworth, and Ryan Trueblood

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II. APPROVAL OF THE March 10th BOARD MINUTES

A quorum was met and March 10th minutes were approved.

1st: Beth Rister

2nd: Brad Cross

Voice Vote: Motion Carried

III. ACCEPTANCE FINANCIAL REPORTS

All expenses were presented in member packets for the March, April, and May 2026 expenses and were accepted.

1st: Chris Howton

2nd: Neil Wagner

Roll Call Vote: Motion Carried

IV. CHAIRMAN COMMENTS

Five programs were approved by the Executive Committee between our December meeting and now. They were the SIC Industrial Maintenance, SIC Medical Assistant, SCC CBE Business Management, SCC CBE Combination Welding, and SCC EMT programs.

As a reminder, in April of 2024, LWIB's were tasked with the implementation of Policy 1.6, which stated that all LWIB's must conduct a review of the required and optional policies that must be in place to guide local service delivery, determine if any need to be developed, and review their existing policies with an equity lens. LWIA 26 completed this as part of their Policy Revision Task Force that met bi-weekly late in 2024 and early 2025. This was to be completed before submitting the PY 26 Regional and Local Plan. While no formal submission is required, our area did complete this, and those revisions were completed with your approval last year.

The PY 26 MOU Report of Outcomes was submitted along with the draft budget. The Report of Outcomes is a document that states that all required partners in this local area have reached agreement on an annual one-stop operating budget, including how infrastructure costs will be funded for each service location for the year beginning July 1. It was returned with no changes with its approval the MOU was submitted ahead of the May 29th due date.

Finally, the Executive Committee also met and approved moving costs up to \$2,000 for the board office.

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V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

We have had a busy few months at the Board office. We have been preparing to move to our new office. The movers are scheduled to pick up our furniture on the 22nd and we are trying to donate our surplus furniture. Each time you move you realize just how much unneeded stuff you hold on to, we have the shredding company scheduled and I am surrounded by boxes. I personally now think I may be solely responsible for deforestation and global warming.

We have a few incumbent worker projects going on and have been approached by the company that purchased Champ Labs to do some training. DVEO has tentatively approved the project, which will be about \$30K. We will be requesting additional funds in our 1E grant to cover the cost of the project.

I anticipate another wave of Champ dislocated workers seeking our services as their unemployment starts to run out. We have been contacted by a few wanting to start training in the fall semester. At this time, we do not have any special event scheduled for the effected employees.

Even though Trade is not in effect at the current time, the feds want to ensure that the program is ready when needed so we were awarded a small grant \$7,800. \$2,200 is to provide Trade's share of the OneStop center and the remaining funds are for admin salary & benefits.

We are still waiting for our audit and 2025 tax returns. At this point, they hear from me every other day. I received a note from Walters yesterday, and I hope they are close to finishing. We have been on credit hold for two months and are more than ready to draw down funds. We anticipated this issue early and worked with DCEO to draw excess funding before the hold, but those funds are starting to run low.

We have issued the RFP for client services with a due date of July 31, 2026. I anticipate bringing this to the committee for review before the September Board meeting.

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VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee:

The Finance Committee met on June 1st at 1 pm via Zoom, we did have a quorum.

A motion was made by Beth Rister and seconded by Lori Cox to accept PY26 Allocated Funding and approve the submission for the funding. Denna Williams abstained.

The Committee then brought this to the board.

1st: Committee

Roll Call Vote: Motion Carried with Lena Hicks and Denna Williams both abstaining.

The Finance Committee met on June 1st at 1 pm via Zoom, we did have a quorum.

A motion was made by Denna Williams and seconded by Beth Rister to accept the PY26 Administrative Budget, which includes the personnel actions and make recommendations to the full board.

The Committee then brought this to the board.

1st: Committee

Roll Call Vote: Motion Carried with Lena Hicks and Denna Williams both abstaining.

Personnel Committee:

The Personnel Committee met on June 1st at 2 pm via Zoom, we did have a quorum. A motion was made by Lori Cox and seconded by Dean Rogan to accept a 2.5% cost of living increase to each staff member, as well as reclassify the administrative assistant position to associate director and give that position an additional \$1.50 an hour increase to compensate for the added responsibilities.

The Committee then brought this to the board.

1st: Committee

Roll Call Vote: Motion Carried with Lena Hicks and Denna Williams both abstaining.

VII. SERVICE PROVIDER COMMENTS:

Shawnee Development Council:

Monthly Narrative Meeting Goals

We are preparing to enroll participants for the Summer semester. The end of the Spring semester means there will be those graduating and others who will continue attending classes. A number of graduates will be counted after their graduation dates.

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Work Experience notes:

There are 2 employed on the State Grant at this time; 1 in Alexander County and 1 in Pulaski County. The funding has almost all been spent but the process is ongoing.

For the Out of School Youth WEX, we have 2 employed at this time. There is 1 in Massac County, and 1 in Pulaski County. We are working on adding about 8 more Out of School Youth on WEX because we still have funding. We have been contacting schools to find any Seniors graduating in May to put on. We have one In-School youth from Pulaski county we are trying to put on.

We have 1 Dislocated Worker employed in Union county.

As of this writing, we are contacting other WEX workers specifically in Massac, Union & Pulaski counties. Our plans are to contact the schools in our area and meet with Seniors that want to do work after graduation. We want to put other Dislocated Workers on as well.

Meetings/ trainings/events attended:

- April 22nd & 23rd: Informational meetings with Shawnee College LPN's
- April 23rd: Business Services Zoom
- April 24th: Shawnee College CDL Advisory Meeting at the Metro Center

Upcoming Events/Trainings

- May 21st: ReEntry Summit at Vienna Correctional Center
- May 22nd: ReEntry Summit at Shawnee Correctional Center
- May 27th & 28th: IL Workforce Development Services 2.0 training at Mantracon
- **Other Zoom trainings will be attended in May for the upcoming IWDS 2.0 upgrade.
- *May is Community Action Month—several SDC events & projects are scheduled for that

Success Story:

Sandy Jones started as a Dislocated Worker on the WIOA program in 2017 and will be transitioning into Victor's job as of July 1, 2026. Congratulations to Sandy!

Wabash Area Development Inc.:

Program: We have had 2 more CDL graduates. They have both landed jobs. 8 of our LPN participants are going on to ADN. We have 3 new participants going into the Frontier Community College CNA Program. We ended up having 10 participants enter the Fairfield Memorial Hospital Pre apprenticeship program which began on June 1st. It is 8 weeks long. We have 2 interns at Motorad. One in IT and one in engineering. Our Skillforce participants continue to attain valuable certificates that will assist them in getting their next job.

Wadi's career planners and myself attended IWDS 2.0 training at Man-Tra-Con on May 27th and 28th where we learned a great deal of hands on experience with the new program. We

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are excited as we think it will be a great tool moving forward. We also were assigned homework which we hope to get together to work on.

Success Story:

Dominick Pearson started as a Work Experience in July 2025 at Mt. Carmel High School as a custodian. He was a WOVSED participant in high school with an IEP/learning disability and had never had a job. He had a stellar work ethic as all of his monitoring tools had rave remarks. They requested a Work Experience extension which we provided. He finished his participation in February of this year. The school district kept him on as a substitute custodian until there was a full time opening. In April, he was hired full time at the district and Nelda and I are so proud of him!

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Neil Wagner made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Chris Howton, carried via Voice Vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm by Dean Rogan.

Minutes Approved by _____ Date _____