

**MINUTES**  
**Eastern Jackson County**  
**Workforce Development Board of Directors**  
**April 12, 2024**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**Members Present**

Doug Goodwin  
Clyde McQueen  
Bobby Barlow  
Kathy Watts  
Thomas Meyer  
Laurie Johnson  
Lara Vermillion  
Janis Reed  
Angie Richardson

**FEC Staff**

Tirhas Kidane  
Scott Gordan  
Andrea Robins  
April Law  
Rohina Behrmann  
Tami Blair

**Designee**

Jason Lisenbee

**Call to Order**

Doug Goodwin, Chairman of the Eastern Jackson County Workforce Development Board, called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the meeting.

**Minutes**

Mr. Goodwin requested a motion to approve the April 12, 2024, minutes. A motion was made and seconded, and the Board unanimously approved the minutes as written.

**Financial Report**

Tirhas Kidane presented the Financial Report as of May 31, 2024. All programs continue to be on track. She reviewed the expenditures and reported that security is over budget, but we are looking at alternatives to reduce this cost. Building repairs are also over budget, due to our facilities needing repairs. We will have funds to carry over to the 2024-2025 budget in the Adult Programs.

Ms. Kidane presented a comparison of the funds to be distributed by the State, showing that EJAC will experience an 8% decrease in funding compared to other counties, which had much higher decreases. She also mentioned that the Formula funds for our Dislocated Worker Program will be reduced by 22% and Adults will be reduced by 8% for the 2024-25 year. These funds are based on the unemployment rate and the poverty levels. EJAC currently has a decrease in the unemployment rate reducing the amount of funding provided. Additionally, she discussed the FY2025 Allocation, noting that discretionary funds are up 31% to \$.81 million, Adults are up 30% to \$.17 million, Youth is up 24% to \$.62 million, and Dislocated Workers are up 15% to \$.39 million.

Ms. Kidane also talked about the Three-Year Revenue Analysis, which revealed that all funds will increase except the Dislocated Workers program.

She then reviewed the Proposed Expenditure Budget for 2024/2025. The most significant increases will be in facilities due to the cost of security and employee health insurance premiums. Program payments increased by 17% from the 2023/2024 year.

The Financial Monitoring by the Department of Higher Education Workforce Development performed its annual audit and found no issuances or non-compliance.

Laurie Johnson moved to approve, Janice seconded the motion, and the Board approved the Financial Report.

### **Annual Monitoring**

Andrea Robins, Managing Director of Planning & Compliance, presented the Annual Program Monitoring Evaluation for EJAC. Programs reviewed were WIOA – Adult, Dislocated Workers, and Youth. She explained the areas the State monitored and how FEC has complied with their requests. She also reviewed the Equal Opportunities Annual Reviews performed on several One-Stop Operators. The State only found concerns with 160 Driving Academy, but their program is self-paced and may take participants longer than other courses.

Mr. McQueen explained the regulatory framework used by FEC and how multiple agencies have complained about the amount of paperwork, which brought about the changes for a Beta test, which we are participating in with EDSI.

Chairman Goodwin moved to approve, Janice Reed seconded the motion, and the Board approved the Annual Monitoring Report.

### **Trend Analysis**

Scott Gordon began his presentation by discussing two Success Stories. He explained that these two participants were exceptional examples of participants who came out of the EJAC office.

He then presented the Fourth Quarter Performance Summary Program Year 2023. EJAC achieved all goals except the Skill Gains Youth category. He explained that the State has made changes, and we are working on accommodating their requirements, which will correct this area. Then we will be one of the first high-performing counties in the State.

He reviewed the annual Trend Analysis Report and stated that the EJAC office had referred 3,992 applicants, an increase of 266 over the prior year, and served 704 employers and 7,769 services which included 2,280 enrollments in the Wagner Peyser Program. He also explained that the top five services were self-serve resumes, career guidance, self-serve job search, orientation, and development service strategies.

Chairman Goodwin asked about FEC participating in Independence, Blue Springs, and Raytown. Mr. Gordon explained that FEC is very active and participates in many events with schools, employers, job fairs, and apprenticeships.

### **President's Report**

Mr. McQueen started by recapping the US Conference of Mayors Workforce Development Council meeting that took place last month in Kansas City. Around 60 participants from various cities attended the event, visiting the KC Current Stadium and having lunch and discussions at the Port Authority. KCATA reported that the majority of their drivers are women. He explained that the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development will underwrite a position at Lee's Summit Technology Center. We are also looking at convening with Lara and Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. McQueen discussed a Childcare Summit by Workforce YOU on July 9, with over 85 participants. He noted a 75% shortage of childcare in Jackson County and over 55% of those seeking childcare are on a waiting list. He also highlighted shortages in mental health and vocational rehab services. Chairman Goodwin thanked FEC for their work and looks forward to further discussions on additional resources.

### **New Funding**

Mr. McQueen reviewed the new funding, which includes Equal Opportunities, Quest, Job League, and SkillUP. We also have \$13,560,203 in potential funding, which includes one-year to four-year programs.

### **Retirement of Chairman Goodwin**

Mr. McQueen thanked Chairman Goodwin for his years of service from 2018 to 2024. He felt the Workforce Board was better for his contribution. Mr. McQueen showed everyone the award that will be presented to Chairman Goodwin as a thank you. Chairman Goodwin thanked everyone on the Board for their contributions and appreciated learning about each person.

### **One-Stop Operator Recommendation**

Ms. Robins announced the opening for a One-Stop Operator in EJAC, recommending UAW for the job. UAW was the sole bidder and has been the contractor for the past three years. The initial contract is for one year and can be renewed for two more years. The board approved the contract in their meeting on July 11, 2024, with a budget of \$73,000. UAW will operate in the career center to connect job seekers to required WIOA partners.

Tom Meyer moved and Lara Vermillion seconded the motion to approve the One-Stop Operator, and the motion passed.

There was a round-robin discussion.

**Positions To Be Filled**

Chairman Goodwin announced that the Nomination Committee has nominated the following for open positions:

Board Chairperson – Laurie Johnson

Youth Committee - Brett Wyatt

Lara Vermillion moved to accept the nominations, and Janice Reed seconded the motion, which passed.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.