

**KENTUCKIANAWORKS BOARD MEETING
GREATER LOUISVILLE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Thursday, June 23, 2022 – 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Hybrid Meeting In person (at Greater Louisville Inc., 614 West
Main Street, Louisville) and via Zoom**

Members Present: Andy Bianco, Harold Reynolds, Jenny Lampton, John Archer, Rocki Rockingham, Ty Richardson, Patricia Williams, Mike Hesketh, Rick Purdy, Kim Blanding, Tony Georges, Sarah Davasher-Wisdom, Jonathan Westbrook, Jennifer Carman, Stacey Wade, Cornelius Cotton, Sadiqa Reynolds, David Bizianes, Eric Friggle, Willie Byrd

Welcome and Greetings - *Chairman Tony Georges*

Chairman Georges welcomed everyone to the Board Meeting and thanked them for attending.

Vote Needed: Review and Approve Minutes from May 2022 Meeting - *Tony Georges*

There was a quorum and a motion to accept the May Meeting minutes was made by Mike Hesketh and seconded by Dr. Marty Pollio. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote Needed: Approve Consent Agenda Items Recommended by The Program Oversight Committee – *Michael Gritton and Mike Hesketh*

Michael explained that Cindy Read is on vacation, and so he will be stepping in her place for this meeting. The Program Oversight Committee met virtually on June 17, 2022. The committee welcomed a new member, Donnie Humphrey, Workforce Development Director at Norton Healthcare. Donnie is acting as a proxy for board member Kim Blanding. Michael stated that there were three items for renewal on the Consent Agenda. The first item was the contract renewal with Louisville Forward. KentuckianaWorks contributed in paying for an Economic Development Position that supports workforce development in their economic development deal. KentuckianaWorks has an MOU with Shelby County Public Schools for workforce development that helps to support a position at that location. This position focuses on solving workforce development problems for local employers, job seekers, and students seeking work-based learning opportunities and jobs after graduation. Lastly, at February 24, 2022 meeting, the KentuckianaWorks Board voted to broaden its definition of “career pathways” work to include asking the Kentucky Career Center staff explicitly to work with graduating high school seniors to help as many of them as possible to transition successfully to either postsecondary education or employment. To establish that board preference into our WIOA Local Plan, the Program Oversight Committee recommends that the board approve adding graduating seniors in the language of the plan.

A motion to approve the recommended Consent Agenda was made by Dr. Marty Pollio and seconded by John Archer. The motion was approved without opposition.

Update: Program Highlights – *Michael Gritton*

Michael provided a quick rundown of the Program Highlights document that was shared as part of the Board’s packet.

Vote Needed: Review and Approve Annual Budget for FY23 – *Michael Gritton*

Michael stated that the yearly revenue picture looks roughly the same. For fiscal year 2023, there is a modest increase from \$15.1 million to \$15.8 million. Big losses on the federal funding side are being made up by increased investments from Louisville Metro Government. This is creating tension in the amount of work being done in Louisville Metro compared to what is

available in the 6 regional counties. The state's investment of almost \$900,000 in efforts outside our region, known as Code Kentucky, also mask what would otherwise be a declining funding picture for our region. We're taking a cut of roughly \$450,000 to our core funding stream which is the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Because this is the only funding stream that pays for programs in the 6 regional counties, this ultimately reduces the ability to serve customers in those regional counties. Michael stated he will be having conversations concerning this with the Chief Local Elected Officials the following day.

Michael noted a number of grants that are ending, including the JPMorgan Chase grant that funded our Tech Louisville effort, and a separate federal grant that allowed us to serve more young adults with criminal records. The National Dislocated Worker Grant that funded a program to serve people returning home from prison is also ending. These were all expected, but one grant is ending that was a total surprise: the federal Department of Education grant that funded the KentuckianaWorks College Access Center work with low-income, first-generation college-going adults. The budget also notes that we are giving up the \$300,000 we've been getting from the Louisville Redevelopment Authority to help fund the Kentucky Manufacturing Career Center since we're closing the KMCC as of June 30th.

Chairman Georges noticed that the funding for the Academies of Louisville has been cut in half. Michael stated that we used to have two outside funding streams to support that work, but as the JPMorgan Chase grants ended, we only have the grant from the James Graham Brown Foundation currently supporting this work.

Motion was made by Jonathan Archer and seconded by Dr. Marty Pollio. The motion was passed unanimously.

Update: What Did we Learn from First Efforts to Help High School Seniors Across the Region Get Jobs if They Weren't Headed for College – Regina Phillips and Charlotte Kerns
Regina Phillips presented a slide presentation regarding our efforts over the past 5 years to work with the region's school districts. She also stated that she will be co-presenting with Charlotte Kerns who represents the Kentucky Career Centers and the Business Services Team. She went on to thank the Board for voting in February, 2022 to broaden the scope of our "career pathways" work under WIOA to include working with graduating high school seniors. Between the winter and spring of 2022, KentuckianaWorks met with the school district staff in all 6 surrounding counties to discuss pathways, the needs of graduating seniors, and the opportunity to use KentuckianaEARNs to connect students to work-based learning opportunities. Regina shared with the Board the percentages of seniors in all 7 counties moving forward to college. In four out of the seven counties, KentuckianaWorks and our Kentucky Career Center staff have hosted job fairs, and we've gotten a large number of employers involved in these hiring events.

Regina next described the upcoming project known as After the Tassel. This project is an inaugural attempt to have hiring events that coincide with high school graduation rehearsals. The goal of this project was to connect graduating seniors, who may not have a solid post-graduation plan, to employers who are looking to fill their open positions with young talent. The first events took place between May 24th through May 26th at the Kentucky Fair and Expo Center. After the seniors' graduation rehearsal, they would be directed to the West Hall and greeted by over 80 employers. Regina stated that they were able to make this happen within 6 weeks of planning. Within this timeframe and grant funding, they were able to bring a DJ, Photo Booth, Corn Hole, and prizes to give a youth-friendly vibe. She presented the employer feedback which included many compliments on the level of participation by the students. Prepping students better for the event and potentially changing the timing of the event are the

areas that can be improved, but the event received overall high marks on communication, organization, and for the idea in general. Regina also presented student and JCPS staff feedback which included high marks on variety of employers, energy, job fair organization and set up. Improvements included timing of the event and possible regional fairs and field trips.

Charlotte went on to talk about the aftermath of the After the Tassel event. The Kentucky Career Center Business Solutions Team has been following up weekly with all of the employers that participated. As of the present day, there have been 10 job placements confirmed with the targeted wage of \$15 an hour or higher. Charlotte mentioned that despite their best efforts on the events in the other counties, the number of confirmed job placements is zero at the moment. She mentioned that if we do these events again, we'll want to get an earlier start so that more people – and especially graduating seniors and their parents – are aware of them and prepared for the opportunities they represent.

Chairman Georges gave a huge shout out to the team for all their hard work and reminding the Board what they do and why they do it.

Update: The JCPS Student Assignment Plan and Plans for the Future – Dr. Marty Pollio

Dr. Pollio started by thanking the Board for their patience in giving him time before he returned to this subject, and stated that JCPS is in a much better spot than two months ago with respect to their new Student Assignment Plan. He previously discussed with this Board how the current Student Assignment Plan is negatively affecting student outcomes, and how it's been doing so for the past 40 years. It was important for this topic to receive a unanimous vote from the School Board, and Dr. Pollio said he and his team worked hard to achieve that result. One of the biggest hurdles was to ensure the resources to students who need them the most, to enshrine the current Board's commitments into policy, so that any future Board that might want to change those policies will have to do so in a public process. The Kentucky Supreme Court case that recently upheld JCPS's revenue increase that was passed in 2020 also creates a big opportunity for the District. JCPS has \$75 million it has been holding in escrow that it can now spend, and will also receive \$50 million in additional revenue each year. This also helps to increase the bonding capacity for the school district. JCPS was able to borrow \$250 million before the Kentucky Supreme Court case, which is devastatingly low for a District this large. Now our bonding capacity will be \$550 million. The first three schools on our list to build will be the W.E.B DuBois Academy, the Grace James Academy, and a new middle school in West Louisville. Dr. Pollio stated that he is very proud of this time of significant change for JCPS. Dr. Pollio concluded this is a huge win for the children of this community and it is long overdue. He opened the floor for comments and questions. Chairman Georges commented on the drive and the leadership of Dr. Pollio, and emphasized that even though this board is not the school board, Dr. Pollio's work has everything to do with the Workforce Board.

Executive Director's Report – Michael Gritton

Michael thanked Lori Hiser, Chief Financial Officer, and her team for the Budget Report. He also stated that he and Dr. Darrius Brooks are monitoring the Metro Council Budget news, but they are optimistic that what the Mayor put in the budget will stay, especially the funding for KCAC. Chairman Georges mentioned that the last KentuckianaWorks Foundation Board Meeting was held June 24th to shut down the Foundation as a legal separate entity and roll it into KentuckianaWorks, and it is completed. UPS has a program called the transitional learning center where community members with disabilities can come to get some real TLC. UPS has been able to employ people through this program, and it would not have been possible without the leadership of Willie Byrd. With 27 years of running Options Unlimited, he has made a huge difference in this community. Willie is now retiring and stepping down from the

KentuckianaWorks Board. The Board wished him the best in retirement and let him know he will be truly missed.

Chairman Georges then adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 25, 2022.

Staff:

Alicia Pardo
Michael Gritton
Barbara Ferrell
Stacy Roderick
Patrick Garvey
Katie Elliott
Aleece Smith
Angella Wilson
Cindy Read
Darius Brooks
Brian Luerman
Bailey Preston
Jaime Disney
Mary Rosenthal
Regina Phillips
Sarah Ehresman
Lada Garsparac
Lori Hiser
Mike Karman
Chris Locke

Contractors/Guests

Sara Dodeci
Bria Henson
Dr. Gary Damon Jr.
Lisa Thompson
Christine Tarquinio
Charlotte Kerns