



**KENTUCKIANAWORKS BOARD MEETING  
GREATER LOUISVILLE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
Thursday, June 29, 2023 – 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  
at Kentucky Career Center**

**Members Present:** Tony Georges, Eric Friggle, Christine Tarquinio (a proxy for Sarah Davasher-Wisdom), Harold Reynolds, Jeff O'Brien, Rick Purdy, Cornelius Cotton, Caitlin Blair, Cortney Burden, Kim Blanding

**Staff:** Michael Gritton, Alicia Pardo, Angella Wilson, Patrick Garvey, Aleece Smith, Sarah Ehresman, Regina Phillips, Bryan Griffin, Lada Gasparac, Evelyn Woock, Jaime Disney, Dana Moorer

**Contractors/Guests:** Rosell Hamilton, Rodney Cross, Yvonne Jones, Kimberly Boyd-Lane, Lisa Thompson, Martha Stephenson, Elexia Murry

**Welcome and Greetings – Chairman Tony Georges**

Chairman Tony Georges welcomed everyone to the Board Meeting and thanked them for attending. He appreciated the members coming to the Career Center and being able to show them the work that is being done in the community. Because there was not a quorum, the voting items will be discussed at the next meeting.

**FY2024 KentuckianaWorks Budget Highlights Discussion – Michael Gritton**

Michael thanked Dana Moorer, the Chief Financial Officer for KentuckianaWorks, and her team for putting the budget together. He went over a summary of what the budget looked like in past years and the funding streams that KentuckianaWorks uses to fund and/or run programs. In FY24, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)'s share of the KentuckianaWorks Budget will be 30%. This is the lowest it has been in 25 years. The total WIOA allocation for the 7-county region next year is \$ 5.3 million which is \$900,000 less than the \$6.2 million we received in FY21.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is the only funding stream to serve customers in the six regional counties (Bullitt, Henry, Oldham, Trimble, Spencer, and Shelby). The populations of those counties only represent about 24% of the region's total funding. That leaves roughly \$1.2 million to spend on services to residents in those counties, both adults and young adults. Michael stated that KentuckianaWorks is planning on working with the county leaders and the Program Oversight Committee in the coming months to determine if there is a better way to serve the counties with the shrinking pool of funds. This year's WIOA allocation gives roughly \$1.3 million to serve approximately 20,000 disconnected young adults across our 7-county region. Michael mentioned that Southern Indiana has opened their first kiosk in a library so individuals can get connected with a career counselor remotely. This is one of the many potential concepts that can be explored for the counties.

The adult programs listed in the Budget are primarily funded with federal dollars from WIOA, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), and Kentuckiana Builds. The youth and young adult programs are mainly funded by Louisville Metro, with significant help from private philanthropy, and include core efforts like The Spot, SummerWorks, the Academies of Louisville, and Kentuckiana EARNs. Louisville Metro's commitment to the work has



increased from \$0, before 2005, to \$6 million in FY24. However, the state government has not contributed any state dollars for the 25<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

Michael spoke about the funding challenges that KentuckianaWorks is facing. With WIOA funding declining, the regional counties are not in a position to fund services in the region, and the level of services to job seekers and employers in those counties is going to be uncertain. The young adult program run by Goodwill in the counties will only be able to serve a fraction of the young adults we know need their help there.

Michael stated that SummerWorks continues to be in the Metro budget for \$1 million for FY24. However, SummerWorks' key philanthropic supporters expire after this summer which could result in a shortfall of \$400,000 for FY24 compared to FY23. The decline in WIOA dollars has severely shrunk the amount of funding available to customers who want a job training scholarship to help pay for retraining. The American Rescue Plan funds flowing through the Healthcare CEO Council should help this situation through 2026 for customers who want to enter healthcare jobs, and Code Louisville provides a similar avenue for those interested in tech jobs. Manufacturing and logistics employers don't typically ask for certifications before hiring people. The lack of job training scholarships primarily affects those who want training for things like welding and/or commercial truck driving (CDLs), because those programs aren't typically covered by Pell grants.

In the August meeting, Michael and his team will dive deeper into youth and young adult barriers, why they are important, and who is in that space to better paint a picture for areas of opportunity in the coming months.

**Update: The Comprehensive Kentucky Career Center at the Nia Center– Angella Wilson, Rodney Cross**

Angella gave a brief introduction and started the presentation [Kentucky Career Center at NIA Region's Comprehensive Center](#). She announced to the Board that the Kentucky Career Center has outgrown the Nia Center location. The career center will be moving into a new location in February 2024 as part of Goodwill's new Opportunity Campus at 28<sup>th</sup> and Broadway. She then turned it over to Rodney Cross to finish the presentation. Rodney talked about the services KentuckianaWorks offers at the center and the data around the present foot traffic which has increased since the last program year of 2021. He concluded the presentation and opened the floor to questions and comments. The presentation was sent out at the end of the meeting.

Rick Purdy asked about the present data compared to pre-Covid participants that the center has successfully placed in employment. Angella pointed out that before the pandemic, the comprehensive center was in a building on 6<sup>th</sup> and Cedar Street, so the foot traffic was great but not as great as it is now. He also asked about the branding and making sure KentuckianaWorks is recognized. Patrick Garvey assured him that there would be visible signage in front and around the building, but the signage artistically is still being discussed. Angella added that they plan to follow up with the signage in July. Michael also spoke about the new Norton Hospital that is being built directly behind the new Opportunity Campus. Kim Blanding gave a brief update on the hospital's construction and said Norton expects to be up and running in 2024 at that new location.

**Update and Discussion: Academies of Louisville Guiding Team 2.0 and the Fusion of Racial Equity and Alignment – Chairman Tony Georges, Michael Gritton**



Chairman Tony Georges stated that when KentuckianaWorks decided to assemble the Guiding Team in leading the stakeholders and business community to align with the Academies, it resulted in magnificent work until it faded some from the pandemic. This discussion is to think about the opportunities in front of the Board, post-pandemic. Tony pointed out that the Guiding Team 2.0 we are envisioning will be able to make a bigger difference by partnering with more employers, providing students with more student engagement activities (like field trips and guest speakers), and communicating better about the great work going on in the Academies.

Michael gave a summary of the start of the Guiding Team to the present day. The Academies went from 50% of the students being college and career ready to 75% within a 6-year timespan. Tony mentioned that Regina Phillips, Senior Program Manager, and Christine Tarquinio, Vice President at GLI, are creating healthy tension on what the Guiding Team does. What are they responsible for? Who is accountable for what, and truly formalizing what is going to be the Academies of Louisville Guiding Team 2.0?

**Executive Director's Report –Michael Gritton**

Michael presented two testimonial videos, one from the adult career center and one from the youth and young adults center. These videos were made available to the members at the end of the meeting. With no further discussion, Chairman Georges then adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 8:30 am.