



The Southwest Ohio Region  
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

**SWORWIB FEBRUARY ANNUAL MEETING  
(WebEx Video Conference due to COVID-19)**

**February 11, 2021**

**8:00 a.m. – 10 a.m.**

**Minutes**

**SWORWIB Members Present:** Uche Agomuo, Peg Albert, Jackie Alf, Michael Beck, Heath Boucher, Paula Brehm-Heeger, Markiea Carter, Natasha Chesnut, Scott Conklin, David Cook, Jamie D'Agostino, Chad Day, Renee Dean, Mark Dierig, Margaret Fox, Chris Fridel, DeJuan Gossett, Jesse Grissom, Stephanie Hall, Myron Hughes, Melissa Johnson, Laurence Jones, Matthew Jones, Shawntay Mallory, Tim McCartney, Peter McLinden, Rene McPhedran, Nick Milazzo, Deval Motka, Rhema Nwaneri, Matthew Owens, Bridget Patton, Denisha Porter, Eric Rademacher, Alicia Reece, Maureen Reilly, Jennifer Roeder, Harry Snyder, Carol Sorenson-Williams, Roberta Thomas, Amy Waldbillig, Dani Watkins

**SWORWIB Members Absent:** Shanel Gentry, Jerry Porter, Kevin Powell, Michael Prus, Trisha Rogers-Lowey, Diana Small

**SWORWIB Staff Team:** Jason Ashbrook, Sherry Kelley Marshall, Karen Saterfield, Lamont Taylor

**Resources:** Tim Dingler, Kevin Holt

**Guests:** Pat Bready, Jules Camarda, Teri Jones-Morris, Edgar Malcom, H.A. Musser, Stephanie Summerow Dumas, Monika Royal-Fisher, Alicia Tidwell, Heather Whalen, Leta White, Leah Winkler, Bridget Wolf, Bonita Wood, Loretta Workman-Grimes

**I. Opening - Welcome and Introductions**

Having exceeded a quorum, Chair Jones welcomed everyone to the first quarterly Board Meeting of 2021 via WebEx at 8:05 a.m. Chair Jones thanked everyone for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend this meeting, expressed his appreciation that we can use technology to keep business going and reviewed the online protocol. Chair Jones asked that everyone be ready for roll call as it will be done in alphabetical order, and please click your mute buttons and click them again when you are ready to speak. Due to the size of the Board, Chair Jones asked the Executive Board Members to be ready to make a first and/or second a motion. Moving forward, Chair Jones stated that we will not ask for any yes votes. The meeting will proceed assuming yes and we will ask for no's and abstentions for the duration of the meeting. President Marshall conducted roll call for board members and acknowledged the guests in attendance. After the roll call, Chair Jones reminded everyone to use their mute button until they are ready to speak.

**II. Induction of New Board Members**

Chair Jones introduced Commissioner Stephanie Summerow Dumas to recognize the new Board Members. Commissioner Summerow Dumas introduced herself and thanked everyone for the opportunity to attend the board meeting. Commissioner Summerow Dumas noted that she is the first African American Commissioner/President in Hamilton County in the last 223 years. Commissioner Summerow Dumas thanked President Marshall for allowing her to perform the induction ceremony of the new Board Members. Commissioner Summerow Dumas introduced the following new Board Members: Margaret

(Peg) Albert, Markiea Carter, David Cook, Jesse Grissom, Myron Hughes, Deval Motka, Rhema Nwaneri and Commissioner Alisha Reese. Commissioner Summerow Dumas performed the oath with the newly appointed Board Members, after which the Board Members and guests gave a round of applause welcoming the new members.

### **III. Introduction of New Board Leadership**

Chair Jones stated that he would like to share two updates regarding the Board's Leadership Team. First, our great President Marshall is planning to retire so we know it's real. Chairman Jones stated that we can no longer be in denial during this transition period. Chair Jones acknowledged President Marshall's lead of a national search, with assistance from Heather Whalen and Nick Milazzo, of 5/3 Bank, along with the executive transition team. Chair Jones shared with the Board that during this process the transition team identified that they not only needed one, but two executives to replace our beloved Sherry Kelley Marshall. After a nationwide search the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board selected Jason Ashbrook as SWORWIB's Executive Director and Lamont Taylor as Deputy Director effective February 2, 2021. Chair Jones congratulated both individuals and noted that President Marshall will serve thru June 30, 2021 and also utilizing her earned vacation days and then on a contractual basis thereafter to assist Ashbrook with ongoing technical guidance and support. Again, congratulations to all.

### **IV. Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Jones stated before we move on to the next item of approval of the agenda, we need to recognize several changes so the minutes appropriately reflect the following corrections; the numeric numbers on the agenda were miss numbered and the last wo sections should be X & XI, section VII the pages numbers should read 37-45, Section VIII – Budget Adjustments should have (*Action*) noted and Section X should state 2020 instead of 2021. Chairman Jones brought the corrections to the Board and asked for a motion to approve. Board Member McPhedran made a motion to approve the agenda with corrections and Milazzo second the motion. Hearing from all, the motioned was approved.

### **V. Approval of Consent Agenda**

Chairman Jones stated that with a Board of this size much of the work is done within the committees and reports were provided in the packet received ahead of today's meeting. The consent agenda items are listed in section V. Chairman Jones asked that if anyone has questions regarding an item within the consent agenda, please ask questions now or they can be addressed during President Marshall's report. A motion was made to approve the Consent agenda by McPhedran and seconded by Chesnut. Hearing from all, the motion was approved.

- 11.13.2020 Quarterly Meeting Minutes
- Presidents List
  - Adult and Monitoring Update and Grant Update
  - 2021 Calendar of Meetings
  - FY2021 Scorecard
  - Area #13 WIOA Program Monitoring Final Report Py18
  - Area #13 ODJFS CCMEP Program Monitoring Report PY18
- Police Packet: TEGL 7-20 Adult Service Priority Area @1 & TEGL9-19 RESEA (Separate packet)
- Treasures Report/Independent FY2020 Adult/Auditions Board Report/IRS 990/Ohio Charitable Solicitations Registration (Separate Packet)
- OMJ Operator Report
- Administration Entity & Fiscal Agent Report
- Youth Report(s) CCMEP/TANF & WIOA
- Annual Report 2019-2020 (Separate Packet)
- NewsWIB (Separate Packet)

## **VI. Presentation: SuperAwards 2021**

Chairman Jones introduced Sherry Kelley Marshall to present the “SuperAwards” to the following Board Members and partners for their outstanding work representing the Board and SWORWIB.

- **Executive Transition Team SuperAwards**

Laurence Jones III, Chair  
René McPhedran  
Nick Milazzo  
Alicia Tidwell

Karen Saterfield  
Carol Sorenson Williams  
Heather Whalen

- **Nominating Committee SuperAwards**

Scott Conklin  
Renee Dean  
DeJuan Gossett  
Melissa Johnson

Matt Jones, Chair  
Shawntay Mallory  
Matt Owens

- **OMJ Center COVID Warriors SuperAwards**

Daniel Bieh  
Tawnya Carpenter  
Melody Collins  
Melody Harris  
Kelly Herbers  
Kevin Holt

Sheriff “Mac”  
Wesley Miller  
Rosemary Peterson  
Richelle Richardson  
Tim Scott

- **Unique Contributors SuperAwards**

HCJFS – Avenues to Success  
Mark Dierig – Kroger – (Fuel Points Extension)

- **Employer SuperAwards**

Duke Energy  
Faxon Machine  
Reiser & Company

ThermoFisher Scientific  
US Census – Hiring & Donated Supplies

## **VII. Status of SW Region WIOA Strategic Plan for Area 12 & 13**

President Marshall gave the history for Area #12 to merge with Area#13 and it was the Boards opinion at the time that it was not a good idea. SWORWIB provided the Strategic Plan for the Region in 2014 and again in 2017 with no help or input from Area #12. President Marshall has let the state know that they should provide funds for this project for both areas or Area #12 should provide leadership for the plan and not rely on Area #13 to do all of the work. President Marshall recommended doing the minimal to update our plan which is substantially similar with significant changes from COVID which is unlikely to have much contribution from Area #12, since it has not before. With Ashbrook’s background with Area #12 as well as strategic planning history it will be his goal to get Area #12 to participate with the strategic plan.

Ashbrook provided an update on the status of the 2021-2025 Southwest Ohio Region WIOA Strategic Plan for Areas 12 & 13. Ashbrook thanked Board members for the opportunity to provide an update on the SW Regional WIOA Strategic Plan for Region 12 & 13. Ashbrook provided the following updates to the Board: given the pandemic’s significant economic impact as well as the uncertainties that remain prevalent in our national and regional workforce development systems, we are pursuing a refresh or update of the plan, versus the development of a brand-new plan. This approach will help us meet the

state's requested due date of May 28<sup>th</sup> and is similar to the recent MOU extension OhioMeansJobs Center Partners for another year, that resulted from President Marshall's request which was approved statewide.

Ashbrook noted that updating the Regional Plan, versus developing a brand-new plan, is also a common practice among other local workforce boards and workforce development regions. For example, Ashbrook worked on the Central Kentucky Regional Workforce Plan in 2019, for the workforce areas of Louisville, Lexington, and Northern Kentucky (covering over 3 million residents). The 2019 Plan for that region was an updated version of their 2017 regional plan. In terms of responsibility, since the SWORWIB took the lead on the completion of the current regional plan back in 2017, we will ask and expect Area 12, and the Workforce Investment Board in Butler, Clermont, and Warren County to take the lead of updating the Regional Plan section, with SWORWIB providing support where possible and appropriate. Marshall noted that she does not believe Area #12 will cooperate since they have not since their departure from SWORWIB the day of the racial unrest in 2001.

SWORWIB will primarily focus on updating the Local Plan, which concentrates on the collaborative and innovative delivery of our workforce development system in Cincinnati and Hamilton County. A big part of our local plan will also include updated data and labor market intelligence as well as highlights of our community partnerships. To assist with assembling and updating this information, we hope to enlist some of the amazing talent within our own Board. On that note, Ashbrook provided a few shout-outs to Health Boucher with Manpower, Dr. Eric Rademacher with University of Cincinnati (who, along with Janet Harrah from NKU, have developed the area's Regional Economic Outlook and Jobs Forecast Reports), as well as our economic development and public library partnerships (so thank you in advance to Markiea Carter, with the City of Cincinnati and Paula Brehm-Heeger with the Public Library of Greater Cincinnati and Hamilton County). We hope to count on your support and participation with this updated local plan. We will be reaching out to start the effort in very near future.

In summary, we anticipate having a draft of the updated Plan ready for public comments in April-May and then bringing updates on the revised Plan back to the Board for discussion at the May 13<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The updated Plan will then be submitted to the state by May 28<sup>th</sup> and, if approved by the state, will take effect on July 1, 2021. No formal action is needed from the Board at this time; we just wanted to provide a status update on the process. However, President Marshall and I would be happy to answer any questions from members. There being no questions, Executive Director Ashbrook thanked the Board, and yielded time back to the Chair.

### **VIII. President's Report**

Marshall asked the Board to take a look at the budget adjustment on page 46. This section reflects the adjustment going from one fulltime employee to three through the month of June. Chair Jones asked for a motion to approve the adjusted budget for June 30, 2021, Chesnut moved, Fridel seconded, with there being no nays or abstentions the motion carried. Marshall shared with the Board that the next item on the agenda focuses on getting as many agreements with multiple components completed, so Ashbrook and Taylor can focus on other priorities and less on standard agreements. Marshall covered the details of the following Agreements, Contract's & MOU's: The 1916 Building & Parking Lot Agreements, Data Sharing Agreement, Great Oaks Lease Update, OMJ Building Partners MOU 2022, and SWORWIB System Management Contract renewal. The next item's Marshall discussed were the Biden Administration Update and Handouts, COVID Relief Package, and Workforce Training. Marshall stated that these items are very important, and to ensure everyone understands the specifics, we included the four key pages in the packet. Marshall pointed out the importance of getting people back into training during a crisis or down economy. Marshall also shared that we have been very fortunate with the grants we've supported for ourselves on small experiments and larger ones with a couple of high schools' systems in the area and the University of Cincinnati. Marshall also shared that many of the individuals we've served shared that they prefer being employed before getting trained in a skilled area to advance their technical capacity. Marshall asked the Board if there were any questions. With no questions, Chair Jones moved to the next agenda item.

## **IX. Public Comments and Announcements**

Chair Jones asked if there were any other questions, announcements or comments from the Board members or the guests in attendance. Commissioner Reese asked for the floor to give additional remarks to the board. Commissioner Reese stated that she is happy to join the Board, shared her background, and expressed appreciation having the opportunity to work closely with Marshall over the years, especially during her time at the State House. Commissioner Reese also spoke on the development of an economic task force she is working on and wants SWORWIB to be a part of this effort. Afterwards, David Cook representing Christ Hospital one of the newest Board Members expressed his appreciation joining the Board and is looking forward to serving SWORWIB. Chairman Jones expressed his appreciation to former Board Chair Alicia Tidwell's tenure with the Board and stepping up during the executive search in partnership with the new leadership team. Lastly, Board Member Mallory announced the date for the retirement soiree for President Marshall that will be held on Friday May 14th at the Anderson Pavilion from 5pm to 8pm. The entire Board expressed their appreciation for Marshall's leadership and her dedication to the region (Applause and virtual standing ovation). Note, Sherry reminded everyone to be prepared, we will be doing the "Electric Slide and the Cupid Shuffle".

## **X. Next Board Meeting(s) (see 2021 Calendar of Meetings for Committees):**

Chair Jones reviewed the upcoming Board meetings.

- **May 13, 2021** - Quarterly Board Meeting 8:00 - 10:00 am
- **August 12, 2021** - Quarterly Board Meeting 8:00 - 10:00 am
- **November 11, 2021** - Quarterly Board Meeting 8:00 - 10:00 am

## **XI. Adjournment**

Chairman Jones asked for a motion to adjourn, Summerow noted that she is no longer a board member but would be honored to move for adjournment of the SWORWIB for her last time. Motion advanced, Chesnut seconded, all approved and the motion carried unanimously. Chair Jones thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting ended at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully,



René McPhedran  
Secretary