



**Missouri Workforce Development Board  
Executive Committee  
August 18, 2020 3 p.m.- 4 p.m.  
Conference Call Meeting**

**Members Present:** Chair Len Toenjes, Cara Canon, Dr. John Gaal, and Kathy Lambert

**Guest Attendees:** Ronda Anderson, Julie Carter, Kristie Davis, Gerren McHam, Brian Millner, Dr. Darius Watson, Mark White, Jordan Williams Dr. Mara Woody, and Yvonne Wright

**SWD Staff:** Dr. Mardy Leathers, Mark Bauer, and Allyssa Miget

**Call to Order and Welcome:** Chair Len Toenjes called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM and welcomed everyone.

**Roll Call:** Allyssa Miget conducted roll call and declared a quorum.

**Approval of July 28<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Minutes:** Chair Toenjes asked if there are any comments on the minutes from July 28<sup>th</sup>'s meeting. Kathy Lambert moved to approve minutes, and Cara Canon seconded.

**Re-Imagine Workforce Grant (RIG):** Dr. Leathers expressed how excited Missouri is to move forward on the grant application. The RIG team worked incredibly hard to write a competitive application. This proposal will support short-term education opportunities which could be an award up to \$20 million or an award in between. OWD has a plan to account for changes that may occur in the award to adjust and modify. The scope and vision of this grant is to make a strategic investment in Missouri to focus on middle skills gap to increase their resiliency in the labor market. For this grant application Missouri is not very high on the COVID-19 burden, however Missouri has seen increases in COVID-19 cases in urban and rural areas. The United States Department of Education will reevaluate the COVID-19 burden upon close of the application. This application will support Absolute Priority 1 to see outcomes of increased wages, completion of the program, retention, and wages. The outreach for this grant will be conducted in a collaborative manner including the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and the unemployment filings team and leveraging our partners and their network. If Missouri is not awarded, there is a great framework for potential future funding initiatives.

Missouri Community College's President Brian Millner explained that 10 of the 12 community colleges chose to participate in this opportunity to offer a variety of healthcare training opportunities. These opportunities include: Patient Care Technician, Medical Billing & Coding, Community Health Worker, and Certified Nursing Assistant. Chair Toenjes asked why all of the colleges are not participating? Brian Millner responded that not all of the colleges had the capacity to support additional classes or cohorts or some of the colleges did not have these specific training programs.

Dr. Watson with Lincoln University explained that their approach will support public safety and cybersecurity. Lincoln University had many of these programs already developed and designed a career pathway based on this grant and its opportunity to support individuals to obtain employment with the Department of Public Safety. Further, these opportunities are both short-term and long-term opportunities in that these courses will allow for immediate employment or individuals can continue to obtain a 4-year degree.

Mark White with the University of Missouri-Extension (MU Extension), thanked OWD for participating in this opportunity. MU Extension's proposal will focus on workers creating their own business or entrepreneurship. MU

Extension will help these individuals prepare for the opportunity through a series of courses recognized and valued by lenders and other stakeholders. MU Extensions efforts will be focused on Missouri's opportunity zone areas and the programs will be online to allow for access to various individuals.

Dr. Leathers explained that the budget will be kept down to 10% to support as many Missourians as possible with \$19.7 million to our partners on the grant.

Chair Toenjes thanked everyone who has participated in this partnership. It has been a goal of the State Workforce Development Board to break down the silos and work together. It is great to see the various agencies and partners to work collectively and collaboratively on this effort.

Dr. John Gaal thanked Dr. Leathers and other members of the RIG team for working with the Missouri Community College Association to ensure the Community Health Worker was supported through this grant opportunity.

Chair Toenjes asked how does the budget adjust if Missouri receives less than \$20 million.

Dr. Leathers said the award would be prorated and the ratios would stay the same.

Chair Toenjes asked if there was something the board members could do advocate for this grant?

Dr. Leathers responded that OWD has received support from members of the US Delegation including a letter of support from Sen. Blunt, however OWD would welcome continued support from the board members.

Kathy Lambert congratulated Dr. Leathers and the team for working on this grant opportunity and asked what if this opportunity does not receive funding? Are there other opportunities for this?

Dr. Leathers responded that this is a good framework or model that could be well positioned for future funding opportunities.

Chair Toenjes asked for a motion to approve this grant, Dr. John Gaal made a motion to approve this grant and Kathy Lambert seconded. The motion passed.

**Questions, Comments & Closing Remarks:**

Chair Toenjes thanked everyone for working on this. Dr. John Gaal made a motion to adjourn and Kathy Lambert seconded.

Adjourned: 3:55 PM