



**Full Board Meeting  
 Workforce Development Board Area 81  
 24 Accent Drive, Suite 151, Monroe LA 71202  
 November 21, 2019 @ 12:00 PM**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>
Nicholson, Susan	Amelin, Gwendolyn
Hopkins, John	Barron, Joe
Dawson, Kema	Bruno Dr., Nick
Dyer, Gerald	Cerda, Kathy
Green, Ken	Green Sr., Damion
Lewis, Beverly	Hartmann, Robert
Marshall, Otis	Justice, William
Merritt, Melodi	Lewis, Clifton
Pierre, Elizabeth	Mathis, Edmond
Pilcher, Frank	Young, Stephanie
Schmidt, Steven	
Stephenson, Paul	
Wheelis, Vickie	
Green, Alberta, One Stop Operator	
<b>Staff</b>	
Bennett, Doretha	
Lewis, Bedie	

**CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH A QUORUM**

Ms. Susan Nicholson, Chair, called the meeting to order and established a quorum.

**INVOCATION**

Mr. John Hopkins gave the invocation.

**INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS**

Mr. John Hopkins asked members and staff to introduce themselves for the record

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2019 MINUTES**

Paul Stephenson made a motion to approve the September 5, 2019 minutes. Gerald Dyer seconded. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Add to Local Plan (action)**

Ms. Bedie Lewis reviewed/discussed the changes that were needed to revise the Plan. Ms. Lewis discussed two required elements: Discussion/definition of Youth Program “Needs Additional Assistance” and Assurances that were needed to be added to our Plan in order to eliminate deficiency. Ms. Lewis continued to discuss the Review of the Local Plan from the State of Louisiana, Office of Workforce Development, and she reviewed the corrections that were added to the Plan as a response to the Review of the Local Plan. Items of corrections that were discussed are as follows: Coordination and Alignment of Services with Economic Development; a description of the roles and resource contributions of the One-Stop partners; a description and assessment of the type and availability of youth workforce development activities in the local area, including activities for youth who are individuals with disabilities, which description and assessment shall include an identification of successful models of such youth workforce development activities; Local Plans (81,83) did not specifically discuss methodologies to avoid duplication of services; Local Plan (81) does not adequately provide a description of plans and strategies for, and assurances concerning, maximizing coordination of services provided by the State employment service under the Wagner-Peyser Act and services provided in the local area through the One-Stop delivery system, to improve service delivery and avoid duplication of services; a description of how the Local Board will coordinate workforce development activities carried out under this title in the local area with the provision of adult education and literacy activities under Title I in the local area, including a description of how the Local Board will carry out, consistent with subparagraphs (A) and (B)(i) of section 107(d)(11) and section 232, the review of local applications submitted under Title II; an identification of the entity responsible for the disbursement of grant funds described in section 107(d)(12)(B)(i)(III), as determined by the Chief Elected Officials or the Governor under section 107(d)(12)(B)(i); a description of the competitive process, to be used to award the subgrants and contracts, in the local area for activities carried out under this title; discussion regarding Training Contracts, and (final item) definition of Poverty area. There was a question and answer concerning this matter. Ms. Lewis stated that also added to our Plan that we became a Certified ACT Work Ready Community May 2019. Frank Pilcher made a motion to approve all the corrections added to the Region and Local Plan. Beverly Lewis seconded. Motion carried.

**B. WIOA PY19/FY20 Contract (action)**

Ms. Doretha Bennett stated for this program year for WIOA we would receive \$1,455, 615.00. There was a question and answer concerning this matter. Ms. Nicholson asked for a motion to approve this contract for \$1,455,615. Elizabeth Pierre made a motion to approve this contract. Beverly Lewis seconded. Motion carried.

**C. LaJet 2019/2020 Contract (action)**

Ms. Bennett asked for approval of the LAJet Contract (2019/2020) the dollar amount stayed the same in the amount of \$255,521.00. Ms. Nicholson asked for a motion to accept \$255,521 for the LaJet Contract. Kathy Cerda made a motion to approve this LaJet contract. Beverly Lewis seconded. Motion carried.

**D. 2020 Budgets (action)**

Ms. Bennett discussed the line item Budgets for Adult, Youth, Dislocated Worker, LaJet, Job Plus, and PHOCAS. These Budgets have been submitted and approved by the Ouachita Parish Police Jury. Ms. Bennett also discussed and gave a hand out of the break down for expenditures of 2019. There were various discussions, questions and answers concerning this matter. Ms. Vickie Wheelis asked concerning eligibility for Delta Scholarship students, and due to not being full-time are not eligible. Ms. Nicholson asked for a motion to approve for all these 2020 Budgets. Elizabeth Pierre made a motion to approve all the 2020 Budgets. Kema Dawson seconded. Motion carried.

**E. Policy Changes (action)**

Ms. Bennett stated for the Youth Program we have been paying for four years of training, and due to the Budget reduction cannot continue to pay for four years. She asked for approval to change the policy to pay for the last two years (or a 2 year program) of Training for participants in the Youth Program. She also asked approval to change the policy to pay \$2,500 per semester, and the total cost shall not exceed \$20,000 for the entire training duration. There were questions, answers, and discussions concerning this matter. Ms. Bennett stated the youth currently in a four-year program will be grandfathered into the program. They will be funded at the new approved training cost \$2,500 per semester for the four-years. Any new enrolled youth must be in the last two years of commencement or pursuing an Associate Degree before funding is awarded. Ms. Bennett asked for approval to change Supportive Service Policy to pay supportive services up to a maximum of \$3,000 per semester, and the total supportive services cost should not exceed \$25,000. There were questions and answers concerning this supportive service policy change. Ms. Nicholson asked for a motion to approve these two policy changes. Paul Stephenson made a motion to approve the two policy changes. Kathy Cerda seconded. Motion carried.

**Old Business**

None

**Other Business**

Ms. Bedie Lewis gave an update concerning Job Plus Program. She spoke concerning the numbers of people for assessments have met their quota, visiting a Job Plus Program in Austin, Texas, good success of the program, and HUD collaboration with partners.

**Director's Report**

Ms. Bennett stated that on Monday, November 25, 2019 the LWC Monitoring Team will be here to conduct a Comprehensive Review which includes financial and programmatic. She spoke concerning the Ouachita Parish Police Jury has purchased the Ouachita Parish School Board Building, and she has asked them could the WDB81 Administrative Staff move in with them so she can focus more on Admin.

Ms. Alberta Green, One-Stop Operator stated the Partners have had three meetings, and Ouachita One-Stop has hosted one One-Stop Operators meeting. She stated they shared best practices, shared documents, hand out and guides. Ms. Green stated at the first partner's meeting we did a SWOT Analysis to see what were the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, and this document is used at every meeting. She stated feel that everyone is working together. Ms. Green continued to discuss a summary of the Partners' meeting concerning the MOU changes, cost allocation and expectancy for 2020. Ms. Bennett talked about reviewing Ms. Green Contract. Ms. Nicholson commended Ms. Bennett concerning the reports and all the coding.

Ms. Bennett discussed WDB 81 & 83 won the prestigious International Excellence in Economic Development Award from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), and Ms. Pierre continued to speak further concerning this award due to NE LA Economic Development nominated WDB 81 & 83 NE LA Healthcare Alliance for this award.

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**Public Comment**

None

**Adjournment**

John Hopkins made a motion to adjourn. Kema Dawson seconded. Meeting adjourned

Transcribed by \_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon Jones, Federal Programs Coordinator