

**Southern Illinois Workforce Development Board  
American Job Center Committee Meeting Minutes  
Virtual Meeting Conducted via ZOOM  
Tuesday, March 14, 2023 - 8:00 a.m.**

---

**I. Call to Order**

The American Job Center Committee was called to order at 8:02 a.m. It should be noted that this meeting is a virtual meeting conducted via ZOOM.

**II. Roll Call**

**Present:** Freddie Buckingham, Joan Jablonski, Kristina Shelton, Laura Hammond, Christina Manchen, Sandy Snowden, Scott Wernsman, Sarah Corbett, Debra Keelin, Mandy Bernhard, Haylee Knight, Cathrine Hoekstra, Hanna Bruno, Kalyn Cook, Kathy Lively

**Absent:** Karla Tabing, Linda Stasko, Jillian Van Zandt, Patrick Sorensen, Debra Jackanicz, Paulette Hamlin, Beth Brown, Kim Wilkerson, Shirley Aviles, Kristina Spence, Laverne Gillispie

**Board Staff Present:** Angela Holmes

**One-Stop Operator Staff Present:** John Otey

**III. Approval of last month's Minutes** 1<sup>st</sup> Sandy Snowden 2<sup>nd</sup> John Otey all approved.

**IV. Orders of the Day**

A. AJC Reports – John discussed that there has been an increase in visitors in the OneStop. A total of 289 individuals have been in for services: 106 for AJC, 135 for ManTraCon, 39 IDES and 9 Crosswalk

C. Business Services – Freddie announced several upcoming hiring events: DHS Virtual Recruitment, Re-entry Virtual Hiring Event, John A Logan Job Fair, Rend Lake College Job Search Party, and Veterans Affairs

D. Update on Youth Council – Christina explained that the title of the group has changed from “council” to “workgroup” because the term council under WIOA includes various rules and regulations that must be followed. There was good discussion at the first meeting. The next meeting is coming up and they will be reviewing examples of youth programs from other states. She invited anyone to join if they were interested.

E. Updates on status of programs – Hailey Knight from UMOS introduced two new staff members, Hanna Bruno and Kayln Cook, both case workers. They have been traveling and attending training.

Debra Keelin with IDES reported that there has been an increase in attendance for the virtual workshops with 15 people attending the last presentation. There has been positive feedback.

Scott Wernsman stated that John A Logan College will begin registering for summer and fall classes on March 20<sup>th</sup>. They have several courses awaiting modification approvals from Department of Education. These include the Graphic Design program which will become Visual Media Technology and updates to the Auto Collusion program. A Perkins meeting is being held in Springfield this month where programs should hear about FY24 funding.

Kristina Shelton provided several updates from Rend Lake College. Kick Start Your Journey was held recently. It is for local high school students to learn about preparing for college and taking part in a Reality Store to learn the basics of adult budgeting. The annual CTE Advisory Meetings were held in the new event center, Career Connections for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students also took place, and a new event called The Amazing Career Race is coming up for 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

Sandy Snowden informed the group that Rebound received an additional grant to help students pay for GED testing.

Mandy Bernhard said that Youth Build is going strong but does have a few opening left if anyone had a referral. Spero is opening two new offices, one in Marion and one in Springfield. Spero is also hosting their Family Fun Night on April 13<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 6:00. Free games, food and prizes. Anyone can set up a table but please bring an activity for kids.

Laura Hammond with DHS told the group that the State is going to be holding a hiring blitz because they have a lot of openings state wide. People can go to Illinois Department of Central Management Services website or to [WorkforIllinois.gov](http://WorkforIllinois.gov) to learn more.

**V. Matters from the floor** - none

**VI. Adjournment.** 1<sup>st</sup> Sandy Snowden 2nd Joan Jablonski

**meeting adjourned**

*Minutes prepared and submitted by Christina Manchen.*