



South Central WORKFORCE *Investment Board*

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Inclusion & Youth Committees Meeting
11:00 AM, Tuesday, October 28, 2025
Twin Pines Conservation Center – Winona, Missouri

Meeting was called to order and roll call was taken.

In attendance: Ingrid McAlister, Steve McCann, Jennifer Taylor, Diana Ball, Lisa Aden, Lisa Engelhardt, Joan Wright, Zohn Engelhardt

By Web Ex: Omar Galal.

The meeting was called to order by Joan Wright, Youth Committee Chair.

The Committee for Inclusion & Youth Committee will be combined until a Chair is established for the Committee for Inclusion.

Minutes for the July 22, 2025 Committee for Inclusion minutes were reviewed. Jennifer Taylor made a motion that the minutes be approved as submitted. Lisa Aden seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Minutes for the July 22, 2025 Youth Committee minutes were reviewed. Lisa Aden made a motion that the minutes be approved as submitted. Diana Ball seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Lisa Engelhardt provided an update on the staffing pattern at the job centers. Since our July meeting, we have lost three of our three staff in Poplar Bluff. Phyllis Guthrie, One Stop Operator, left on July 23. Jessica Jones had a C-Section planned for the first week of September but was unable to return after a doctor's appointment on July 29th. She has since decided not to return after having the baby. Meagan Skaggs left work September 9th due to medical issues and did not return. We have two new hires for Poplar Bluff. Sue Ann Treat and Amber Stamps have been hired as Employment Specialists. We still plan to hire one more person for Poplar Bluff. Last week we received a resignation from our senior Employment Specialist in West Plains, Zohn Engelhardt. His last day will be November 7th due to accepting a position with Ozark Healthcare Behavioral Health. This position has already been advertised, and the plan is to fill the vacancy as soon as possible. Jody said staff have jumped in to ensure customers continue to be served. One West Plains Employment Specialist is staying in Bluff 3-4 days at a time and WIOA enrollments are also being conducted virtually.

Lisa Engelhardt updated the committee about the impact of the Government Shutdown on operations. As of this date the WIB has been told not to expect an interruption in payment. There have been some delays and revisions to the schedule with no impact to services.

Zohn Engelhardt gave an update on Youth Services this quarter. 35 individuals were served in the region, 5 were unsuccessful, 6 are still enrolled (1 Adult, 4 Youth, 1 Jobs League). 4 individuals were transitioned from Work Experience to On the Job Training contracts.

Partner of  network

South Central Workforce Investment Board is an equal opportunity employer/program.
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Joan Wright shared that with the reductions in the federal budget has been cut by approximately 68% with the remaining 32% being state funding. Joan shared information about the new program to become a Certified Substitute Teacher and Paraeducator in 12 weeks. They currently have 13 locations and 3 Remote Only Classes. Joan is currently in the process of writing a grant for the next three-year cycle. New locations are being considered. Three components are essential 1) A need for AEL Classes 2) A teacher (four year degree required) 3) A host agency.

Diana Ball is currently working to establish a resource list for the 7 counties she serves in anticipation of SNAP benefits not being paid.

A Hiring Event will be held at the West Plains Public Library on Tuesday, November 4th from 2 pm -4 pm. Veterans and Individuals with Disabilities will be admitted at 1 pm.

Next meeting: 11:00 AM, January 27, 2026 at the Twin Pines Conservation Center – Winona, Missouri.