

**State of Indiana  
Governor's Workforce Cabinet**

**Tuesday, August 23, 2022**

**Region 4 Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

The Governor's Workforce Cabinet met in regular session starting at 10:00 a.m. ET in Region 4 at the Convergence Center for Innovation and Collaboration at Discovery Park District, 101 Foundry Drive, West Lafayette, IN 47906, with Chairman Ryan Kitchell presiding.

*Members Present:* Jená Bellezza, Tony Denhart, Dr. Sue Ellspermann, Jody French (virtual), Anne Hazlett, Joyce Irwin (virtual), Dr. Katie Jenner, Dr. Chuck Johnson, Loren King, Ryan Kitchell, Theresa Koleszar, Chris Lowery, Rebecca McCuaig, Kim Opsahl, Marilyn Pitzulo, Paul Perkins, Dan Peterson, Josh Richardson, Dr. Ronald Rochon (virtual), Dr. Steve Rogers, Rebecca Schroeder, David Shane (virtual), Steve Schreckengast, Dr. Steve Thalheimer (virtual), Tony Vespa (virtual)

*Members Absent:* Representative Bob Behning, Commissioner Rob Carter, Maurice Coates Jr., Megan Glover, Mark Kara, Chris LaMothe, Senator Jeff Raatz

**II. Introduction of Newly Appointed Cabinet Members**

Chair Kitchell introduced the newest Cabinet members:

- Theresa Koleszar – Director of the Indiana Bureau of Rehabilitation Services with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration
- Marilyn Pitzulo – Associate Chief for Workforce Strategy and Design with the Indiana Department of Workforce Development
- Steve Schreckengast – President & Co-founder of Citation Homes, Inc.

Chair Kitchell recognized Anne Hazlett of Purdue University and Dr. Ron Rochon, President of the University of Southern Indiana, as they conclude their two-year term of service on the Cabinet.

**III. Approval of the Minutes**

Chair Kitchell asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 16, 2022. (Motion – Sue Ellspermann, second – Jená Bellezza; unanimously approved)

**IV. Welcome – Purdue University President-Elect, Dr. Mung Chiang**

Dr. Chiang welcomed the Cabinet to West Lafayette and thanked them for visiting Region 4. After his remarks, he introduced Greg Deason with the Purdue Research Foundation. Mr. Deason provided members with information regarding the Discovery Park District (meeting location).

**V. Chair Report**

N/A

**VI. Region 4 Overview – Project Highlights & Group Discussion**

- Mr. Roger Feldhaus, Director of the Region 4 Workforce Board, provided an overview of the initiatives taking place in the region. Mr. Feldhaus provided high-level information regarding Region 4 (demographics, population, labor market, etc.) and an overview of funding received by the workforce board through both core funding and competitive grants. He also covered several of the initiatives and grant opportunities that have been a focus for the board or that they are actively engaged in currently. Mr. Feldhaus concluded by sharing some of the challenges the board faces and how the Cabinet can support their efforts.

**VII. Employer & Community Spotlights**

- Mr. David Dukes, Vice President of Stellantis, presented information regarding Stellantis' work in Indiana. Stellantis has five plants located within 60 miles of Indianapolis and Purdue University and employs over 7,000 Hoosiers. Mr. Dukes focused on the six-step workforce development process Stellantis uses to engage with students from K-16. Their goal is to increase awareness and motivation of students to enter careers in manufacturing after graduation. Over 5,700 have participated in this program through 27 school corporations.
- Mr. Jason Henderson, Director of Extension at Purdue University, gave short remarks on his work with Hoosier youth in 4-H programs. In Indiana, 4-H community clubs, afterschool programs, school enrichment, camps/workshops, and special programs can be found in all 92 counties delivered through Purdue Extension. Purdue Extension delivers practical, research-based information designed to connect Purdue expertise and resources to statewide needs, forming effective partnerships to grow the state economy and improve the quality of life for Indiana's residents.
- Mr. Scott Walker, President of the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, provided the Cabinet an overview of activity that the Chamber has been engaged in throughout the Greater Lafayette area. He was joined by Kara Webb, Workforce Development Director, and Eric Davis, CEO of Skyepack. Mr. Walker highlighted how the Chamber has utilized funding (3E and 1008 grants) from the Indiana Department of Education to work with high school students across the region.

**VIII. Closing Remarks**

Executive Director Whitney Ertel announced the remaining 2022 Governor's Workforce Cabinet meeting dates:

- Tuesday, October 25 in Region 11/Jasper at the Vincennes University Jasper campus
- Thursday, December 15 in Region 6/Richmond

Ms. Ertel reminded Cabinet members that initial working group recommendations were to be submitted by Friday, September 2.

**IX. Adjournment**

Chair Kitchell adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m. ET