



Local Elected Official (LEO) Board Meeting

September 18, 2024

Union County Government Center
Lewisburg, Pennsylvania

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Local Elected Official (LEO) Board Meeting Agenda

Union County Government Center, Lewisburg
Wednesday, September 18, 2024
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

9:00 – 9:05	Call to Order and Approval of Minutes	Rob Postal
9:05 – 9:10	Public Comment	
9:10 – 9:20	Executive Director’s Update	Erica Mulberger
9:20 – 9:30	Open Discussion	
9:30	Adjournment/Date of Next Meeting	Rob Postal
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Executive Committee – October 11, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.• LEO Board - December 18, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.• WDB/LEO Board – December 18, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.	

Local Elected Official Board Action Items September 18, 2024

1. Motion to approve the minutes from the June 19, 2024 LEO Board meeting.

Motion:

Second:

Local Elected Officials (LEO Board)

Meeting Notes

June 19, 2024

The Local Elected Official (LEO) Board of Advance Central PA held a meeting Wednesday, June 19, 2024 at the Union County Government Center, Lewisburg, PA.

LEO Board Members Attending

Commissioner Steven Dershem, Centre County
Commissioner Angela Harding, Clinton County
Commissioner Rebecca Dressler, Montour County
Commissioner David Kovach, Columbia County
Commissioner Mark Mussina, Lycoming County
Commissioner Robert Postal, Mifflin County
Commissioner Chuck Steininger, Snyder County
Commissioner Stacy Richards, Union County

LEO Board Members Excused

Commissioner Joe Klebon, Northumberland County

Guests Attending

Michele Foust
Dean Girton
Noah Roux
Dave Zartman

WDB Staff Attending

Amy Keefer
Brooke Gessner
Allison Grose
Korrie Lucas
Erica Mulberger
Gabi Randall
Kristie Swetts
Kelly Walter

Call to Order and Welcome

Commissioner Robert Postal opened the meeting at 9:21 a.m. and confirmed a quorum was met.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Postal called for a motion to approve the March 20, 2024, meeting minutes previously sent to all LEO Board members. Commissioner Rebecca Dressler noted two spots in the minutes referring to Commissioner Holdren rather than Commissioner Postal. The staff made corrections.

- ▲ **Commissioner Angela Harding made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2024 LEO Board meeting as corrected. Commissioner Stacy Richards seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with no abstentions.**

Invitation for Public Comments

Commissioner Postal opened the floor for public comments. There were none.

Executive Director's Update

Erica Mulberger, Advance Central PA Executive Director, provided updates.

WIOA Reauthorization

With the US House and Senate reviewing WIOA for reauthorization, Erica has been keeping abreast of proposed changes. She shared a comparison of the current WIOA statute and the newly proposed, 'A Stronger Workforce for America Act' (ASWA) and stepping the Board members through the changes including those that may be positive, negative or still unknown to us as a local workforce development system. The most detrimental proposal is a new requirement that 50% of Adult and Dislocated Worker

funding be spent on training. Currently, the amount spent on training is determined locally based on demand; requiring this significant amount means funds will be pulled from infrastructure and staffing; PA CareerLink® locations in the region will need to close. ASWA includes an increased spending requirement for youth paid work experience. Currently WIOA requires that 20% of the budget be spent on paid work activities while ASWA requires 40% of the budget be maintained for this while only subsidizing up to 50% of activities like internships where WIOA allows full subsidy.

Commissioner Harding raised concern for young people under this proposed change, noting that companies may not be able to hire interns if there is less subsidy available. She asked how the LEO board can weigh in and advocate for what is needed. Other Commissioners expressed similar concern. Erica suggested that members could send letters to federal legislators. Erica will draft letters for review that individuals can customize.

Returning to the comparison document, Erica reviewed a proposal for a Critical Industry Skills Fund, which would allow a Governor to take 10% of the state's allocation and decide how to spend it. Overall, there are considerable carve-outs of the allocation that add up to significant amounts that will be detrimental to the local system.

Erica shared there are positive items in the proposed Act as well; one that stands out is the decrease in the amount of funding that needs to be spent on Out-of-School Youth (OSY) versus In-School Youth (ISY) sharing her stance that allowing more expenditures on students while in high school can prevent them from becoming young adults with barriers that would qualify for OSY.

Commissioner Harding asked what youth education data is available for our area. Erica responded that data gathered for the Central Workforce Development Area for June of 2024 based on youth ages 18-24 shows 2.2% attained less than a 9th grade education (1,888 youth in total.)

Erica closed by noting there are other areas within the proposed Act that are unclear in regard to impact. However, the proposed 50% training expenditure requirement for Adult and Dislocated Worker along with the 40% paid work experience requirement for Youth would require at least three (3) of the six (6) PA CareerLink® offices in the region to close.

Training Gap Analysis

The company hired to complete a training gap analysis for the region, TPMA, will be presenting their findings at an event being held June 24, 2024 at the Union County Government Center. When asked about the format of the presentation, Erica explained that data will be shared, followed by facilitated discussion and planning with recommended next steps. Erica extended her hopes that LEO members can attend.

Open Discussion

Commissioner Kovach shared a success story from a church in Columbia County that is tackling the drug problem head on with a drop-in center. Commissioner Kovach would like to connect the pastor there to PA CareerLink®. Erica thanked him and agreed a partnership could be a great fit.

Commissioner Richards asked which LEO members serve on Committees of the WDB and inquired as to how to sign up. Commissioners Dressler and Harding are on the Audit Finance Committee. Erica explained that since the Law outlines LEO duties as including fiscal responsibility, when there are vacancies on the Audit Finance Committee, the LEO Board is notified. Most recently, Commissioners Dressler and Harding volunteered to fill open seats. They are on the Audit Finance Committee because of the need for LEO members on that committee and they volunteered. Staff will review the bylaws to provide more information at a future time.

Date of Next Meetings

Commissioner Postal announced the following upcoming meetings:

- Executive Committee – August 9, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
- LEO Board Meeting – September 18, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.
- WDB/LEO Joint Board Meeting – September 18, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

With no further business to attend to, Commissioner Postal adjourned the LEO Board at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Walter



Office/Board Coordinator