

## 11.20.25 Board Meeting | Q4

Meeting Location: EmployBR 4523 Plank Road |Baton Rouge, LA 70805 |

Members Present:

NAME	ROLE
Elizabeth Beckham	<b>Chair</b>
Chad Williams	<b>Member</b>
Maggi Spurlock	<b>Member</b>
Kenneth Champagne	<b>Member</b>
Darryl McGaha	<b>Member</b>
LaShaunda Gordon (James Kador)	<b>Member</b>
Josh Sonnier	<b>Member</b>
Yvette Moody	<b>Member</b>
Katreena Moses	<b>Member</b>
Russell Wilkes	<b>Member</b>
Gayle Fisher	<b>Member</b>
Maydel Schexnayder-Chatelain	<b>Member</b>

Members Absent:

NAME	ROLE
Amy Eberly	<b>Member</b>
Brett Simon	<b>Member</b>
Judi Lefebvre	<b>Member</b>
Christy Reeves	<b>Member</b>
Blaine Grimes	<b>Member</b>
Brandy Tyson	<b>Member</b>

Staff Present: Juanita Coverson (Eckerd Connects) | Girlie Anderson (EmployBR) | Barbara Dunn (EmployBR)

Guests: Kelly LeDuff, Executive Director Federal Programs

Quorum met

Meeting called to order at 3:18 p.m.

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS | COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

Elizabeth Beckham, Chair called the meeting to order at 3:18 p.m. Quorum check.

## REPORTS and DISCUSSION

### Call to Order / Quorum Check

- The meeting began by skipping to Item 4 on the agenda to determine quorum. Item 4: Talk by Kelly LeDuff, Executive Director of Federal Programs for the Mayor's Office.

### Executive Director Remarks – Kelly LeDuff

- Kelly welcomed attendees and asked Board members to introduce themselves.
- He discussed expectations of the Board and emphasized the need for a revamp and rebranding of EmployBR.
- Urged members to think of transformative practices to enhance strategic thinking and to “think outside the box.”
- Requested volunteers for a subcommittee to support this initiative. Several members expressed interest; follow-up will be conducted via email to confirm participation without putting anyone on the spot.
- Emphasized the vision of transforming the EmployBR center into a place of hope to inspire the community and rebuild trust.
- Addressed the failure of the Thrive Initiative and its impact on the Mayor's Office and related programs.
- Reassured members that federal programs remain operational and are continuing as usual.
- Acknowledged the need for staff funding and raises to improve morale.

### Board Member Comments:

- **Kenneth** agreed with Kelly, emphasizing the importance of change and the potential of EmployBR to lead that change.
- **Josh** echoed the sentiments and shared updates on current changes, including collaboration with Empower225.

*Quorum is met.*

### Action Items

- Approval of February 2025 Minutes
  - Motion by: Russell Wilkes | Second by: Josh Sonnier | Motion carried
- Approval of October 2025 Minutes
  - Motion by: Josh Sonnier | Second by: Russell Wilkes | Motion carried
- Nominations for Vice Chair
  - Action: Deferred to Q1 2026 Meeting

### Board Engagement & Training Opportunities

- Kelly encouraged Board members to engage with EmployBR staff by sharing training opportunities.

- Elizabeth (Turner Industries) offered an AI Training for 2026.

### **Interim Chief Administration Report – Girlie Anderson**

- PY25/FY26 Budget Allocation increased by \$163,804, benefiting Adult and Youth programs.
- Dislocated Worker funds decreased by \$217,393.
- Introduced a new ETPL strategy:
  - Training slots by industry
  - Contracts only with cost-effective providers
  - Providers must have a brick-and-mortar presence in Baton Rouge
- Reviewed MYWE 2025 results and acknowledged Maggi (The Partnership, formerly BRAC) for her support.
- Outlined 2026 goals:
  - Modernization in anticipation of potential federal fiscal impacts
  - Increased partner engagement
  - Reducing service duplication

### **Assistant Administrator- WIOA Report – Barbara Dunn**

- Reviewed 2025 Job Fair successes and plans for the 2026 event.
- Expressed interest in bussing high school seniors to the event and requested a connection to Superintendent Lamont Cole.
  - Kelly agreed to facilitate the connection.
- Discussed Board compliance, upcoming training deadlines, and disclosure requirements.
- Requested members to reach out via email or phone with any concerns.

### **One-Stop Operator Report – Juanita Coverson**

- Collaborating with the Gardere Initiative to help with adult education resources.
- Planning a direct hiring event for Councilman Noel's district targeting high school seniors in Spring 2026.
- Received a WARN notice for a layoff at Premier Health.
- Noted an increase in senior citizens re-entering the workforce.
  - Encouraged partnerships with Capital City Council on Aging and Office of Governmental Affairs to support senior employment.
- Shared a success story of how wraparound services helped a homeless teen.

### **Additional Items**

- Kelly proposed hosting the Q1 2026 Board Meeting at City Hall (3rd Floor) and requested that Girlie coordinate with his assistant. He also suggested requesting an appearance by Mayor Coach, schedule permitting.
- Katreena Moses offered to:
  - Provide staff training
  - Assist administration in identifying grant opportunities to incentivize staff
- The group agreed that the 3:00 PM meeting time is effective and should continue into 2026.
- Reviewed projected 2026 Board Meeting dates.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

N/A

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.*

## ACRONYMS LEGEND

<b>AFL-CIO</b> American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations	
<b>BRAC</b> Baton Rouge Area Chamber	<b>LWDB</b> Local Workforce Development Board
<b>BRCC</b> Baton Rouge Community College	<b>MOU</b> Memorandum of Understanding
<b>DCFS</b> Department of Children and Family Services	<b>MYWE</b> Mayor's Youth Work Experience
<b>DDWG</b> Disaster Dislocated Worker Grant	<b>NDWG</b> National Dislocated Worker Grant
<b>DHDS</b> Department of Human Development and Services	<b>OSO</b> One-Stop Operator
<b>DW</b> Dislocated Worker	<b>OSS</b> Office of Social Services
<b>EBRPSS</b> East Baton Rouge Parish School System	<b>OSY</b> Out-of-School Youth
<b>ETPL</b> Eligible Training Provider List	<b>PY</b> Program Year
<b>FY</b> Fiscal Year	
<b>IFA</b> Infrastructure Funding Agreement	
<b>ISY</b> In-School Youth	
<b>LRS</b> Louisiana Rehabilitation Services	
<b>LWC</b> Louisiana Workforce Commission	
<b>LWDA</b> Local Workforce Development Area	