

Central Virginia Workforce Council of Chief Local Elected Officials (CLEOs)



Oct. 21, 2021

4 p.m. at CVPDC conference room

DRAFT MINUTES

CENTRAL REGION

Members Present: Treney Tweedy, Chair, John Hinkle, John Sharp (by phone)

Members Absent/Excused: Kenneth Brown, Jennifer Moore

Staff Present: Traci Blido, Lori Cumbo, Tim Saunders, Gina Dudley, Rosalie Majerus, Gary Christie

1. Roll Call/Welcome & Introduction of Members

Treney Tweedy, Chair, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. She checked attendance. Traci Blido, Executive Director, entertained a motion to allow John Sharp to participate by phone, as he could not be there in person due to attending a funeral. The motion was made by John Hinkle and seconded by Treney Tweedy. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Approval of Minutes from April 27, 2021

Traci recommended that the vote for the approval of minutes be moved down with the other votes in one section because an amendment may need to be made regarding Nate Mahanes term which should be shown through 2024 rather than what was reflected.

3. Director's Report

Traci welcomed everyone to the meeting. She recognized Lori Cumbo, Operations Coordinator, who handles the monitoring and reviews for the Title 1 programs. She also recognized Gina Dudley, Rosalie Majerus, Gary Christie, and Tim Saunders who are also part of the team, in support of workforce.

Traci stated the in-person Workforce Development Board (WDB) Meeting went very well, and there was good participation by members. She encouraged all of the Chief Local Elected Officials to attend future Board meetings, when available.

Traci stated that Tim Saunders presented a Business Services team approach to the WDB. She stated that this indicates we have our partners meet with individual businesses confidentially to solve an actual workforce problem.

Traci stated the need to look at the Board members for next year as approximately 13 members terms will expire. She stated that the CLEO's will need to decide whether to reappoint those members or ask if there is another representative from that business who will commit to attend the meetings. Traci stated that she and Treney can make recommendations for potential Board members as well.

4. Operations Update – Eligible Training Providers

Lori explained the process of the Eligible Training Providers, which consists of an application the provider fills out and submits to the Board for approval. These applications have to be approved on a yearly basis.

Lori presented the list that included 3 training programs with Centra College of Nursing, 24 programs with CVCC, 2 programs with Raspberry Hill, 6 programs with VTI, 2 programs with N.O.W., 1 program with BSTC, and 1 program at Victory Vocational. She stated all were approved by the Board. She stated that there was a new Fast Forward Hybrid Nursing Assistant program with CVCC presented to the Board, and it was also approved.

Treney asked, "What is the total dollar amount available for training"? Lori responded that training is up to \$10,000 over a period of two years, and there is an additional \$2,500 per participant per program year for supportive services for such things as tuition, books, transportation, childcare, and driver training.

Traci added that the VCW Center served 528 participants this past year, and of those, 21% were able to enroll in a Title 1 program.

5. "Where are all of the Workers?"

Tim Saunders, Business Engagement & Outreach, reported that 30 businesses have been assisted since July 1, 2021, with various needs. There have been 7 hiring events since July 1, 2021, with good turnouts. Virginia Career Works has been working very closely with the Virginia Employment Commission for upcoming Job Fairs. Tim reported there are 3 Existing Worker Training Contracts completed to upskill employees, and he continues to work with employers. The Board's policy will support training efforts up to \$10,000 per business per year with a limit of no more than \$2,000 per worker.

Tim highlighted some numbers from the civilian labor pool which showed a loss of 7,693 workers in Lynchburg MSA. Statewide is showing the same issue with a loss of 157,467 workers. UI claims shot up when the pandemic hit businesses were shuttered, and then almost quickly came back down through this summer. The highest number of claims were 9,659 in March 2020, and the lowest were 879 claims at the end of July 2021.

Tim reported that businesses are in competition with each other. There were 6.9 million job openings in the United States in February 2020, and as of July 2021, there were 10.9 million job openings. He also reported that workers who lost their jobs are not going back to the same position but rather looking for a new trade. He reported that the pandemic accelerated retirements at almost 2 million more than expected. These reports/stats can be located on the VCW website under public documents.

6. Approval of April 27, 2021 minutes

The approval of minutes, with the amendment of Nate Mahanes term through 2024, was motioned by John Hinkle and seconded by John Sharp. The motion was unanimously approved.

7. Approval of Workforce Area 7 Local Plan

The motion was made by John Hinkle and seconded by John Sharp. The motion was unanimously approved.

8. Approval of Workforce Development Board Budget FY22

Rosalie presented the budget, and explained there are three funding streams, Adult, Dislocated, and Youth, and in addition 10% comes off for Administration. She stated there is funding from Parkview Community Mission for \$45,000, and funding from Bedford and Campbell County Schools for \$60,000 for the Youth program. There is a carry forward from funding from last year of \$419,000.

Rosalie reported this year's funding is \$1.2 million for total funds of \$1.7 million. This is broken down by the Board for the cost to operate the center, program operations, existing worker training, and direct program costs.

Rosalie stated that there will need to be a close look at the 2022 budget. She stated the need to look for additional funds or cutting some things back because there may be a short fall of funding. Traci added that she will be looking at new revenues such as grant opportunities and ask our localities for support.

The motion was made by John Hinkle and seconded by John Sharp. The motion was unanimously approved.

9. Approval of new Workforce Development Board Member

1. Bryan Lyttle, new Center Director, Old Dominion Job Corp.

The motion was made by John Hinkle and seconded by John Sharp to appoint Bryan Lyttle to the WDB. The motion was unanimously approved.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.