



Workforce Development Board

Region 2000 Workforce Development Area VII

Serving the City of Lynchburg, and Counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford and Campbell

Workforce Development Board Meeting

3:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance

Lynchburg, VA

Minutes

Members Present: Nat Marshall – Chair, Blondie Anderson, Traci Blido, Scott Francis, Bobby Johnson, Christine Kennedy, Caitlin King, Dennis Knight, Sierria Lopez, Ron Lovelace, Gerald Murphy (for Kimberly McIvor), Heather Reynolds, John Redding, Dorian Mills (for Luke Saechao), Marjette Upshur, Wendell Walker

Members Absent, Excused: Des Black, Georgia Fauber, Scott Gillespie, Susan Martin, Cheryl Toler, Sterling Wilder

Members Absent: John Capps, Mike Davidson, Nathan Dowdy, Sonny Harvey, Phillip Jamerson, Ed McCann, Tina Ragland, Tamara Rosser, Roxanne Slaughter, Jan Walker

Staff Present: Ben Bowman, Savannah Cook, Susan Cook, Lori Cumbo, Alvin Jones - Region 2000, Rosalie Majerus

Others Present: Margaret Branham, Deaf & Hard of Hearing, Bill Coleman – LynCAG, Keith Cook – HumanKind, Susan Hogg – Campbell County Board of Supervisors, Nate Mahanes – DARS, Rachael Smith - News & Advance, Franklin Swan - Old Dominion Job Corps

1. Welcome and Introductions

Nat Marshall opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

2. Approval of October 10, July 11, and May16, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The motion was made by Bobby Johnson, and seconded by Sterling Wilder, to approve the October 10, 2017 meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

The motion was made by Ron Lovelace, and seconded by Scott Francis, to approve the minutes of July 11, 2017 and May 16, 2017. This motion was also unanimously approved.

3. Public Comment

Nat Marshall introduced Daryl Conner, from Victory Vocational Institute, to speak about the new training center. Mr. Conner advised that they will provide a training center within the City of Lynchburg. Victory Vocational Institute is located on Rivermont Avenue, on the GLTC bus line. They intend to take 12 students per class, many who have barriers. They will get them through core, which is basic job site safety and basic tool knowledge. He explained that this program is nationally credited and stackable. When they complete the core, they will be shuttled for the next semester to VTI in Altavista.

The motion to approve Victory Vocational Institute as a training provider was made by Traci Blido. The motion was seconded by Ron Lovelace and approved unanimously.

4. Budget Update

Rosalie Majerus reported that the amount of a transfer of funds from Dislocated to Adult will be changed from \$75,000 to \$150,000. This is being done to spend down old money first.

Upon recommendation by the Finance Committee, the transfer increase was approved unanimously.

5. New Policies Approval

There were 19 new or revised policies, along with a summary of each one, presented to the Board for approval. Ben Bowman explained that a lot of the changes merely involved changing from WIA to WIOA.

- Additions were also made in terms of eligibility and priority of service.
- One of the more significant changes involves training providers, in that Workforce is required to follow-up with all of the training providers to check on outcomes.
- Also, 20% of the Youth budget has to go towards work experiences.
- One of the new policies is customized training. Federal funds can now be used to help employers upgrade or upskill their existing workforce.

Traci Blido made the motion to accept the new/revised Region 2000 WDB policies. Sierra Lopez seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

6. Monthly Report

- 1) **Adult Education** – Dorian Mills reported for Luke Saechao.
 - Adult Ed is getting ready to start a second cohort for the second RSVP Hospitality program.
 - Partnering with CVCC Rapid Training to support students in clinical, medical assistants, and medical technology programs.
- 2) **Adult and One Stop Center** – Keith Cook
 - Adult Ed and CVCC are working with some inmates in the jail.
 - Partnership between Banker Steel and VTI will be starting in February.
 - The biggest issue for the One-Stop Operator is certification.
 - They are expanding services in the counties.
 - Nat Marshall added that they are still considering a One-Stop location at the CVCC campus where all partners would be located.
- 3) **Youthworks** – Alvin Jones
 - The MOU has been signed for the shared position in Bedford County, and they will begin interviewing next week.
 - Staff has completed 4-H training. This will give Youthworks the ability to use some of the 4-H curriculum.
 - Youthworks continues to build relationships to get work experience for the youth. 20% of the youth budget has to be spent on work experience.
- 4) **VEC** – Gerald Murphy
 - Their dislocated worker counselor started six weeks ago.
 - They are working with dislocated workers from a recently closed metal plating business in Lynchburg.

7. Committee Reports

- 1) **Outreach and Awareness** – Savannah Cook
 - Outreach and Awareness is planning a regional job fair. They hope to host it at Liberty University during their fall break.
 - They are looking at targeting market initiatives to job seekers, employers, and youth.
 - They will be updating the job seeker flyer.
 - They are working on an on-line orientation video.
 - They are creating a digital library for career exploration.
- 2) **Talent Solutions** – Savannah Cook
 - One goal of the team is to break down silos and work together to offer services to businesses and job seekers.
- 3) **Welding Initiative**

Savannah reported that on November 30 over seven businesses from the area met. These employers suggested that they could hire over 60 employees in the next 30 days. She is working with them to meet their short-term demands, working with the VEC to match job seekers, and working to develop a strategic plan, looking at the barriers to the trades.

4) Youth Committee - Alvin Jones

- The Youth Committee had their first meeting of the program year in December. They broke down into three subcommittees – Career Pathways, Policy Committee, and Youth Service Excellence Committee.

8. Board Staff Updates

Ben reported that he has spent time working on a grant application for Go Virginia. The Region 2 review team is interested in doing more with the grant, and they will be meeting on Friday with the full Region 2 committee. He hopes to get additional funding for incumbent worker training and is hoping to get about \$150,000 from the region here that can be targeted to employers who are in need of upscaling their current workforce to keep up with technology changes. He also hopes to use some of the money to create greater awareness of high demand occupations and find ways to engage young people and their families. Besides the career fair in October, Ben said that he hopes to develop web based resources for youth.

Whether or not the Go Virginia money is received, Ben said that the Workforce Board is expected to develop a focus on key employment sectors and develop a pipeline to feed into those sectors. Throughout the year there will be industry cluster groups working with the Chambers and Economic Development groups and private businesses to identify relevant career paths and training needs, and to develop strategies to get young people engaged in those career paths.

Ben advised that the Local Government Council will be exploring the possibility of a name change at their next meeting. He added that he feels it is a good time to examine what the Workforce Board calls itself. There is a new state brand, and some additional funding coming by this fall. It would be a good time to look at a new identity that better illustrates who we are and what we do. He will be sending information, and at the April meeting this can be discussed.

9. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Center (One Stop Partner) Presentation

Margaret Branham spoke on services available to deaf and hard of hearing residents in the region. She explained that she is a TAP (Technology Assistance Program) Specialist for Lynchburg and surrounding counties, and Roanoke and surrounding counties. This is a state program and distributes assisted technology to people who are deaf, hard of hearing, and speech disabled.

10. Matters from Members

- Nate Mahanes announced that Delta Star will be hosting the 1st quarterly RANE meeting on January 16.
- On February 1 Nate will be hosting the next employer's tour of the Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center's Vocational Training Programs.
- Nat Marshall explained that Workforce Board members are voted on by the CLEOs (Chief Local Elected Officials). Potential new representatives William Coleman,

President/CEO of LynCAG and a representative from Old Dominion Job Corps will be presented to the CLEOS for approval in the near future.

- Nat Marshall explained to the Board that there is a possibility that he will be the next chair for the State Workforce Board. In the event that this should happen, he and Sierra Lopez, who is the current vice-chair, may co-chair the Region 2000 Workforce Board.
- Nat asked the Executive Committee to meet immediately following the full Board meeting, to discuss the quorum concerns and discuss on new policies.

11. Adjourn – There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

The next meeting of the WDB will be on April 10, 2018 at Virginia Technical Institute in Altavista.