

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, April 12,
2016
RR Donnelley

Minutes

Members Present: Nat Marshall – Chair, Blondie Anderson, Traci Blido, Scott Brabrand, Sierra Carvajal, Selina Elswick, Walter Fore, Sonny Harvey, Christine Kennedy, Nate Mahanes (for Roxanne Slaughter), Chris Markham, Susan Martin, Kimberly McIvor, John Mastroianni, James Mundy, Tamara Rosser, Luke Saechao, Jeff Taylor, Sterling Wilder

Members Absent, Excused: Ebo Fauber, Scott Gillespie, Ruth Hendrick, Cheryl Toler

Members Absent: Vanessa Angus, Joe Byron, Michael “Scott” Francis, Phillip Jamerson, Dennis Knight, Linda LaMona, Ron Lovelace, Jan Walker, Wendell Walker

Staff Present: Ben Bowman, Gary Christie, Lori Cumbo, Rosalie Majerus

Others Present: Will McPherson-Boy Scouts of America, Charles “Chuck” Searles-RR Donnelley, Cindy Smith-Bedford Science and Technology Center, Clay Stein-Goodwill Ind., Treney Tweedy-Goodwill Ind.

1. Welcome

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

2. Approval of January 12 meeting minutes

Upon a motion by John Mastroianni and a second by James Mundy, the minutes of January 12th, 2016 were approved as presented.

3. Review of YTD Financial report and PY 2015

Rosalie Majerus presented the YTD financial report. She advised the Workforce Development Board was on budget and anticipates the additional \$15,000 for WIOA transition will be spent. The Workforce Center move will come in substantially under budget due to the elimination of the security guard position as well as a reduction in square footage despite the youth location at Jubilee. Rosalie stated over a year’s time this will save about 1/3 the cost. She reports the program cost with Goodwill will come in on budget as well.

Rosalie and Ben will be putting together next year’s budget for presentation at the next WDB

meeting. She reports the state has received a 14% increase in adult and youth funds but a decrease in dislocated worker funds. The allocation has not been received to date but she assumes it will be at least what we received this year.

4. Discussion of High Demand Jobs

Chuck Searles presented an overview of the top high demand jobs at RR Donnelley. RR Donnelley is currently worth 16 billion and is the largest print and communications company in the world. RR Donnelley is currently undergoing much change and by October 1st will be breaking into three separate companies. The facility in Lynchburg will be known as LCS Communications.

The Lynchburg facility currently employs about 400 workers. Approximately 1/3 of these workers will be retiring within the next five years. Chuck states they have difficulty filling jobs due to a lack of qualified, experienced applicants. He quoted a statistic which states 80% of adults feel manufacturing is important but only 30% of parents encourage their children to seek training in this field. Chuck stated the challenge is to put technology in the hands of young people and he request the help of the community to do so.

Chuck stated additional exposure and training in the areas of mechanical and electrical as well as soft skills would be beneficial. Sonny Harvey stated RR Donnelley is willing to train individuals who can take advantage of the career ladder starting with an entry level position making \$12 per hour as a material handler, to \$20 per hour for press operator and up to \$30+ for technicians and finishers. Scott Brabrand stated he and the other superintendents would love to see more businesses offering internships for youth. Sonny stated RR Donnelley would be interested in this.

5. Training Provider Approval

Cindy Smith from Bedford Science and Technology Center presented a Certified Nurse Aide Program application for board approval to be placed on the state-wide Eligible Training Provider List. Cindy stated the CNA program operates twice a year with evening classes for adult students. The cost is \$550.00 and last for 10 to 12 weeks, with students pulling clinical rotations at Bedford Memorial Hospital. She reports the program has been in operation for 40 years with a current 93% state board pass rate.

The motion for approval was made by Traci Blido and seconded by Susan Martin. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Public Comment Period

Will McPherson from Boy Scouts of America presented information on Explorer Clubs (a branch of Boy Scouts) which is a career exploration program for boys and girls from middle school to age 20. Participants are introduced to the 12 fields that align with the U.S. Department of Education's career clusters while developing leadership and confidence. In addition, older participants will focus on skills to transition to the workplace and engage in on-site, hands on experiences at local businesses.

7. One-Stop Center Update

- **Inventory Update**

Lori Cumbo provided a presentation and overview of WIOA inventory which was donated and/or disposed of during the relocation to the Virginia Employment Commission and the Youth Works Center at Jubilee. A total of 316 items were donated to WIOA and community partners and 26 broken items were disposed of.

- **Workforce Center Update**

Kimberly McIvor provided a VEC yearly performance summary review which indicated approximately 14,000 walk-ins, approximately 150,000 services, 606 hires, 1,900 job orders created and 48 on-site job fairs.

Treney Tweedy provided a Title 1 update stating with the relocation the focus has been on improving the customer flow into the Workforce Center and increased emphasis on marketing. Program orientations are being held on a monthly basis at Goodwill Madison Heights Job Center, the Workforce Center and Lynchburg Public Library. Additionally she reports they have participated in two Rapid Response events and are continuing to focus on outreach and expanding training opportunities in the region.

8. One-Stop Center Tour

The WDB member tour of the Workforce Center resulted in the following recommendations:

1. Additional signage to showcase services
2. Eliminate the “take a number system” and replace with a staff member to assist customers immediately upon arrival

Ben Bowman introduced the Customer Center Design Challenge and invited members to participate.

9. Partner Updates

- **DARS**

Nate Mahanes reports as of March 31 all DARS service categories are open. He stated DARS has put 1700 participants to work and successfully closed their cases this year.

On May 5 DARS and Region 2000 WDB will provide a tour of the Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center. Transportation and lunch will be provided.

10. Director Report

- Ben Bowman reports he recently attended the VTI Career Fair and the Bedford County Schools Health Care Career Fair which were both well attended
- We recently submitted a proposal for the Strengthening Healthy Families Grant and Lynchburg City submitted a proposal for TechHire. Notification should be received by July.
- Ben Bowman, Lori Cumbo and Rosalie Majerus attended SMART Grants training in Philadelphia, PA in February
- Ben is serving on the Amherst County Strategic Planning Steering Committee
- Lori Cumbo attended Bridges Out of Poverty Train the Trainer event in March and is now a certified trainer
- April 21 is the Local Government Council's spring dinner. Three school superintendents will be discussing local workforce issues.
- April 22 is the Minority Business Expo at the Kirkley Hotel. We will have a table.
- June 2 the WDB is partnering with Lynchburg College to sponsor a Health Care Job Fair at Lynchburg College from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Later this year we would like to have something with manufacturing and construction

11. Comments from Members

Traci Blido made a motion to order flowers for Susan Cook, the motion was seconded by John Mastroianni. The motion was approved unanimously.

12. Adjourn