

Region 2000 Workforce Investment Area VII

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

**Workforce Investment Board Meeting
3:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 11, 2013
Goodwill Madison Heights Job Center**

Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Nat Marshall, Blondie Anderson (for Shelby Penn), Traci Blido, John Capps, Mike Davidson, Lorenza Davis, Danny Grimes, Keith Harkins, Ruth Hendrick, Christine Kennedy, Linda LaMonia, Susan Martin, John Mastroianni, Kimberly McIvor, James Mundy, Michael Rose, Luke Saechao, Douglas Schuch, Deborah Weaver, Tom Wood

Members Absent, Excused: Ebo Fauber, Walter Fore, Shawn Hecker, Ron Lovelace, Justin Reid, Linda Youngblood

Members Absent: Scott Brabrand, Joe Byron, Allen Cash, Lee Cobb, Biff Johnson, Scot McCarthy, Heather Reynolds, Tamera Rosser, Roxanne Slaughter, Jeff Taylor, Cheryl Toler, Marjette Upshur, Sterling Wilder

Staff Present: Susan Cook, Brian Davis, Randall Franklin, Rosalie Majerus

Others Present: Nate Mahanes – DARS

1. Welcome

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

2. Approval of November 12, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by John Capps, and seconded by John Mastroianni, the minutes were approved unanimously as written.

3. Focus Item: Small Business Development

- 1) Ruth Hendrick, from Central Virginia Community College, spoke to the WIB about services available at the Small Business Development Center to individuals interested in starting a business, and also those already in a small business and want some help in growing that business. Resources available include:
 - a) Business Basics Course – focus on importance of the business plan and funding
 - b) Individual consulting
 - c) Seminars, training sessions, and classes

- 2) Renee Wood, owner of Gladiola Girls, a women's clothing boutique on Main Street in Lynchburg, shared her first-hand experience on starting a business in the region. Although she spends no less than 70 hours per week in her business, she enjoys working for herself. She stated that she was thankful for the funding that was available, and some of the resources that were available.

4. Public Comment

Christine Kennedy gave an update on the Young Entrepreneurs:

There are 22 students in this year's class, and they have launched 13 businesses.

Nate Mahanes reported that on Thursday, February 20, the DARS will be holding the Region 2000 Area Network for Employment. Their next meeting, in April, will be hosted by Timken.

5. Information Items

- a) Program Highlights – At the last meeting, the Board asked that a letter be sent to Richmond highlighting some of the concerns held locally about the Career Readiness Certificate attainment levels that were being imposed on Local Workforce Investment areas. By next year 25% of participants are supposed to achieve the certificate. In his response, the chairman of the Virginia Workforce Council advised that during his chairmanship the way that this requirement developed would not happen in the future. During his tenure he would also try to improve communication and collaboration between the state and local levels. They would also look into expanding this requirement into other programs beyond WIA.
- b) Individual Evaluation of the Workforce Center - The Center for Workforce Learning was chosen by the Operations Committee to evaluate the customers experience from the time they come in to when they exit the program. The person doing the on site evaluation will be on site all day on February 19.
- c) Existing Worker Training Program – This program was created last year, aimed at helping existing employers retrain employees on the payroll. These individuals do not have to meet the standard income requirements of the federal program. There is currently \$25,000 in the program to help employers retrain individuals, in order to get ahead of a layoff situation.
- d) Mr. Davis reviewed service numbers. He reminded the Board that CVCC operates the adult and dislocated worker programs. There are currently 104 customers on the books; new enrollment is up from last year at 56, with 44 in occupational training. There are 42 active customers in the Youth program, with 22 new enrollments.
- e) Financial Summary – Mr. Davis reviewed the current finances. Out of the total budget for the year of 1.6M, \$603,000 remains as of the end of December. This is about 36% of the available budget.
- f) Legislative Update – Mr. Davis reviewed the status of bills introduced in the 2014 General Assembly session related to workforce development.
- g) Brian Davis introduced Randall Franklin, as the new Workforce Center Manager. Mr. Franklin spoke briefly to the Board about his plans and objectives for the Workforce Center.

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