

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 10, 2015
Lynchburg Public Library**

Minutes

Members Present: Nat Marshall – Chair, Traci Blido, Scot Brabrand, John Capps, Mike Davidson, Ebo Fauber, Walter Fore, Keith Harkins, Ruth Hendrick, Christine Kennedy, Ron Lovelace, Susan Martin, John Mastroianni, Kimberly McIvor, James Mundy, Shelby Penn, Justin Reid, Heather Reynolds, Luke Saechao, Douglas Schuch, Steven Shockley, Roxanne Slaughter, Jeff Taylor, Cheryl Toler, Marjette Upshur, Tom Wood

Members Absent, Excused: Lee Cobb, Lorenza Davis, Danny Grimes, Scot McCarthy, Elizabeth Narehood, and Tamara Rosser

Members Absent: Joe Byron, Shawn Hecker, Bif Johnson, Linda LaMona, Michael Rose, Sterling Wilder, Linda Youngblood

Staff Present: Ben Bowman, Susan Cook, Gary Christie, Rosalie Majerus

Others Present: Georgia Fauber, Nate Mahanes – DARS, Hannah Robinson - Lynchburg Public Library, Bret Tavel - Central Virginia Rapid Response Team

1. Welcome

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

2. Library Welcome and Overview

Hannah Robinson gave an overview on what the library does for job seekers. She explained that the library offers 20 public computers that people can use for anything they want. It is estimated that approximately 50% of the time spent on the computers is for job searches. The library also offers computer classes. Some of these include resume writing and job search classes. Ben Bowman added that he would like to find ways to partner with the libraries.

3. Return on Investment Celebration

Brett Tavel, from the Central Virginia Rapid Response Team, explained that he covers four Workforce Investment Board regions. The Rapid Response program is dedicated to helping businesses, and individuals who are going to be losing their jobs through closure or layoff. They do this by working with some of the members of the business services team in the area and Economic Development. They work with the employees to get them the proper information on how to file for their unemployment insurance, and introduces them to the Workforce system and

provide information on job training through the Workforce Center. They are dedicated to getting these people back into the workforce as soon as possible.

There is also funding available through the community college for incumbent worker training to save jobs and avoid layoffs.

4. Approval of the November 18, 2014 Meeting Minutes

The motion was made by Ebo Fauber, and seconded by Walter Fore, to approve the November minutes as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Review of YTD Financial Report

Rosalie Majerus gave an overview of the Financial Report as of December 31st.

She advised that about 45% of the budget has been spent. She will be watching to see that all of 2013 funds are spent. There is still about \$162,000 to spend in the Admin, Dislocated and Adult line items. Under the Youth category, spending is already into the 2014 funding.

6. Public Comment Period

Walter Fore commented concerning wounded warriors and services available for them.

Kimberly McIvor advised that the VEC does have veteran representatives that do work with veterans that have barriers to employment. John Mastroianni also advised that at Job Corps they have some homeless ex-military, still within the age criteria, living there while getting education and job credentials.

7. New Business

- **Operations Coordinator Position** – The person in this position will work with Ben in the day to day operations of Workforce Development. Gary Christie explained that funds for this position will come from some savings from Local Government staff support, and some incentive funds. Ben also added that at the state level there is encouragement to set up a nonprofit in order to leverage other sources of funding in addition to WIA.

John Mastroianni made the motion, seconded by Jeff Taylor, to support Ben in filling this position. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Setting 2015 Meeting Dates and Locations** – April 14 was set for the next meeting date, with location to be determined. Members were also asked for suggestions for other meeting locations. Dr. Mundy suggested meeting in the counties, at least once.
- **Information Update for Workforce Development Board** – Gary Christie presented a state policy change proposal that would change how appointments are made and requiring the local governments to re-establish the Workforce area. This proposed change will cause our CLEOs (Local Workforce Area Council) to change how the nomination process takes place, and requires them to re-nominate each board. It also potentially changes how the oversight occurs. Both the CLEO and the Local Workforce Board would have to approve

the budget along with certain other operational impacts. This policy puts more control at the state level. Gary asked for comments from the Board members that can be sent to Richmond by the Chair, commenting on the proposed changes.

Comments were:

- Workforce Investment Board members should not be required to complete a statement of economic interest. (No. 9)
- The statement that anyone or any organization should be able to nominate labor representatives was added to No. 5.

A motion was made by Jeff Taylor, seconded by John Mastroianni, to accept the draft policy with changes suggested by Board members.

8. Director's Report

- **1st. Quarter Performance Report** – Ben reported that the numbers for the 1st quarter are a little bit down, especially in the Youth area, but in all are looking ok.
- **Relocation of the Workforce Center** – This continues to be a strong concern, but the state requirements for mandated partners are still unknown. Also, what the WIOA means by “co-location” with Wagner Peysner is still unknown. This is both a federal and state decision that will include the VEC, VCCS, Workforce Investment Board, Adult Education and DARS. Ben asked for members who would like to be on the One-Stop Relocation Committee to sign up.
- **WIA/WIOA Transition Update** – Ben reported that a bill in the General Assembly will require 40% of Adult and Dislocated Worker funding to be spent specifically on training. What is not known is whether the 40% is before or after administrative costs are taken out. Region 2000 currently allocates 40% of adult and dislocated worker training funds toward training after administrative costs are taken out..
- An RFP will be released for Adult and Dislocated, and Youth, as well as the One-Stop Operator by the first of March.

9. Other Items from Members

- Ruth Hendrick announced that Randall Franklin has resigned as the One-Stop Center Coordinator. Lori Cumbo is serving as the Interim Coordinator.
- Keith Harkins will be resigning from the Workforce Investment Board, as he is taking a position as Vice-President of Workforce Development at Southside Community College.

10. Adjourn – There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:20.