

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, June 16, 2015
Region 2000 Workforce Center

Minutes

Members Present: Nat Marshall – Chair, Blondie Anderson (for Shelby Penn), Traci Blido, Scott Brabrand, Joe Byron, Mike Davidson, Ebo Fauber, Linda LaMona, Ron Lovelace, Susan Martin, Kimberly McIvor, John Mastroianni, Elizabeth Narehood, Tamara Rosser, Luke Saechao, Doug Schuch, Roxanne Slaughter, Jeff Taylor, Sterling Wilder, Tom Wood

Members Absent, Excused: Ruth Hendrick, Cheryl Toler

Members Absent: John Capps, Lee Cobb, Walter Fore, Shawn Hecker, Bif Johnson, Christine Kennedy, James Mundy, Heather Reynolds, Michael Rose, Steven Shockley, Marjette Upshur

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

Others Present: Margaret Bryant – Lynchburg DHHSC, Sierra Carvajel – Southern Air, Lori Cumbo – Region 2000 Workforce Center, Mary Ann Gilmer, Goodwill Ind., Kenyette Gray – DBVI, Abe Loper – Miller-Motte Tech. College, Nate Mahanes – DARS, Angela Mayfield – Lynchburg Literacy Council, Clay Stein – Goodwill Ind., Susan Thompson – Lynchburg Literacy Council

1. Welcome

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

2. Community Resource

Susan Thompson introduced Angela Mayfield, the Executive Director of the Lynchburg Literacy Council. Angela explained that the Literacy Council is an independent non-profit organization that provides one-on-one and small class size literacy tutoring for adults. All services provided by the Council are free. The Council also teaches English as a second language.

3. Approval of April 14, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Jeff Tayler, seconded by John Mastroianni, the February minutes were approved as presented.

4. Review of YTD Financial Report and PY 2016 Budget

Ben reviewed the current financial report included in the meeting packet and discussed the PY 2016 Budget. He explained that this year's funding has increased over last year, from \$1,252,658 to \$1,355,129. This budget includes additional funds set aside for monitoring, along with \$75,000 for special initiatives. The WIB had already received an additional \$15,000 to help with transition to the WIOA.

Upon a motion by Mike Davidson and a second by Ron Lovelace, the budget for PY 16 was approved unanimously.

5. Public Comment Period

Susan Martin thanked the Board and Partner agencies that participated in the 3rd annual Job Fair held in Bedford County on May 13th. Ben added that this is an example of how the initiative funding is used.

6. New Business

- **Transition Proposal for Goodwill and CVCC: Addition to Initial Contract –**
Nat Marshall advised that Goodwill will be operating the Workforce Center beginning on July 1st. There will be a one week transition period where CVCC and Goodwill staff will overlap. Ben asked the Board to approve \$9,000 from the PY 15 budget to cover the extra expense.

The motion was made by John Mastroianni, and seconded by Ebo Fauber, to approve the additional funds for transition. The motion was approved unanimously, with Linda LaMona and Nat Marshall abstaining.

- **One Stop Center Relocation**

Ben Bowman reported that four potential locations for the One-Stop have been visited by the relocation committee. However, he added that the state has not yet given a clear definition of what they want co-location to look like. Due to concerns with the condition of the current location, he felt that it would be good to find another location for the next two to three years. This will allow time to receive clarification from the state as to what they want, and also develop a vision for a Workforce system that truly meets the needs of Region 2000.

Ben reported that the relocation committee identified the Business Development Center, off of Old Graves Mill Road, in addition to space at the Jubilee Center as highest on the list. John Mastroianni added that if the Workforce Center relocated to the Business Development Center and the Jubilee Center temporarily, the overall cost of the facilities would be less than what is currently being paid, and would make it possible to spend some money on marketing the One-Stop. Ben also added that a vacant building on Leesville Road has been looked at, along many other locations. A location at the Fort Hill Shopping

Center is still on the radar for the long term. It was suggested that Genworth be contacted to see if there is available space at their campus off of the expressway.

Following discussion, Nat stated that he would push for answers from Richmond while meeting there next Thursday. The consensus of the Board was that it was time to make a decision on a location.

Ben added that in conversations with Goodwill they are looking at ways that we can have more presence in the broader areas served. There has also been positive dialogue with the libraries as possible access points, and he has had conversations with Goodwill on ways to use technology, as in video conferencing between job seekers and case managers.

7. Director's Report

- **WIA/WIOA Transition Update**

Ben reported that as of July 1 the WIB will be operating under the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act. However, a lot of questions remain unanswered. Ben advised that he tries to share information as he receives it and that he looks forward to the good opportunities it will provide.

- **NEG Grant**

Ben reported that the apprenticeship grant that was discussed at the last meeting did not work out. However, WIB Directors around the state became aware of another opportunity, which is the NEG, or National Emergency Grant. This grant is specifically for long term unemployed individuals. If we do get this grant, it would come sometime between the end of July and October. It would provide probably \$200,000 per year that we could specifically target over a two year time frame on people who have been unemployed for more than twelve weeks. Some of these funds could be used to help those in outlying areas with transportation or specialized training. It would also provide additional funding for "sector strategy planning".

- **Local Government Council Conversation on Education**

Ben reported that at the last Local Government Council meeting there was some discussion on ways that as a region we can reduce drop-out rates and help with teacher retention. The LGC also discussed how the region could work with the school systems to reduce costs through cooperative purchasing or broader transportation initiatives. There may be the possibility of applying for grants on a regional basis that can be used to bring in the educational system to improve outcomes.

Ben also reported that he has been working with the Career and TechEd programs developing a data base for our website that lists all of the Career and TechEd programs in the region. This will introduce businesses to the resources that are available in the school systems.

- **Workforce Development Board Appointments**

A list of the proposed WDB membership for the next year was distributed to the members present. Ben explained that it would be presented to the Chief Local Elected Officials on Thursday, and they will be the ones who ultimately make the determination of the composition of the Board. The new law does not call for as large a board as there has been, but there will be various committees that allow participation from non-board members as long as the committee is chaired by a board member. Starting in July the Board Chair will need to be determined, and new committees set up.

Ebo Fauber made a motion to submit the names presented for WDB membership. The motion was seconded by Jeff Tayler, and was approved unanimously.

8. Other Items from Members

- Scott Brabrand shared that beginning yesterday, two of the Lynchburg City Schools, Perrymont and R.S Payne, are serving breakfast and lunch free to any young person, 18 years and younger. Breakfast is served at 8:30, and lunch at 12:30. Adults can also be served for a nominal price.

9. Adjourn – There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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