

New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Area Consortium Board

MEETING MINUTES

July 16, 2014

A meeting of the NR/MR WIA Consortium Board was held on July 16, 2014 at Wytheville Meeting Center in Wytheville. Those in attendance were as follows:

Council Members

David Hutchins - Chair
John Garner - Galax
John Brewer - Grayson
Bill Brown - Montgomery
Andy McCready – Pulaski
Howard Burton - Smyth
Steven Willis - Wythe

Staff

Ronnie Martin
Marty Holliday

Guest

Martha Samples – WIB Chair
Betty Rowe – People, Inc
Linda Matthews - Goodwill Ind. of the Valleys
Caryl Allen – Goodwill Ind. of the Valleys

At 10:07 AM, Chair Hutchins called the meeting to order and opened with a prayer and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Hutchins asked Ms. Holliday to call the roll. A quorum was not present. Mr. McCready was on his way, so all items needing a vote were postponed until later in the meeting.

Chair Hutchins opened the floor for public comment. Hearing none he proceed with the agenda.

Chair Hutchins asked Ms. Samples to give a WIB update. Ms. Samples brought the Board up-to-date on WIB activities that had taken place in recent months. She asked Mr. Martin to give a brief update on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which is the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act. Mr. Martin gave a brief overview of changes. He told the members that he will continue to give updates at each meeting. A brief discussion followed.

Chair Hutchins asked Mr. Martin to give an Executive Summary. Mr. Martin gave an overview of program activities, budget and funding issues through the end of May 2014. A brief discussion followed.

Mr. McCready arrived and it was established that a quorum was now present and Board action could occur.

Chair Hutchins asked for any changes or comments on the Consent Agenda. Mr. Brewer made the motion to approve all Consent Agenda items. Mr. McCready seconded the motion. The vote was called:

Carroll – yes, Galax– yes, Grayson – yes, Montgomery - yes, Pulaski – yes, Smyth – yes, Wythe-yes

Chair Hutchins asked Mr. Martin and Mr. McCready to begin the discussion on Board Staff Compensation for PY 14. Mr. Martin gave an overview of discussions that had occurred at the Budget Committee meeting held in June, after the May Consortium Board meeting where a 3% raise had been approved. Mr. McCready further explained that at the time of the Budget Committee meeting, local jurisdictions were facing wage freezes and budget cutbacks. He further explained that the dire situation of that time has passed and he felt that no changes should be made to already approved increases in staff salaries. No vote was necessary, but it was the consensus of the members present to let the increase stand as previously approved.

Chair Hutchins asked Mr. Martin to give an overview of the Projected Unobligated Funds. Mr. Martin explained the Budget process and began some "up-front" discussion. He told the members that Youth funds are distributed based on recommendation by the Youth Council and they have already expressed their desire to distribute all available unobligated funds to the Youth Operators. He further explained that the Dislocated Worker Program doesn't function like the Adult program, because if we run out of dollars, we can request Rapid Response funds, but if we have funds set-aside we would have to spend/obligate those first. Mr. Martin recommended that all Dislocated Worker funds be distributed to our DLW Operator. Mr. Martin explained that the Adult program's unobligated funds had been handled differently the last few year and that the Board had asked for proposals for special projects. He reminded the Board that the previous year the Board had approved funding for a special program the "Work Place Tool Kit" - which they will get an update on later in the meeting. He explained that only a small amount of funds, 7%, was available to the Operators until October and that makes the beginning of the program year tight for the Operators. Mr. Martin stated that there was about \$106,483 of unobligated funds available (not yet final figure until sometime in August) . Chair Hutchins told the members that there was to be a Joint Executive Committee meeting to be held in late August to discuss this issue and our Adult Operators will be invited to be part of the discussion.

Chair Hutchins told the members that the Informational Items that had been previously sent out would not be presented unless there were specific questions that members wanted to ask about them. Mr. Martin reported in more detail on the WIB's

vacancies. Ms. Rowe briefly discussed the One-Stop Operator report, noting that the Wytheville One-Stop Campus was now fully certified.

Ms. Allen gave an update on the Work Place Tool Kit project and highlighted their successes.

Mr. Martin gave a brief update on the NEG-OJT Grant. Ms. Holliday gave updates on the DEI grant and the \$50,000 Incentive Grant for Roving Computer Labs.

Mr. Martin reminded the members about the Travel Reimbursement request form to be completed and signed if members wanted to get reimbursed for their travel to the meeting.

Chair Hutchins went around the room asking the Members about specific needs in their areas. Based on some comments, a short discussion was held on the number of long-term unemployed and the need to make connections with employers that pay higher wages.

Chair Hutchins continued with the agenda noting that the next meeting will be on September 17, 2014 at Elizabeth Brown Park in Wytheville beginning at 10:00 AM, with a cookout lunch following the meeting.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marty Holliday

Marty Holliday
Deputy Director