

NEW RIVER/MOUNT ROGERS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

April 27, 2016

A meeting of the New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board was held on February 24, 2016 at the Wytheville Meeting Center. Those in attendance were as follows:

Board Members

Lynn White, Chair
Howard Bartholomay
Carol Blankenship
Jeff Dunnack
Joe Ferrell
William Fields
MaryAnn Gilmer
Rob Goldsmith
Melinda Leland
Ken McFadyen
Robin Meadows
Michael Miller

Martha Samples
Kevin Semones
Jimmy Smith (alternate)
Joanie McCleary (alternate)
Sheila West (alternate)

Staff

Marty Holliday
Ronnie Martin
Beverly Burke
Renee McDavid

Guest

Catherine Brillhart,
Consortium Board Chair
Beckie Cox
Brenda Rigney
Darrell Blankenship
Kathy Malone

Chair White called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and welcomed all WDB members and guests to the meeting.

The roll was then called and it was established that a quorum was present.

Chair White asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Samples made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Goldsmith seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Chair White asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2016 meeting which had been previously distributed to WDB members. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Gilmer seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Chair White asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board during the public comment period. There was none.

Moving on with the agenda, Chair White called for Committee reports:

- Budget & Administration – In the absence of Mr. Overton, Committee Chair, Mr. Martin stated that the financial report being presented is through the end of March and that all balances are good. Mr. Martin stated that because only a small portion of PY'16 Adult

funds are received in July, the Program Operators will need to keep a close watch on Adult Fund balances until the remaining funds are received in early November with an effective date of October 1, 2016. A short discussion followed. Mr. Martin informed the Board that although it appeared that the DLW Placement rate looked low it was due to the fact that several Trade clients were exited from the program who were close to retirement and were no longer in need of WIOA services. All standards the Program Operators are required to meet are in line with expectations. There are no concerns at this time.

- One-Stop Operations & Delivery System – Ms. Samples stated that the Board was near the end of the RFP timeline and handed the report over to Mr. Martin. Mr. Martin informed the Board that there were only two bidders which were the current Program Operators. The Evaluation Committee scored the proposals but the One-Stop Committee was unable to approve a funding recommendation due to lack of a quorum, however, six of the nine committee members supported the funding recommendation being presented for action. Ms. Samples made a motion to approve the funding recommendation as presented with a second from Ms. Blankenship. The motion was passed. Mr. Goldsmith and Ms. Gilmer abstained.

Ms. Holliday informed the Board that the 40% training requirement had originally included WIOA Admin funds but that the area Directors worked for months to make sure that the State Officials understand that WIOA Admin funds should not be included in this measure for training. It took nearly a year to get the point across, but Admin funds are no long included in the 40% Training Requirement. Mr. Martin made the recommendation to reduce the 50% requirement for training for the Program Operators to 45% effective July 1, 2016. A small discussion followed. Ms. Samples made a motion based on Mr. Martin's recommendation to change the 50% requirement to 45% with a second from Mr. Semones. The motion passed. Mr. Goldsmith and Ms. Gilmer abstained.

Ms. Holliday requested that the Board approve putting \$600,000 of Rapid Response Funding under contract with the DLW Program Operator, People Inc. This would enable them to serve DLW effected industries approved for Rapid Response. Ms. Samples made the motion to approve placing \$600,000 under contract with People Inc. with a second from Ms. Leland. The motion was passed. Mr. Goldsmith abstained.

Ms. Holliday requested that the Board approve putting \$131,094 of POWER Funding under contract with the DLW Program Operator, People Inc. This would enable them to serve DLWs effected by Coal Industry related layoffs. Mr. Miller made the motion to approve placing \$131,094 under contract with People Inc. with a second from Ms. Samples. The motion was passed. Mr. Goldsmith abstained.

Mr. Miller spoke to the Board about the work with Sector Partnership. Ms. Holliday indicated that this was a work in progress and that additional information would be forthcoming at future Board meetings.

In the absences of Mr. Adkins, Youth Committee Chair, Mr. Martin updated the Board on recent Youth Committee activities. Mr. Martin stated that the Youth Committee recently met and is recommending that the Board approve the PY'16 youth funding recommendations as presented. Mr. Ferrell made the motion to approve Youth Funding recommendation as presenting with a second from Mr. Semones. The motion was passed. Mr. Goldsmith and Ms. Gilmer abstained.

Continuing with the agenda, Chair White asked Ms. Brillhart, Consortium Board Chair, to give the Consortium Board update. Ms. Brillhart stated that the Consortium Board met in March and approved staff applying, in partnership with the Western Virginia Workforce Development Board, for \$3,904,000 in Department of Labor funding for the Tech Hire Grant. Notification of approved applicants should be available in June. She thanked Ms. Holliday and the WDB Staff for their continued work to assist with mass layoffs in the region.

Chair White asked Ms. Holliday to give the Executive Summary. Ms. Holliday updated the Board on Staff activities since their last meeting. Ms. Holliday stated that DEI Coordinator Kimber Simmons is now a Certified Incentive Practitioner. She then highlighted the NR MR Quarterly Workforce Report prepared by VA Tech.

Chair White asked the Workforce System Representatives to give a brief update on activities happening around the region.

- Community Based Organizations – Ms. West, the Alternate for Terri Smusz, stated they are partnering with NRCC for parents who are students at NRCC. The parents will receive a small stipend to help while attending college and with childcare. Mr. Goldsmith stated that Community Action is going through a lot of change. The State is helping with money to provide computers for tracking outcomes. There are a lot of new reporting requirements from both the State and Federal government, highlighting long-term impact of programs on the people who are being served.
- Institute of Higher Education – Ms. Leland shared that legislation was signed into law in March for funding for non-credit training. Beginning July 1 there is a pot of money for non-credit training, but receiving these funds is not as simple as it is in other states. This grant is called the Workforce Credentials Grant (WCG). VHCC also received the SNAP ENT Grant.
- Economic & Community Development – Mr. McFadyen recently attended a meeting with the Tobacco Commission and informed the Board that three of the top six economic development drivers are: Leadership, Education and Workforce Development. He stated that the Tobacco Commission would welcome comments from this Board on how to best serve the area Workforce.
- Job Corps – Mr. Fields stated that Blue Ridge Job Corps is going through some changes. Because BRJC is a contract center, the contract will be issued for bid this year and will be

operated by a temporary contractor until such time as bids can be received. All current employees will be required to apply for their current position with no guarantee that they will be hired. He informed the Board that this could be his last meeting serving as a Board member.

- Virginia's Employment Services – Ms. McCleary, Ms. Aker's alternate, commended the BRJC staff during this time of transition for their professionalism. She stated that the EAC meeting was a success. She thanked Board staff, especially Renee McDavid, for their assistance with the computer labs for the Volvo mass layoffs. She also informed the Board that the Marion VEC would be closing by the end of May. She stated that employees continue to provide quality services to the citizens of Smyth County.
- WIA Title I Programs –
 - Mr. Blankenship gave the One-Stop Operator Report highlighting the many layoffs in the area. He thanked the Board for approving People Inc.'s contracts for PY'16.
 - Ms. Gilmer and Mr. Blankenship updated Board members on the activities of the Just Hire One Re-entry Project.
- Special Grants - Ms. Holliday gave a brief update on recent activities.

The 2016 WDB meeting schedule was reviewed with Board members noting that the next WDB meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2016 at the Wytheville Meeting Center beginning at 10:00 AM. Ms. Holliday discussed the Travel Voucher that each Board member must complete and sign if they want to be reimbursed for their travel. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by Chair White at 11:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Burke,
Workforce Operations Coordinator