



CENTRAL REGION

Central Virginia Workforce Development Area VII

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

Workforce Development Board Meeting

3:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Microsoft Teams

Lynchburg, VA

Minutes

Members Present: Nat Marshall – Chair, Loren Anderson, Traci Blido, John Capps, Gary Campbell, Renee Chalmers, William Coleman, Andrew Crawford, Scott Francis, Cheryl Giggets, Cynthia Hall, Ron Lovelace, Nate Mahanes, Robbie Morrison, John Redding, Tamara Rosser, Richard Russo, Luke Saechao, Roxanne Slaughter, Andrew Tisoskey, Sonya Todd, Cheryl Toler, Marjette Upshur, Sterling Wilder, Cathy Woody

Members Absent, Excused: Dana Hogan, Christine Kennedy, Kenneth Williams, Sierria Phillips, Michael Pinn

Members Absent: Nathan Dowdy

Staff Present: Ben Bowman, Gary Christie, Keith Cook, Mallory Cook, Joe Girandola, Sarah Grant, Rosalie Majerus, Tim Saunders

Others Present: none

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Nat Marshall, Chair, welcomed the committee and offered his thanks for their participation in the meeting. Nat also welcomed Gary Campbell, Sonya Todd, and Richard Russo as the newest members of the Workforce Development Board.

2. Roll Call

Ben Bowman, Executive Director, performed the roll call and affirmed that a quorum was present at this meeting.

3. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

4. Review and Approve Minutes: July 14, 2020

Upon a motion made by Tamara Rosser, seconded by Cheryl Giggets, the minutes of the July 14, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved.

5. Budget Update

Rosalie Majerus of the CVPDC reviewed the revenues and expenditures to date with a summary of program balances and the Source and Use of Funds chart through August 31, 2020. There were no unusual expenditures identified. Chair Nat Marshall offered Ms. Majerus his and the Board's thanks for the report and for many years of good service.

6. VEC Board Member Nomination

On a motion made by Traci Blido, seconded by Bill Coleman, the Board unanimously welcomed Renee Chalmers to the Workforce Board.

7. Consideration of Three-Year Rental Contract with the Virginia Employment Commission

Nat Marshall explained that the VCW has been renting space in the VEC facility for the past several years and the time has come to discuss a potential renewal of this agreement. Ben Bowman stated that the rate at which VCW pays for space in this facility remains the most competitive pricing they have been able to find.

A motion was made by Robbie Morrison, seconded by Cheryl Philipps, for the Board to authorize Ben Bowman to execute a three-year agreement with the Virginia Employment Commission for the use of the facility on Odd Fellows Road, and it was unanimously approved.

8. PY 20-21 Program Performance Measures

Ben Bowman reviewed the preliminary performance report for PY 2019 that was received in September (with final numbers expected in November). The performances for the second and fourth quarters as well as median earnings were all exceeded in PY 2019.

Keith Cook provided a comparison of first quarter enrollment and services provided between PY 19 and PY 20. Many statistics are lower than the previous year, largely due to

COVID-19 responses and adjustments. Keith expressed optimism in seeing numbers trending in a more positive pattern for the second quarter as individuals continue to adjust to responses regarding COVID-19.

9. COVID-19 Response

Ben Bowman explained that the Workforce Center is currently only open from 10am-3pm by appointment only. Many of the individuals receiving services are those who need assistance with reading/writing and computers. One goal if funding permits would be to add a Volunteer Coordinator to staff.

The CARES Act has provided some additional funding through the end of the year that will cover additional sanitation and some staffing expenses. Washable and waterproof keyboards and mice have been purchased, and there are staff present in the center to provide additional cleaning procedures and temperature checks.

Because of the statewide backlog at the VEC, Lynchburg staff have been providing supplemental support to help address other needs.

10. Program Initiatives and Updates

- a. GO Virginia: Of the funds received by GO Virginia in past years, part of the money was allocated to existing worker training programs to help companies train employees. The other portion related to Career Pathway development, helping to provide more career exploration activities to middle school and high school age students. Because of COVID, funding has been extended through the end of this year. The proposed plan is for a regional platform that would engage businesses and education partners electronically to create another career exploration program virtually. There is a current RFP out to help create this program or software.
- b. Foundations for the Future Grant: Keith Cook's team is leading the charge with this grant as it seeks to help individuals who may be dealing with multiple barriers to employment to help them achieve more living-wage employment. The focus is on healthcare and/or manufacturing careers.
- c. Wagner Peyser Staffing: Three part-time staff were hired in the past few weeks, all local college students. This is mainly to supplement the VEC staff, as they are all focusing on unemployment insurance during this time.
- d. Emergency Dislocated Worker Grant: The goal for these funds is to bring on a volunteer coordinator as a staff member, as well as a staff person to handle sanitation and safety responsibilities. The remaining funds may be used to partner with United Way to help meet childcare needs throughout the region.

11. Strategic Plan/Local Plan Development

Nat Marshall explained that a new strategic plan is required every several years, and the current plan is due to the state by March 1, 2021. Ben Bowman encouraged the board to review the Local Plan, additional information, and goals provided by the state found within the agenda packet for this meeting over the next two weeks.

12. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.