# Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome & Introductions: Christian opened the meeting at 10:30 AM and welcomed attendees.

Members Present: Christian Wiscovitch, Sharon Dunham, Nat Marshall

Staff Present:Tim Saunders, Shantel Crews

1. Welcoming new member Sharon Dunham. Christian acknowledged Sharon Dunham as a new member of the DEI committee. Sharon is the Workforce Services Office Manager at the Virginia Career Works Lynchburg Center, employed by the Department for Workforce Development and Advancement (Virginia Works). Sharon is an alternate to Kimberly McIvor on the Central Virginia Workforce Development Board.
2. Presentation, Franco Guillen Camilli, Latinos in Virginia Emplowerment Center:

Franco Guillen Camilli with the Latinos in Virginia Empowerment Center shared information about services available through his organization and the ways his organization's goals align with the goals and services of Virginia Career Works. Latinos in Virginia Empowerment Center specializes in the prevention of domestic and sexual violence among the Latin American immigrant population and provides services through bi-lingual and bi-cultural trained advocates. Clients range from Latinos living in dangerous and violent situations, to survivors of domestic and sexual abuse, to Spanish-speakers who need a bi-lingual and safe connection to Virginia’s existing services.

1. Discuss future activities from Career Works and identify participation of certain population we are targeting such as: Hispanics, Veterans, African American, people in rural areas, etc. Christian acknowledged that various events were being held at the center related to employment and sharing information about resources. Christian asked whether there were any events happening soon that Franco or another individual providing services to the Hispanic community could be invited to participate in. Shantel said no events beyond hiring events were currently scheduled, but she thought it would be important to let target groups know about hiring events and ask them whether they would want to participate or share resource information. Shantel said she would work with Sharon to make sure any events organized by her team included outreach to groups serving the Hispanic community. Sharon said she is trying to also reach the aging community and asked for assistance with outreach to individuals from this population. Christian pointed out that his organization (DARS) serves the aging population and offered to assist Sharon. He said he interacts with individuals in the aging population who are trying to get back to work. Shantel said some people are coming out of retirement and has taken calls at the center from people who are older and needing assistance with employment. Tim pointed out that an organization in Lynchburg called the Central Virginia Area Agency on Aging (now called the Central Virginia Alliance for Community Living) exists to help older individuals with a variety of services and suggested the committee include this group in its outreach activities. Shantel asked whether the Senior Community Service Employment Program was still operating in our area. Sharon said she has not heard any information about that program but would reach out to her colleagues to learn more information. Christian asked whether we would want to invite anyone from groups that serve the aging population to speak with the committee at a future meeting.

Shantel brought up the idea of inviting the Peacemakers organization to speak at a future meeting. Sharon said she was developing a relationship with the CEO of the Peacemakers, Shawn Hunter. She said she would follow up with Shawn to find out whether he might want to speak at a future meeting. Shantel said they would be a crucial organization to work with in reaching the African American population.

Sharon asked what media we are using for outreach. Tim talked about our communication strategy that includes daily posts on Facebook, Twitter (X), LinkedIn, and Instagram. He also talked about the use of commercial radio and television stations in the area, with regular and semi-regular spots he had secured to target specific audiences.

1. VA Career Works Summit Idea. Christian acknowledged that we were running out of time for the day’s meeting, but hoped to talk soon about a Virginia Career Works summit that he would like to host, similar to an event that is currently being held in the Shenandoah Valley.
2. Adjourn: Christian said the next meeting will take place on May 15 at 10:30. He adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.