

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Meeting

Date: July 20, 2022; 10:30 AM  
Location: Virtual



# Meeting Minutes

### I. Welcome & Introductions:

**Members Present:** Renee Chalmers (Chair), Shawne Farmer, Sam Penn, Sterling Wilder, Christian Wiscovitch

**Members Absent:** Jennifer Kohn, Ethel Reeves, Cheryl Toler

**Staff Present:** Traci Blido, Lori Cumbo

**Guest:** Nat Marshall, Central Virginia Workforce Development Board Chair

Renee welcomed attendees and promptly started the meeting at 10:34 am. This meeting was recorded via MS Teams.

### II. Approval of 5-18-22 Meeting Minutes:

Renee entertained the motion for approval of the 5-18-22 minutes. The motion was made by Christian Wiscovitch and seconded by Shawne Farmer. The motion was unanimously approved as presented.

### III. Open Comments/Items Up for Discussion

- Renee discussed the May tour of Little Otter Flower Farm and the committee had open dialog about how we could market and serve these demographics. Christian recommended we ask Little Flower Farm to give a presentation at an upcoming Central Virginia Workforce Development Board.
- The committee discussed making outreach the primary goal of the DEI Committee. The motion to move forward was made by Shawne Farmer and seconded by Sam Penn. The motion unanimously passed.

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- Committee members briefly reviewed the Inclusive Excellence Model, which is recognized by the state, utilized by DARS and was presented to the committee in April. Christian agreed to give a refresher overview of the construct at the next DEI Committee Meeting.
- Christian provided an update of dubbing the orientation video in Spanish. He will be meeting with Tim Saunders soon to move forward with this project.
- Sterling stated Lynchburg City has hired a new staff person, Holly Jennings, to oversee diversity, equity, and inclusion. He stated she may be a good person to join our committee. He will follow up with her contact information.
- A job fair focusing on second chance employment will be held July 28 from 1:00 – 5:00 PM at VCW. Approximately 5000 inmates were released across the state and 70 in our region. Second chance employers will be onsite and resume assistance will be provided.
- CVWDB Chair Nat Marshall briefed the committee on a conversation and introduction he had with Ms. Maria Colon of the Centro Comunitario Latino, Americano Lynchburg Chapter (CCLALC), a non-profit organization that supports the Latin American community. Ms. Colon indicated to Nat that we have many more Latin individuals in our region than the data shows and he suggested Traci Blido follow-up with her to see how we can learn more and have opportunities for the committee and workforce system to interact with the community better. Traci said she would get with Christian Wiscovitch and follow up with Ms. Colon, and report back to the committee.

#### IV. Closing Comments

Due to a scheduling conflict, the next DEI Committee Meeting (virtual) will be held on Tuesday, 8/16/22 at 10:30 AM. The committee will determine meeting frequency at a later date.

#### V. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.