

Region 2000 Workforce Development Area VII

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

**Workforce Development Board Meeting
2:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 10, 2015
Bedford Public Library**

Minutes

Members Present: Nat Marshall – Chair, Scott Brabrand, Sierria Carvajal, Selina Elswick, Ebo Fauber, Walter Fore, Scott Francis, Scott Gillespie, Sonny Harvey, Ruth Hendrik, Phillip Jamerson, Christine Kennedy, Dennis Knight, Linda LaMona, Ron Lovelace, Chris Markham, Susan Martin, Kimberly McIvor, Elizabeth Narehood, Tamara Rosser, Luke Saechao, Roxanne Slaughter, Cheryl Toler, Sterling Wilder

Members Absent, Excused: Blondie Anderson, John Mastroianni, James Mundy

Members Absent: Traci Blido, Joe Byron

Staff Present: Ben Bowman, Gary Christie, Susan Cook, Lori Cumbo, Rosalie Majerus

Others Present: Nate Mahanes – DARS, Jason Ruiter – News & Advance, Brett Tavel – Central VA Rapid Response, Jeff Taylor – Appomattox County, Treney Tweedy - Goodwill Ind.

1. Welcome

Nat Marshall welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Ben Bowman introduced the Bedford Library staff, who then spoke on services the Bedford Library provides. Jenny Novalis, Director of the Bedford Public Library System spoke about meeting with Ben on how to partner together to bring job seeker services to the library. Lauren Harper, Youth Services Librarian, spoke briefly about the library's STEM lab

2. Approval of August 11 Meeting Minutes

The motion was made by Ebo Fauber, and seconded by Walter Fore, to approve the August 11 minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Review of YTD Financial Report and PY 2015

Rosalie Majerus reviewed the financial report included in the meeting packet.

She noted that there was a transfer from dislocated funds to adult funds. Formal approval had to be received from the Finance Committee and from the State. This is due to the fact that there are more people in the adult program than in the dislocated program at this time.

She also advised that \$15,000 dollars is listed under Incentives and has been used for WIOA transition money, and is to be available until the end of December of this year. However, the state is working to extend it until June.

4. Public Comment Period – There were none.

5. One Stop Center Relocation Update

Ben Bowman reported that he has toured the VEC facility and met with Kimberly McIvor and they discussed IT needs. He will be developing a bid request to address those needs. Ben also advised that his hope is that the One Stop can be at VEC for a year or two until we can get a little more guidance from the state. It would give us an opportunity to think about what is needed as a region to serve the youth and adults. He would like to be in the VEC by the first of the year.

Kimberly added that she is waiting to receive additional details about cost, and waiting for the MOU to be in place.

6. Partner Updates

Ben explained that the Workforce Board is about more than the adult, dislocated worker, and youth federal funding stream. The Board is also responsible for supporting and encouraging the other partners in the system. These core partners are WIOA Title 1, DARS, VEC (Wagner-Peyser), and Adult Education. Ben asked if any of these partners had anything to share.

- Kimberley McIvor reported that a new initiative coming out in January is a re-employment program that will target individuals that are unemployed, and will also identify employment barriers and provide them with tips and resources to put them on the path to employment again. It is designed to reduce the time that they are on unemployment. Another key element of this program is partnering with other workforce service entities and partners.
- Roxanne Slaughter explained that the division of DARS that she works with (Division of Rehabilitative Services) helps people with disabilities to gain or maintain employment in the community. She reported that DARS has had an internal reorganization process where they went from four regions to seven districts. This is not a huge change as far as how they are doing services to the communities and to the individuals that they serve. However, they have more people seeking services than they have funds to provide. They have been able to reduce the time people are on the waiting list for services down to where the majority are not staying more than 90 days on the waiting list.
- Luke Saechao reported that one of several initiatives they have going on is the Plugged In Virginia (PIVA) Manufacturing Technology Program, in which they partner with CVCC. They have ten individuals in the PIVA Careers program, who will end up with five different certifications. Luke also reported that they have received a grant to partner with CVCC and Goodwill to fund a health/medical careers program. They are also partnering with businesses, one being Bankers Steel, doing a program geared towards their level 1 entry.

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Luke also is hoping to partner with Lynchburg City, possibly with an electrical program. He explained that there are a lot of changes in Adult Ed due to the new standards that WIOA has put in place. There are also College and Career Readiness standards based on the Common Core.

They are also offering free GED testing, and doing one-on-one tutoring. They are offering small group tutoring for the lowest levels, as well as English.

In March they will be starting a pilot program with the Virginia Literacy Foundation. This program will be looking at the PIVA Career Pathways, from 0 through the 5th grade level.

- 7. Director's Report** – Ben advised that he would incorporate his report into the Orientation/Training session.

8. By-laws Update

This update is necessary to update the name changes and terminology from WIA to WIOA, along with addition of guidance for the board to hire, evaluate and compensate staff. The update also removes the requirement for a Youth Council.

Once the by-laws are approved, they will have to be sent out one more time as approved. There will then need to be another vote at the January meeting.

The motion was made by Ebo Fauber to adopt the updated by-laws, with a second by Ron Lovelace. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 9. Adjourn** – There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m., and was followed by Board Member Orientation/Training.