

# Region 2000 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, August 11, 2015  
Region 2000 Workforce Center**

## Minutes

**Members Present:** Nat Marshall – Chair, Blondie Anderson, Traci Blido, Scott Brabrand, Sierra Carvajal, Debbie Elliott (for Luke Saechao), Selina Elswick, Ebo Fauber, Walter Fore, Scott Francis, Scott Gillespie, Ruth Hendrick, Christine Kennedy, Linda LaMona, Ron Lovelace, Chris Markham, Susan Martin, Kimberly McIvor, John Mastroianni, Elizabeth Narehood, Roxanne Slaughter

**Members Absent, Excused:** Sonny Harvey, Sterling Wilder

**Members Absent:** Joe Byron, James Mundy, Tamara Rosser, Cheryl Toler

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

**Others Present:** Herman Calloway – Goodwill Ind., Monika Christian – Goodwill Ind., Sara Dunnigan – Virginia Board of Workforce Dev., Bill Gillespie – Town of Appomattox, Mary Ann Gilmer, Goodwill Ind., Kyle Goldsmith – Virginia Technical Institute, Jennifer Hodges – Goodwill Ind., Crystal Hutchinson – Goodwill Ind., Alvin Jones – Goodwill Ind., Joshua Jones – Goodwill Ind., Megan Lucas – Region 2000 Alliance, Robin Peade – Goodwill Ind., Len Richardson – Standup, Inc., Dean Rodgers – Amherst County, Jason Ruiten – News & Advance, Khaleelah Spinner – Goodwill Ind., Brett Tavel – Central VA Rapid Response, Jeff Taylor – Appomattox County, Leslie Tenney – Virginia Technical Institute, Treney Tweedy - Goodwill Ind., Jan Walker – Centra, Lee Williams - Goodwill Ind.

### 1. Welcome

Nat Marshall welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m. as the first official meeting of the new Workforce Development Board.

### 2. Board Leadership Nominations and Elections

Ebo Fauber presented a slate of officers for nomination:

Board Chair – Nat Marshall

Board Vice-Chair – Sierra Carvajal

Walter Fore seconded the slate of officers as presented. There were no other nominations from the floor, and officers were elected unanimously by the Board.

### **3. Public Comment Period**

Walter Fore reported that he has been working with the people at Greenfield, and is looking for donations in the form of time and basketball equipment for the youth. John Mastroianni offered to help with this.

### **4. Approval of June 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes**

Upon a motion by Ebo Fauber, and a second by Walter Fore, the minutes of June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 were approved as presented.

### **5. Review of YTD Financial Report**

Rosalie Majerus presented the end of year financial report. She advised that the carry-forward amount for next year would be \$468,000, and explained how this amount would help with the funding gap from July through October 1<sup>st</sup>. For the most part, she added that everything was under budget.

### **6. Old Business**

- **One Stop Center Relocation**

John Mastroianni gave an update on the relocation effort. Reasons that he gave for relocation being necessary were:

1. Unhealthy work atmosphere, due to mold and water
2. Visibility of location
3. Lack of concern from the landlord; the building is not ADA compliant

John explained that due to lack of funds, and not knowing where WIOA is going long term, the relocation committee looked for a short term solution five years out. They looked at the Business Development Center and Fort Hill Village, among others. However, at a meeting of the committee last week they received a proposal from the VEC. The VEC has opened up some space in their Job Placement Service area. This arrangement would cost approximately \$14,000 all inclusive, per year. Services that would be included are yet to be determined. There will also be 1500 sq. ft. of space, at approximately \$10.00 per square foot, available at the Jubilee Center for Youth Services. Staff will be cross-trained between both locations. Both locations are also on the city bus line.

The motion was made by Traci Blido, and seconded by Ruth Hendrick, to accept the proposal of the Relocation Committee to relocate with the VEC and the Jubilee Center. The motion was carried, with Kimberly McIvor abstaining.

When questioned as to when the state regulations will come out, the answer was in the spring of 2016.

### **7. Director's Report**

- **Introduction of the new Workforce Center Staff**

Lee Williams introduced each of the new staff members to the Board.

- **Annual Report**

Ben reported that a big part of what he has been focusing on for the past year is getting out into the community and getting to know what is going on. He has worked with Elizabeth Narehood and the Technology Council and provided funding to the STEM Academy. Along with Nat Marshall, he has been involved in events at the Jubilee Center. He has also worked with Christine Kennedy and the Young Entrepreneurs Academy.

Ben introduced Brett Tavel, with Central Virginia Rapid Response. They are currently working with the Central Virginia Training Center.

In order to better serve the localities, Ben has been meeting with the libraries. He has learned that 20 to 50% of time spent on the library computers is spent looking for jobs. Because of this he is reaching out to the libraries, looking for ways that the Workforce System can tie in more closely with the libraries so that people throughout the Region have easy access to the Workforce services and programs.

## **8. Other Items from Members**

John Mastroianni invited everyone to a breakfast at the Old Dominion Job Corps on August 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:30. The breakfast will be followed by a trade expo at 9:30.

Traci Blido reported that she received a call from Nationwide Insurance, who is closing down. There is a list of people who they would like to retain, but they needed to work from home and the issue with Broadband is a serious issue. Brett Tavel added that this affects approximately 100 people. Ben asked about setting up co-working spaces where there may be access to high speed internet in rural areas. It was also suggested that there might be some small companies that would have office space that they might be willing to lease out to multiple people.

**9. Adjourn** – There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

## **10. Comments from Sara Dunnigan, Executive Director of the Virginia Board for Workforce Development.**

Nat introduced Sara Dunnigan, Executive Director of the Virginia Board of Workforce Development. Ms. Dunnigan addressed the Board and discussed the guiding principles of the Virginia Workforce System and expectations under WIOA.