



BLUE RIDGE REGION

**Western Virginia Workforce Development Board
Workforce Center & Services Committee**

November 13, 2018 – 2:00 PM

Western Virginia Workforce Development Board Offices
313 Luck Avenue SW, Roanoke, VA 24016

Committee Members	Present
Joseph Brinley	
Afira DeVries	X
Crystal Hall, Chair	X
Mary Ann Gilmer	X
Dr. Milan Hayward	
Kathy Hodges	X
Katherine Holcomb	X
Karen Michalski-Karney	X
Joyce Kessinger	X
Steven Martin	X
Susan Martin, ex-officio	
Jo Nelson	X

Board Staff	Present
Morgan Romeo	X
Leah Gibson	X
Candace Martin	X
Guests	Present
Michelle Brennan	X
Tiffany Worstell	X
Nancy Hans	X

CALL TO ORDER

Crystal Hall, chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL – OCTOBER 1, 2018

The October 1, 2018 Workforce Center & Services Committee Meeting minutes were presented to the committee.

Workforce Center & Services Committee Action: Jo Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Joyce Kessinger seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

GUEST SPEAKER-PREVENTION COUNCIL FOR ROANOKE COUNTY

Nancy Hans, Executive Director for the Prevention Council for Roanoke County spoke to the committee about the opioid epidemic in the local workforce region. The Prevention Council works to provide placement for high school graduates into treatment to treat overdoses and prevent loss of life. The HOPE initiative was created in 2015, after years of work starting in 2012. Ms. Hans shared handouts and flyers with the group regarding the HOPE Initiative. The group hopes to increase the number of treatment facilities within the state of Virginia. They have scheduled a Collective Response event on December 5, 2018. The group discussed and agreed

the opioid crisis plays a role in the goals of the Workforce Development Board and our programs. The group also requested that Board staff become involved in the work the Council is doing.

OLD BUSINESS

Workforce Center & Services Committee Charter

A draft of an updated Workforce Center & Services Committee Charter was provided on page 8 of the agenda packet. The charter outlines committee responsibilities.

Workforce Center & Services Committee Action: Kathy Holcomb made a motion to recommend approval of the charter as presented. Karen Michalski-Karney seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Eligible Training Provider Performance Update

As required by WIOA Title I, data is now being collected for each training provider approved to receive WIOA Title I funding. These measures include completion rates, credential rates and employment information. The state currently has minimum performance measures for completion (50% of above) and credentials (65% or above). Several of the locally approved training providers are currently not meeting those performance requirements. Since this is the first year of the performance measures, the Board Chair had requested that Board staff develop a local procedure to follow to allow a transition to meet these measures. Board staff have done so and will allow a 3-year transition period for training providers to gather data to meet these performance measures. The state of Virginia is applying for a waiver to waive the collection of information from providers, to which Board staff will provide updates as they become available.

Center Traffic Report & Demographics Discussion

Page 11 of the agenda packet provided traffic demographic data from the Virginia Career Works – Roanoke Center from March 2018 – October 2018. Additionally, a map of high poverty areas in the local workforce area was shared with the committee. The group discussed ensuring strategies are in place moving forward to market services to high-need populations. The group also discussed marketing services to low-income families receiving housing subsidies from the Roanoke Redevelopment & Housing Authority.

United Way OnRamp Grant Progress

Morgan Romeo provided an update on this grant. She shared that Russ Poindexter has been hired by TAP to help customers navigate services at the Virginia Career Works – Roanoke Center. Russ will be working with Michelle Brennan, hired by Ross IES as the One Stop Operations Coordinator, on implementing system changes through the grant to better serve our clients.

GO Virginia Grant

Morgan Romeo shared that Board staff is still working with LWDA 7 (the Lynchburg area) and their Workforce Board to develop an MOU for this grant. The grant will provide for a youth career expo to be held in Roanoke in September 2019. The expo will host 7th graders from our workforce area, the Lynchburg area as well as the New River Valley workforce area.

WIOA TITLE 1 PROVIDER PERFORMRANCE

Morgan Romeo provided a performance report with the group. The report focuses on 3 main measures: participants into the WIOA Title I programs, financial expenditures within the

programs and performance measures of the programs. The group discussed which measures were progressing slower than would be expected at this point into the contract and program year. The group also discussed, specifically, expenditures in the Youth program, which were much under expected rates. Board staff had discussed with Ross IES identifying a staff person locally to focus full-time on the WIOA Title I Youth program. Ross IES also has plans to develop a Youth Task Force, to help with referrals and enrollments for the program.

NEW BUSINESS

Eligible Training Provider Initial Application

The group reviewed an application from Roanoke Valley Nurse Aide Training to be added to the statewide Eligible Training Provider List, to be eligible to receive WIOA Title I training funding.

Workforce Center & Services Committee Action: Joyce Kessinger made a motion to recommend approval of the application. MaryAnn Gilmer seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Local Plan Update

Morgan Romeo shared with the committee that state guidance requires certain updates to the Local Plan. Virginia Tech had previously provided data for the original version of our Local Plan. Board staff have been working with Virginia Tech to review data, evaluate any changes or trends, and make updates to the Plan as needed. A draft of the Local Plan update will be brought to the Board meeting in December 2018, for review.

Discretionary Grants Process

The group discussed implementing a local policy regarding applying for discretionary grant funding. Discussion ensued surrounding whether grants should be required to include all localities within the local workforce area. The group discussed that some localities have different needs and services available. The group advised Board staff to ensure consideration is given to circumstances and needs of each locality when applying for discretionary grant funding.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Crystal reminded the committee members that there was is a Western Virginia Workforce Development Board Meeting on December 14, 2018 at 9:00 AM at the Virginia Career Works-Roanoke Center.

Crystal Hall adjourned the meeting at 3:24pm.

Crystal Hall

Date