



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

August 11, 2020, 2:00pm

<https://vccs.zoom.us/j/91227779920?pwd=U0o0VHRrNk5yVVFCTVJ1OWILQUJKUT09>

Members	Present
Crystal Hall, Chair	X
Jo Nelson	X
Angela Williams	
Joe Brinley	X
Kathy Hodges	X
Milan Hayward	X
Angela Oginz, for Steve Martin	X
Mary Ann Gilmer	X
Joyce Kessinger	
Karen Michalski	X
Abby Hamilton	X

WWDB Staff	Present
Morgan Romeo	X
Leah Gibson	X
Mark Holman	X
Brad Stephens	X
Michelle Brennan	X

Welcome

Crystal Hall called the meeting to order at 2:07pm. A quorum was present.

Review of Electronic Meeting Process

Leah Gibson reviewed the electronic meeting process with all in attendance.

Public Comment

There were no guests present for public comment.

Meeting Minutes Approval – November 6, 2019

Crystal Hall asked the group to review the minutes in the packet. Karen Michalski requested to be added to the minutes.

Workforce Center & Services Committee Action: A motion was made by Joe Brinley to approve the minutes as presented. Mary Ann Gilmer seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a roll call vote:

Members	Present
Crystal Hall, Chair	Abstain

Jo Nelson	Yes
Joe Brinley	Yes
Kathy Hodges	Yes
Milan Hayward	Yes
Angela Oginz, for Steve Martin	Yes
Mary Ann Gilmer	Yes
Karen Michalski	Abstain
Abby Hamilton	Yes

Old Business

GO Virginia Grant Updates

Leah Gibson shared with the group that the Talent Collaborative grant with Lynchburg is currently being reviewed by the GO Virginia Board for an extension through December 31. The CTE review grant is wrapping up, as we expect to have a final report for the next Board meeting.

Pathways to the American Dream Grant Update

Leah Gibson shared that most participants in this grant had completed their training, except for 1 student who is still finishing clinicals that were delayed due to COVID-19. Otherwise, all participants were successfully exited from the program.

WIOA Title I Youth Program Update

Leah Gibson shared that The WorkPlace, the contractor operating the elements & services of the Youth program were unsuccessful in spending their budgeted funds last year. As a result, the Board will have to return Youth funds to the Virginia Community College System. Board staff have had conversations with The WorkPlace and will continue to monitor this moving forward.

Economic Equity Grant Update

Leah Gibson shared that this grant is now getting started, with funds received from the Virginia Community College System. The Board staff attempted to get a cohort going for this grant over the summer with manufacturing training but were unsuccessful due to COVID-19 impacts.

WIOA Title I Adult & Dislocated Worker Program Operations

Michelle Brennan shared with the group that the new Board staff operating these programs came on board July 1, with a team of diverse individuals. A focus of Michelle's will be to be responsive and make our partners feel confident about referring participants. Kathy Hodges requested an updated staff listing, Michelle confirmed she will share with the Committee. Mary Ann Gilmer asked about types of training being requested, Michelle confirmed the trends of seeing Healthcare, IT and Transportation are continuing. Abby Hamilton shared that there is a great need for childcare employees in the region. Morgan Romeo provided an update on regional efforts that Board staff have been working with Roanoke City and Roanoke County to fill this gap.

New Business

Wagner-Peyser Program Services

Morgan Romeo shared that this funding is now being utilized by Board staff to provide additional services to our customers. This funding was given to the local Workforce Boards via the Virginia Employment Commission temporarily to allow VEC staff to dedicate more time and effort to unemployment claims through the pandemic. Recently, a job fair was held with 20 employers and 204 job seekers in attendance with this funding. Staff have also reviewed over 500 job orders to date with these funds, matching job seekers with employment opportunities.

VCW Roanoke Center Re-Opening

Morgan Romeo shared that the VEC had agreed to re-open the Roanoke Center with limited customer access. The customers will be capped at 50 per day to speak with VEC staff. There will also be the option for customers to come in and utilize the Resource Room to search for jobs and file unemployment claims. Kathy Hodges shared that no VEC staff had been present at the Franklin Center since March due to the pandemic.

One Stop Operator Update

Morgan Romeo shared that The WorkPlace, who holds the One Stop Operator contract for our region, expects to have a new hire to replace Michelle Brennan by the middle of August.

Policy Updates

Leah Gibson reviewed the enclosed policy updates with the group. The Supportive Services policy now includes a cap at \$2,000 per person per year. She shared this cap was necessary due to Trade Act recipients maxing out on transportation services through WIOA Title I. The ITA policy was revised to add language that WIOA Title I is the payor of last resort, per federal policy. The Eligibility policy was revised to add language to ensure all efforts to co-enroll participants is made, internally & externally. The File and Information Maintenance Policy was revised to ensure only those who need information for work duties have access to it.

Workforce Center & Services Committee Action: A motion was made by Mary Ann Gilmer to approve the policies as presented. Jo Nelson seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a roll call vote:

Members	Present
Crystal Hall, Chair	Yes
Jo Nelson	Yes
Joe Brinley	Yes
Kathy Hodges	Yes
Milan Hayward	Yes
Angela Oginz, for Steve Martin	Yes
Mary Ann Gilmer	Yes
Karen Michalski	Yes
Abby Hamilton	Yes

Adjournment

Crystal Hall adjourned the meeting at 2:50pm.