



Annual Meeting – Greater Roanoke Workforce Development Board and CLEO Consortium

September 22, 2022 – 12:00 P.M.

The Maridor – 1857 Grandin Rd. SW, Roanoke, VA 24015

CLEO Representative	Present	CLEO Alternate Representative	Present
Stephen Bennett		Reid Walters	
Gary Larrowe	X	Billy Martin, Sr.	X
Tom Sibold, Jr.	X	David Bryant	X
Jason Matyas		Dan Collins	
Ronnie Thompson	X	Christopher Whitlow	X
Sherman Lea		Joseph Cobb	X
Martha Hooker	X	P. Jason Peters	
John Saunders	X	Jay Taliaferro	

Board Members Private Sector	Present	Board Members Public Sector	Present
Teresa Hammond	X	Joseph Brinley	X
Casey Nicely	X	Chuck Simpson	
Jeremy Adkins	X	Karen Michalski-Karney	
Sonya Charlow	X	Abby Hamilton	
Michael Gardner	X	Cynthia Lawrence	
Kristina Repass		Debbie Hamrick	X
Emily Smith		Jamie Soltis	
Kristi Mallory	X	Dr. John Rainone	
Adrienne Ross		Dr. Milan Hayward	X
Richard Mansell		Susan Watkins	
Tiffany Worstell	X	Beth Simms	X
Sharon Pandolfini		Susan Goad	X
Mike Stevens	X	Chris Simmons	X
Jeff Hamley		Amanda Forrester	
		Jeremy Holmes	X
		John Hull	X

GRWDB Staff	Present
Morgan Romeo	X
Leah Gibson	X
Danielle Hart	X
Bobby Welch	X
Elizabeth Swing	X
Ashley Pannell	X
Madison Wade	X
Cordney Wade	X
Emma Howard-Woods	X
Erin Bradshaw	X
Lashaunda Sample	X
Michelle Brennan	X
Robin Harris Bailey	X

Guests	Present
Chris Pope	X
Corbin Stone	X

Welcome

Martha Hooker welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

GRWDB Consent Agenda

Casey Nicely directed everyone to the GRWDB Consent Agenda and the packet items that were listed under this item. Casey asked the Board if there were any Consent Agenda items they wanted to be discussed further. There was no further discussion on the Consent Agenda as presented.

GRWDB Action: A motion was made by Joseph Brinley to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Milan Hayward. The motion was carried.

CLEO Consortium Consent Agenda

Martha Hooker directed everyone to the CLEO Consortium Consent Agenda and the packet items that were listed under this item. Martha asked the CLEO Consortium if they would like to pull any items from the Agenda to discuss further. There was no further discussion on the Consent Agenda as presented.

CLEO Action: A motion was made by Billy Martin, Sr. to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Sibold. The motion was carried.

Financial Audit Presentation

Casey Nicely introduced Corbin Stone, Managing Director with Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates, for a presentation on the Financial Audit of the Greater Roanoke Workforce Development Board for the 2021 – 2022 fiscal year.

Corbin Stone directed everyone to the Independent Auditors' Report which was included in the Meeting Agenda. Corbin stated that the audit went very well and that the financial statements were materially correct. The only change from 2021 to 2022 was the ARPA grant received by Roanoke City, which will not be counted as revenue until the money is spent. Corbin also stated that cash went up by \$3 million, due to the ARPA grant, and interest rates are going up. The only change for next year will be the implementation of a new lease standard.

Corbin asked if there were any questions regarding the Financial Audit. There were no questions and there was no further discussion on the Financial Audit as presented.

CLEO Action: A motion was made by Christopher Whitlow to approve the Financial Audit as presented. The motion was seconded by Billy Martin, Sr. The motion was carried.

GRWDB Action: A motion was made by Teresa Hammond to approve the Financial Audit as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Milan Hayward. The motion was carried.

Annual Report

Martha Hooker asked Morgan Romeo to present the Annual Report for the fiscal year 2022 to the CLEO Consortium and the GRWDB.

Morgan directed everyone to the Annual Report that was provided to everyone in attendance. Morgan stated that the purpose of the Annual Report is to present what the Workforce Board is doing and what is to come. For the fiscal year 2022 the Virginia Career Works Roanoke Center received almost 7,000 visitors. Due to COVID-19 this number is somewhat lower, but it is steadily increasing. The Roanoke Center was third in the state for WIOA Title I enrollments.

The two Career Quest events served roughly 7,500 students.

New growth is anticipated over the next year, especially with Star City Works being up and running. Star City Works will be focusing on work-based learning and job placement. There are multiple grant funding streams to increase revenue.

Casey Nicely asked if there were any questions regarding the Annual Report. There were no questions and there was no further discussion on the Annual Report as presented.

Success Story Presentation

Casey Nicely introduced Jesse Trexler and invited him to share his success story.

Jesse began his presentation by stating that the WIOA Title I Youth Program assisted him in obtaining his GED. He started his journey at the Franklin Center with help from Debbie Hamrick, who encouraged him to seek assistance from Virginia Career Works. Through Virginia Career Works Jesse was able to begin an internship with The Liberty Trust, a boutique hotel located in downtown Roanoke. After his internship, Jesse was offered a full-time position with The Liberty Trust where he is still actively employed. Due to the assistance he received both from the Franklin Center and Virginia Career Works, Jesse is now considering taking classes to receive a degree in hospitality management. Jesse expressed his appreciation for the fact that as a member of the LGBTQ+ community, he never felt discriminated against while working with the Franklin Center and Virginia Career Works.

Strategic Plan Review

Casey Nicely directed everyone to the Strategic Plan that was approved in 2020. The following questions were presented to the CLEO Consortium and the GRWDB:

1. What would help you as a Board or CLEO member know if we are meeting our strategic plan goals?
2. What things are we missing or need to be updated for the last two years?
3. Should we assign committees to each goal to monitor?
4. What are some things we should stop doing, continue doing, or start doing?

Martha Hooker stated that she appreciated the Annual Report as something tangible they could hand out to show what was accomplished.

The question was asked, "How are we reaching individuals to get them to participate in the Virginia Career Works programs?" Morgan responded by saying that as an organization we have been trying to be unconventional in our outreach methods. Some of the unconventional outreach methods include attending the Local Colors festival as well as local farmer's markets

and organizing a trunk or treat hiring event. We are making an effort to go to the underemployed instead of expecting them to come to us.

Casey Nicely asked what the Board and CLEO members can do to help make the events better. Morgan responded by saying that they can help make the message stick after the events as well as helping with furthering the events. Morgan briefly discussed the benefits of having career coaches both in the community colleges and high schools. It would also be helpful if they could volunteer for the events.

Chris Pope with the Virginia Employment Commission made a comment that Morgan does a great job speaking for the businesses and he wanted to express a note of appreciation for all of the hard work done.

Debbie Hamrick made a comment that we should continue offering Career Quest to middle school students in the hopes that it will keep them engaged in eventually joining the workforce.

Chris Simmons stated that the jobs needed in the area should be identified and we should be advertising those needs.

Martha Hooker stated that registered apprenticeship programs are a good way to teach students specific skills and encourage them to seek out a job in that field.

Teresa Hammond made a comment that we should identify the specific gaps job seekers are currently facing.

Mike Stevens brought up the state-wide one stop portal and asked if there was any update on its status. Morgan responded by stating that the portal is for in-state individuals and every area has a website to talk about jobs. It would be beneficial to have one central location and to create a talent portal for out of market individuals.

Other Business

No additional business was brought in front of the GRWDB and CLEO Consortium.

Adjournment

Martha Hooker adjourned the meeting at 1:17 PM.