

**Western Virginia Workforce Development Board
Program Oversight Committee**

December 5, 2022 at 1pm

Virginia Career Works – Roanoke Center
3601 Thirlane Road, Suite 2, Roanoke, VA 24019

Members	Present
Karen Michalski	
Joe Brinley	X
Dr. Milan Hayward	X
Abby Hamilton, Chair	X
Emily Smith	
Kristi Mallory	X

WWWDB Staff	Present
Michelle Brennan	X
Leah Gibson	X

Call to Order

Leah Gibson called the meeting to order at 1:06pm.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Meeting Minutes Approval – February & May 2022

Leah Gibson asked the group to review the minutes from the last meeting.

Program Oversight Committee Action: A motion was made by Joe Brinley to approve the minutes as presented. Kristi Mallory seconded the motion. The motion was carried by vote.

WIOA Title I Programs Report

Michelle Brennan presented the WIOA Title I programs report that was included in the packet. The report shows enrollment, training and expenditures through October 2022. The group discussed how enrollments continue steadily in the Adult program and discussed yet again how we can do better to reach out and enroll Youth into that program. We are enrolling youth into the program, just not at the high numbers that we would like to see. However, we do plan to meet our requirements in expenditures, just will be lower than we would like. Adult expenditures will be on point and we expect to spend all of that program funds this year. Dislocated Worker enrollments are also slow, which was why the Committee and Board discussed and approved a transfer of funds from the Dislocated Worker program to the Adult program.

New Business

CareerQuest Spring 2023

CareerQuest will next occur in February 2023, for 10th grade students this time. This event for 10th graders is a result of a direct request from our schools and is focused more on available jobs, summer jobs, apprenticeships, and training for these jobs, where for the 7th graders its more about career exploration and

awareness. We encourage all Board members to visit, volunteer, and if you have businesses that you think would be a good addition to the event, please help us connect with them.

New Funding Opportunities

The Workforce Services Investments in Innovative Activities Grant is a grant that the GRWDB applied for with the Lynchburg region to serve in-school youth and get them into apprenticeships in the region. The goal is to work with both the schools and the business community to increase awareness and apprenticeship hosts in the region and work with the schools to get those students enrolled into these opportunities. These funds come from VCCS and were available for Workforce Development Boards only. The grant will give us Youth funds to serve in-school youth in this program, where we typically are not able to serve many in-school youth with our WIOA Title I Youth program funds. The grant is a total of \$300,000 that we will share with the Lynchburg region. The services will also include business workshops and school workshops.

The Pathways Home grant is a federally funded re-entry grant that TAP applied recently applied for and was awarded. The grant is intended to work with incarcerated individuals to create plans to connect them with workforce services as they are released from incarceration. The GRWDB is a mandatory partner on the grant and will be working with TAP on this program. TAP is already operating this program but still hiring for their positions. We will have a dedicated staff person from Michelle's team to work with the TAP staff, receive referrals, co-enroll their Pathways participants into WIOA Title I, and help them with long term careers through our program services. The goal is to serve 300 individuals over the lifetime of this grant.

Mobile Workforce Center Opportunity

Leah Gibson shared with the Committee that a few Board staff had visited workforce board counterparts in the Greensboro, NC area in the fall to see their mobile workforce center. The organization in NC had obtained some COVID-19 related funds in addition to some locality support to purchase and customize a mobile center. The center had 12 computer stations, wi-fi, a restroom, printer, and the ability to popout and show videos on an external tv/computer screen. The mobile center is also ADA accessible. The GRWDB scheduled and went to this visit as a result of the Business Solutions Team in the Alleghany Highlands meeting and discussion. That group discussed ways we can meet our potential clients where they are to best serve them & our businesses. As such, the idea of a mobile workforce center was discussed. Leah asked the Committee for their thoughts on the idea. The group agreed that it was an interesting and exciting way to increase awareness of our system & what we do. They did ask many questions about how many potential customers are we missing out on by **not** having a mobile opportunity like this, and asked that Board staff consider if this mobile center would solve the problems that are prohibiting these customers from getting to us at the brick & mortar Centers. Dr. Milan Hayward also commented that VWCC had looked into this in the past as well. The group also suggested that the GRWDB could consider a smaller, more cost-effective option like a van before considering such a large investment.

Strategic Planning Goal Assignment

Leah Gibson reviewed the Goals from the Local Plan with the Committee. The Committee is going to be assigned one or some of these goals to keep in mind as they do their work, to ensure we are on track with what we are doing and to keep in mind as we come up with new ideas, strategies, and service methodologies for future Local Plans.

Other Business

Open Discussion

The group was given the opportunity to have an open discussion about workforce needs in the region and how we can meet those needs. Kristi inquired if the Board could help with workforce vacancies in the Blue Hills Business Park. Leah agreed that we can and will definitely work with those businesses and will connect Elizabeth and the Business Team with them.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Committee meeting will be March 8, 2023. The next Board meeting is December 15, 2022 at the Harvester Performance Center in Rocky Mount, VA.

Adjournment

Abby Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 2:17pm.