

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

May 5, 2022

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	X
Kristi Mallory	X

WWWDB Staff	Present
Michelle Brennan	X
Leah Gibson	X

Call to Order

Leah Gibson called the meeting to order at 8:58am.

Public Comment

There were no guests present for public comment.

WIOA Title I Programs Report

Michelle Brennan presented the Programs report to those present. She noted that the enrollments are going well for the Adult program and spending is reflective of that. We enrolled about 34 Adults in April 2022. Dislocated Worker enrollments are still slow, which is why we requested the transfer of funds from Dislocated Worker to Adult, to meet current demand. The Youth enrollments and expenditures continue to struggle, but we anticipate an influx for the Summer Work Experience program coming up. Arthur McDonald was hired as the Youth Career Coach and is doing well, enrolling 7 new Youth in April. Milan asked how many referrals we have had from the YouthBuild program with Goodwill, Michelle responded we have had 11 so far. Abby noted that the City of Roanoke has prioritized young adult employment in their services as well and hopefully that will help Youth enrollments and the program as a whole. Joe asked how many from YouthBuild completed their training and obtained employment, Michelle responded the first cohort just completed their training and they are just beginning internship opportunities now. Emily asked if we had considered additional employer partnerships, like in the Blue Hills industrial park, to do business tours, internships, etc. Leah noted that she will connect Emily and Kristi with Danielle to see how we can explore this opportunity further.

New Business

Leah shared that CareerQuest will pick back up on normal schedule in the Fall, September 2022 with current 7th graders. She also shared that we have a Career Coach position posted right now, to fill our last vacancy on Michelle's team. Board staff had a call with the staff from the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) recently to review performance, services provided, and future steps to continue to operate the WIOA Title I Programs internally. As of right now, we have requested that the Governor continue our waiver for next year. Leah also let the committee members know that we will need to schedule committee meeting dates for the next program year, starting July 2022, in the coming months. The group noted that the 2nd Thursday of the month in the morning would not work for scheduling.

Other Business

Leah gave the group updates on the discretionary grants that the Board Staff are partners on. JobsPlus continues with the Housing Authority, we have co-enrolled JobsPlus participants in the WIOA Title I programs, and have a dedicated staff person on Michelle's team to handle that co-case management. The INSPIRE grant in the Alleghany Highlands has been moving slow, but is expected to pick up again once we fill the vacant Career Coach position in the Covington office. The CAREER National Dislocated Worker grant is just starting to operate in our region, and will provide additional funding for more wrap around supportive services for WIOA Title I Dislocated Workers than is typically provided with program funding. The YouthBuild program is in partnership with Goodwill and we are working closely with them to co-enroll all YouthBuild participants. We are working with TAP to renew the OnRamp grant that serves the Roanoke Center, and are awaiting a funding update from United Way for 7/1/22 and moving forward. Leah also shared that following a recent call with the Department of Labor, the Executive Committee approved a change to our eligibility policy, allowing Expectant Fathers to qualify as "Youth in Need of Additional Assistance" under our local policy.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Program Oversight Committee will be announced later. The next full Board meeting is June 24, 2022.

Adjournment

Leah adjourned the meeting at 9:35am.