



State of Tennessee
Department of Labor and Workforce Development
State Workforce Development Board Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

November 17, 2017 (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM)

| <u>Board Members Present</u> | | <u>Board Members Present by Proxy</u> | <u>Members Absent</u> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Rogers Anderson (8) | Candice McQueen | Timothy Burchfield (Ann Hatcher) | Carolyn Hardy |
| Martha Axford (3) | (Casey Wrenn) | Susan Lynn (Mitch) | Warren Logan (5) |
| Danielle Barnes | Greg Persinger | Mark Norris (Alex, Lewis) | Yolanda Shields |
| (Cherrell Campbell- Street) | Burns Phillips | Bob Ravener (Ann Hatcher) | |
| Jason Bates | Stuart Price | Sandra Woods (James Williamson) | |
| Trudy Carson | Bob Rolfe (Ann Thompson) | | |
| John Clark | Kevin Vaughn | | |
| Ann Hatcher | James Williamson (12) | | |
| Christine Hopkins (6) | Governor Haslam (Ted Townsend) | | |

Number in parenthesis represents the state board members' membership to the local workforce board.

Welcome & Update

Vice Chairwoman, Ann Hatcher welcomed board members, state and LWDA staff, and guests and called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Lane Marks conducted the roll call and established the presence of a quorum.

Approval of Minutes (vote required)

Mrs. Hatcher requested the August 11, 2017 minutes be approved as written. Ted Townsend moved to approve the meeting minutes, Martha Axford seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Department Overview

Commissioner Phillips provided the board and general body an overview of the accomplishments of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development which was also shared with the Governor.

Update included modernizing technology in every aspect of Labor and Workforce Development:

- New Unemployment Insurance Partial System
- Modernized the Unemployment Insurance Fraud Prevention system
- New Work Opportunity Tax Credit System
- Virtual Job Center Pilot
- Optimizing our communication via OneTouch (Zendesk and Chat features)

Opening Remarks

A video highlighting the WIOA Convening was viewed. Sterling recognized several board members that attended the conference. He highlighted the success of the convening and the efforts made towards full WIOA Implementation.

- Nashville hosted NASWA meeting – Staff and Greg Persinger attended and shared the successes and advancements made in WIOA
- WIOA Performance Reporting – Ryan Allen and team were integral in the undertaking of reporting data. Ryan

served on a National DOL Panel. .

- Donnie Freeman represented our state on Veterans' Opportunities at the White House
 - Oregon is the 8th state to come to the department for guidance and best practices for transitioning into WIOA
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WIOA Core Partners Update

Unemployment Insurance – Rusty Felts noted the discussion during a meeting with the Governor that recommended the focus needed to change and start discussion on how the change in technology across the state will affect the unemployment rate quickly, since the Tennessee Unemployment Rate is at 3.0

Vocational Rehabilitation – Cherrell Campbell-Street noted that one of the main changes that came out of WIOA was services to Students changed to include ages 14 through 22. This change allowed students to be eligible for pre-employment transition services within the school system before they are in Vocational Rehabilitation. Also allows 15% of the total VR budget to be allocated to these services.

The Transition School to Work program provides community-based work opportunities through apprenticeships. One of our great partners with this program is Food City in the Kingsport area.

The law also wanted us to focus on Services to Businesses. We created a Business Service Department and were charged with giving them job analysis, tax breaks and incentives. The goal is a joint effort to engage businesses and promote how our services can benefit their bottom line.

Some of the jobs secured for persons through this program are Registered Nurse, Computer Accountant, Custodian, Office Workers, and entered into an agreement with CVS to hold a mock CVS at the job center. 3 years ago, Smyrna High School started using labor market data and created a pharmacy tech training in Schools. They completed and had a starting pay of \$17.20hr.

The Opportunities Act has made us be innovative and mandates that we share data under the law. Looking in the future, we are working on a new VR Case Management System.

TANF - Charles Bryson highlighted these areas:

- DHS's 2 generational approach - focuses on the families as a whole, working together with Parents and children to create a pathway out of poverty. In order to be successful, we need to partner and work together also by encouraging and co-locating in the AJC's.
- Proposed Legislation: Transitional benefits to assist families in a period of time, and also the TANF allotment amounts.

Ted Townsend: How many TRCs?

- There is 1 residential facility in Smyrna, TN and 17 community Tennessee Rehabilitation Centers throughout the State.

Ted Townsend: What is starting wages of the case closures?

- It is \$13.06 which includes supported employment.

Ted Townsend: How many Co-locations? Is VR in all 95 counties, even where there are gaps?

- Anywhere there is an AJC, VR is available per the law. Yes, there is a counselor assigned to all 95 counties.

Adult Education - Ian White presented that the new structure of AE under WIOA went from 46 to 8 service areas. AE is in 22 comprehensive and 28 affiliate AJCs, with the purpose of referrals, job fairs, literature, and training. AE is in preparation to upgrade its system to VOS in the first quarter of 2018.

New program highlights:

- Integrated Education and Training
- Distance Education
- Partnerships with Corrections
- Testing

Fiscal Update

James Robertson provided the board with the quarterly fiscal update which included the 1st Quarter expenses, Minimum Participant Cost Rate for participants, and Participant Costs.

Alignment/Re-designation Discussion

Deniece Thomas provided the board with an audible version of the letter submitted from the Grundy County Mayor to Governor Haslam. The letter included a request to relocate from LWDA 6 to LWDA 5. There was significant discussion over the process of the request and many questions on the implications of the move. A motion to table the vote to approve or deny realignment for Grundy County, but asked the Mayor to provide more information and invite to have a discussion with representatives from our Board. Ann Thompson amended the Motion to ask the State Staff to draft a process for re-designation. The motion passed.

Committee Reports & Discussion

During all committees, members were given an update on the WIOA Certification Applications process and One-Stop Procurement guidance.

Operations & Opportunities Committee Report, Rogers Anderson

Certification Update: 83 Centers have been approved, 3 centers are conditionally certified, and 2 centers have been denied and given 30 days to reapply. Rogers Anderson moved to approve the Operations Committee recommendations, Stuart Price seconded, and motion passed.

ETPL policy reviewed with minor changes. Rogers Anderson moved to approve the policy with the amendments, Stuart Price seconded, and the motion passed.

Oversight Committee Report, Ann Hatcher

Update was provided during the fiscal update.

Copies of these policies were provided during the committee meetings. Approved policies are available on the State Workforce Development Board webpage.

Closing Remarks

Mrs. Hatcher thanked everyone for their discussions and candor.

Adjourn

Mrs. Hatcher reminded attendees that the upcoming board meetings are noted at the bottom of the agenda. Ted Townsend made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Martha Axford. The motion passed.

Note: An audio recording of this meeting is on file at the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. All meeting minutes and dates are provided on the State Workforce Development Board website.



Deniece Thomas, Assistant Commissioner

2/26/18