



State Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes
Nashville, TN
September 12, 2014
8:30 am – 12:15 pm

Board Members Present:

Rogers Anderson
Nicole Austin
Martha Axford
Jerry Bush
Trudy Carson
Arthur Cate
Bruce Dotson
Echell Eady
Ann Hatcher
David Hayes
Betty Johnson
Mary Jones
Susan Lynn
Richard Manahan
Ventrus Norfolk
Greg Persinger
Burns Phillips
Stuart Price
Bob Ravener
Jason Rich
Lottie Ryans
Mayra Zimmer
Jan Williams
Jimmy Williamson
Sandra Woods

Board Members Present by Proxy:

Timothy Burchfield (Lottie Ryans)
Bill Hagerty (Ann Thompson)
Kevin Huffman (Nick Hansen)
Warren Logan (Bob Ravener)

Members Absent:

Walter Butler
Andre Fowlkes
Raquel Hatter
Susan MacArthur
Chris Mason
Mark Norris
Yolanda Shields

Staff Present:

Briana Johnson	Mark Chandler
Christy Montgomery	Pat Bleecker
Susie Bourque	Ryan Allen
James Roberson	Jason Beard
Sterling van der Spuy	Nicholas Bishop
Teresa Broome	Nina Webster
Nova Buker	Lane Marks
Regina King	Dan Holton
Melinda Williams	
Deniece Thomas	

Welcome:

Chairman Bob Ravener welcomed the new and returning board members, as well as staff from the Governor’s office and the workforce system. In attendance were 65 workforce development professionals, including state staff Career Center managers and WIA directors and staff. The chairman thanked these professionals for their spirit of collaboration and their dedication to implementing the board’s adopted policies, in conjunction with the modified state plan, over the last year to further integrate a more seamless system.

Chairman Ravener provided an update on the unemployment rate which was at 7.1% in July, five tenths of one percentage point higher than the 6.6% June-revised rate. Over the year, nonfarm employment increased 51,900 jobs. The largest increase occurred in professional/business services, leisure/hospitality, and trade/transportation/utilities.

Chairman Ravener also provided an update on the new meeting space. For the first time, the board meeting was taking place in the Phillips room, which the department is in the process of converting into a conference center.

Roll Call/Conflict of Interest Statement:

Board Director Christy Montgomery conducted the roll call and established the presence of a quorum. Ms. Montgomery notified board members that Conflict of Interest, Acknowledgement/Disclosure, and Code of Ethics forms were on-site for review and updates.

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Rogers Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes from the full board meeting on June 20, 2014. Mayra Zimmer seconded the motion. **Motion Passed.**

Introductions:

Chairman Ravener introduced each of the newly-appointed members of the board and asked each to provide a brief summary of his or her experience, background, and desire for serving on the board:

Jan Williams, Community Based Org.
Martha Axford, Business & Industry
Andre Fowlkes, Business & Industry
Mayra Zimmer, General Public
Ventrus Norfolk, General Public
Trudy Carson, Community Based Org.
Mary Jones, Community Based Org.
Representative Susan Lynn, Government
Nicole Austin, General Public

Opening Remarks:

Burns Phillips, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, gave the opening remarks and thanked all State Board members. He presented an overview of the workforce development system in Tennessee and its accomplishments over the history of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. He highlighted the achievements in performance, as evidenced by Tennessee's receiving an incentive award for 10 out of 13 years, and for being consistently in the top five performers. The presentation centered on the unique role the department and our partner staff being the agency which interacts with job seekers and employers each day.

Innovative Use of Technology Best Practice:

Jan McKeel, director of the South Central TN Workforce Board (LWIA 10), and Steve Throneberry, of InterviewStream, made a collaborative presentation of the innovative practices the local board in LWIA 10 has implemented over the past decade. These practices include utilizing technology to provide user-friendly career and interview coaching sessions with job seekers. This practice increases the efficiency of case managers and provides participants with tools they can use at their convenience. Likewise, employers within LWIA 10 have also utilized this technology as a human resources function to screen job candidates. The local board has been able to further engage businesses and prepare WIA participants for these industry interviews. A demonstration of some of the capabilities of this technology was provided.

Middle Tennessee Industry Skills Panels:

Paul Haynes, director of the Middle Tennessee Workforce Board, moderated a presentation, with the Nashville Chamber of Commerce (Nancy Eisenbrandt) and the Tennessee Board of Regents (Warren Nichols), which provided the board with an update on the Skills Panels and their accomplishments. There were three industry specific Skills Panels (IT, Healthcare, and Manufacturing) discussions. These discussions led to five of the Associates of Applied Science completing a review of duplication and lack of cohesiveness. As a result, these programs are now systematically offered across the state so that students, taking courses at different community college campuses, have degrees reflecting the same course content and industry needs. Mr. Nichols reported that currently there are eight other programs being reviewed to update, for consistency, with industry standards. During Academic Year 2014-15, the Skills Panels will review degrees and certificates related to: Advanced Manufacturing, Advanced

Integrated Industrial Technology, Industrial Engineering, Mechatronics, Allied Health Programs, and other concentrations under business.

State Staff Introduction (Two-Minute Drill):

Sterling van der Spuy provided an overview of the activities of the Workforce Services Division, including an introduction of his leadership team and the local boards.

Jobs4TN:

Deniece Thompson provided an overview of the capabilities of the JOBS4TN.gov system, including job orders, job search, and access to labor market information. Board members were instructed as to how individual employers utilize the site, as well as to how Tennesseans access the site for job searches.

Hankook Tire Workforce Engagement:

Mr. Greg Yoo, with Hankook Tire, provided the board an industry perspective of the workforce system within Tennessee and how the agency's staff and programs attracted Hankook Tires to select Clarksville for its investment. The presentation included an overview of Hankook's selection process, site visits, and its future partnerships within the community.

WIOA Passage & Implementation Overview:

Christy Montgomery, Director of the State Workforce Development Board and Strategic Planning, provided an update of the passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and its focus concerning regional industry sectors and planning, career pathways, and work-based learning. The Board was informed of the guidance released by USDOL, including a timeline of WIOA implementation with the first draft of regulations being made available mid January 2015. Ms. Montgomery provided an overview of how Tennessee is strategically positioned to adopt these changes. This work, by the state's departments and agencies, by community-based organizations, and by industry collaborations, has been on-going.

Drive to 55 Initiatives Overview:

Mike Krause, the Governor's Office Director of Drive to 55/TN Promise, provided the board with an overview of the Governor's Drive to 55 initiative. Included in his presentation was labor market data demonstrating the need for at least 55% of all Tennesseans to have a post-secondary degree by 2025.

Part of his presentation provided an overview of the TN Promise. This program will provide graduating, high-school seniors with a "tuition-and-fee free" opportunity to attend a community college or TN College of Applied Technology.

Mr. Krause also presented details of TN Reconnect which will aid adults in reconnecting with higher education by removing various financial barriers. The program allows adults to earn a certification, "tuition-and-fee free," at any one of Tennessee's 27 colleges of applied technology (TCATs).

The presentation also provided an overview of the soon-to-be-released requests for proposal concerning Labor and Education Alignment Program (LEAP) grants. These requests seek proposals that will create long-term relationships between employers and area community colleges (or TN Colleges of Applied Technology) by identifying and addressing the challenge of job-candidate “skills gaps” in the local workforce pool.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Closing Remarks:

Chairman Ravener thanked the board for its time and energy. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Ravener.

Future Dates:

December 11-12, 2014 Committees & Full Board


Sterling van der Spuy
Administrator