

High Country Workforce Development Board Meeting

June 12, 2008, 3:00 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order: by Earl Tipton, at 3:07 PM.

Members Present: Vanya Baker, Barbara Barlow, Connie Barnette, Jake Blood, Anne Bowlin, Jim Halsey, Dwayne Howell, Tom Hughes, Joallen Lowder, Sam Ray, Sandra Reese, Stacy Sears, Earl Tipton

Staff Present: Rebecca Bloomquist, Carole Coates, Ruby Greene, Misty Bishop-Price, Don Sherrill, MaryAnn Urka

Guests: Teri Carter, John Greene, Belinda Henson, Patrick McKemie, Mike Pierce, Ginger Shaffer, Alan Wyatt

Proof of Notice: by USPS and e-mail

Welcome: Welcoming the assembled group, Vice-Chair Baker administered the Oath of Office to new Board members Jake Blood, Tom Hughes, Eddie Reeves, and Stacy Sears.

Consideration of April Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2008 Board meeting was offered by Jim Halsey, and seconded by Earl Tipton for unanimous approval.

Committee Reports

Quality Assurance: by Barbara Barlow for Scott Moncrief. Upon completing its research, the committee determined that Connectinc would be the most appropriate provider of WIA follow-up services, not to exceed \$185.00 per customer. Jim Halsey moved to approve Connectinc as the PY 2008 follow-up WIA service provider. A voice vote was unanimous, with no abstentions. During the discussion period, Carole Coates, Workforce Development Director, provided further clarification on the amount of expenditure per customer, stating that the Division of Workforce Development will support fifty percent of the per participant cost for the estimated 160 follow-up customers. By voice vote, there was unanimous approval for the continuation of current WIA service providers' contracts for another year.

Staff member Rebecca Bloomquist expressed thanks to Mike Pierce of Wilkes Community College, for his concept development of a Workforce Preparation System, offering a brief summary of its intended operation. Ms. Barlow proposed Board endorsement of this new concept, with Chairwoman Baker calling for a vote. There was unanimous approval by voice vote, with no abstentions.

Executive Committee: by Earl Tipton for Doug Pratt. Mr. Tipton summarized a letter from Dr. Suzanne Owens, President of Mayland Community College, requesting the Board's approval and endorsement of becoming a Career Readiness Certification Center (CRC). The endorsement goes to the NC Community College System office, and allows Mayland to fully participate in the Career Readiness Certification system. A voice vote of approval was unanimous. Ms. Coates informed the Board that a formal letter of endorsement would be sent to the NC Community College System upon conclusion of today's meeting.

Distributing copies of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2011, Mr. Tipton thanked the committees and staff for their contributions to an excellent finished product, noting that we now begin work to achieve these goals.

Youth Council: by Sandra Reese for Marie Gwyn. The Youth Council had identified measures for strategies in support of the updated plan by approving two goal percentages as follows: 30% enrollment for youth in the School-to-Work program, and 50% for youth entering training.

Ms. Reese also reported that Amanda Smith has been nominated for a Governor's Award as an outstanding youth participant. Concluding her report, Reese summarized the Youth Council's successful Youth Issues Forum Follow-Up meeting, and noted that today's guest speaker was one of the presenters at the Youth Issues Forum and Follow-Up meetings.

Presentation of "Seven Girls, Seven Dreams" by Chuck Bowling and Troy Tuttle, ASU College Awareness Program. Bowling, Director of the program, gave a brief overview on

Upward Bound's summer residential program, describing its value in helping potential first-generation college students gain a head start. Tuttle, ASU's lead photographer, shared some of his personal background, and explained that he offers an elective course in photography during Upward Bound's summer residential program. Noting that all of last summer's participants were female, he decided to pursue a group subject that demonstrates transformation to career goals. "Seven Girls, Seven Dreams" features each participant in current, every day appearance, with a second photo that captures their career dreams. Tuttle shared a slide presentation of the before and after photos, and discussed the impact this process had on the students.

Workforce Update: by Carole Coates, Workforce Development Director. For purposes of clarity, Ms. Coates explained that the Employment Security Commission has accepted the role of operator for JobLink Centers in Avery, Mitchell, Watauga and Yancey Counties. Wilkes Community College continues that role in Alleghany, Ashe, and Wilkes Counties. The operator role is unfunded and serves only to coordinate partner activities. This decision was discussed and agreed to in a recent regional Leadership Team Meeting.

Ms. Coates also informed the Board that because of ongoing financial constraints, the Employment Security Commission is beginning the process of closing some offices across the state. One of those affected is the Newland ES office. She noted that JobLink services continue to be available, and that a meeting in Avery County will be scheduled shortly, to discuss the impact of the ES closure and a local response to continue quality service.

In follow-up discussion, Board members expressed serious concerns that with ESC closing offices, customers might not be able to receive appropriate services and may be compelled to travel longer distances for services.

Calling members' attention to pages 42 through 63 of the Board Book, Ms. Coates summarized elements of our Local Area Transition Plan Modification No.3, required by the state, noting that to conserve paper MOUs were not included in this content, but were available for review any time.

To date, there has been no U.S. DOL decision on the Rural Collaboration Grant (RCG) as yet.

Carole has been accepted into the inaugural session of the state's Leadership Academy, sponsored by the NC Commission on Workforce Development, and will begin her first session in August. She also serves as Vice-Chair of the State Workforce Development Directors' Council.

On August 12th, HCWDB will host an event at the Appalachian Enterprise Center in Boone, as part of a grant offered through the SHARE network. This event is part of the **Partners in Excellence** program, and draws together community and faith-based organizations for further collaboration. The event represents approximately 15 counties that are SHARE Network participants.

Nominating Committee: Sam Ray presented the following nominations to the Board for vote.

WDB Chair: Earl Tipton

WDB Vice-Chair: Maria Cunningham

Action Taken: Unanimous approval by voice vote. No discussion, objections or abstentions.

Public Comment Period: Mike Pierce expressed his thanks and appreciation for the Board's endorsement of the Workforce Preparation System concept, and stated his hopes for a Rural Center grant to accomplish its implementation.

Adjournment: Jim Halsey moved to adjourn, with Jake Blood seconding.

The next meeting of the Workforce Development Board will be held on Thursday, August 14, 2008 at 3:00 PM.

**High Country Workforce Development Board
Attendance
June 12, 2008**

%	Name	Jun. 07	Aug. 07	Oct. 07	Dec. 07	Feb. 08	Apr. 08	Jun. 08
71%	Vanya Baker							
71%	Barbara Barlow							
71%	Connie Barnette		late					
100%	Jake Blood (Eff. 6/08)							
86%	Anne Bowlin							
71%	Maria Cunningham							
86%	Marie Gwyn (CBO eff. 1/08)							
71%	Jim Halsey							
86%	Dwayne Howell							
14%	Tom Hughes (Eff. 4/08)							
100%	Joallen Lowder (Eff. 4/08)							
57%	Scott Moncrief							
57%	Jayne Phipps-Boger			late			phone	
14%	Susan Pittman							
43%	Doug Pratt							
86%	Sam Ray							
71%	Sandra Reese				late			
100%	Stacy Sears (Labor, eff. 4/08)							
14%	Ben Shoemake							
100%	Earl Tipton							
	Vacant (Mitchell Private)							
	Vacant (Mitchell Private)							
	Vacant (Yancey Private)							
		68%	70%	63%	63%	68%	56%	62%

Youth Council Members Present

Chuck Bowling
Suzanne Owens
Eddie Reeves
Sherry Wood

Legend

Present
Absent
Vacancy