

High Country Workforce Development Board Meeting
April 9, 2009, 3:00 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order: by Chairman Tipton at 3:03 PM.

Members Present: Barbara Barlow, Jake Blood, Anne Bowlin, Marie Gwyn; Fonda Harris, Jim Halsey, Jennie Harpold, Scott Moncrief, Charley Nash, Jayne Phipps-Boger, Sam Ray, Julia Rowland, Amanda Smith, Earl Tipton, Sallie Woodring

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

Guests Present: Joe Furman, John Greene, Betty Huskin, Jake Kidd, Patrick McKemie, Betty Silver, Chris Silvers, David Waechter

Consideration of February Minutes: Minutes of the February 12, 2009 meeting were approved as submitted.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee: On behalf of the committee, Don Sherrill presented the report, summarizing expectations of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding to the local area. There will be an emphasis on short-term training, and it is expected that the number of new participants will significantly increase. Local areas are expected to spend down ARRA funding by June 30, 2010.

Board staff members are preparing Workforce Investment Act Plan Modification # 4 for submission to the NC Division of Workforce Development (NCDWD), due by April 30, 2009. The plan will be available for public comment effective 4/24/09 via the Board web site. On May 14th at 1:30 PM, the Executive Committee will hold a special meeting to consider revisions to the participant support policy.

Mr. Tipton will be appointing a nominating committee for WDB officers at the end of today's Board meeting.

Philosophies and Values Workgroup Recommendation: On behalf of the workgroup, Carole Coates presented the recommendation that the current document be retained as is. The recommendation was unanimously carried by the membership.

Quality Assurance: Scott Moncrief reported that the only organizations responding to the letter of intent for Workforce Investment Act Adult/Dislocated Worker Request for Proposals (RFP) were current service providers. Therefore, no RFP was required.

In the matter of stimulus funding, the committee approved adding those funds to the contracts of current service providers. Staff is developing a "priority of services" process to meet Recovery Act provisions.

One Incumbent Worker Program grant was awarded to Southern Industrial (Ashe).

The monitoring reviews conducted by the NCDWD in March resulted in positive findings, with no issues to be addressed.

Moncrief reported that La-Z-Boy (Wilkes) is closing, resulting in approximately 250 job losses.

Youth Council: Marie Gwyn reported on meetings of April 2nd and April 9th. A donation of \$100.00 was received from Wachovia Bank Foundation to supplement funding for WIA youth services. An account has been established at First Citizens bank.

The Council has reviewed and revised the participant incentive policy.

The Council has to add stimulus funding to its current, contracted youth services providers. The Summer Youth Program is expected to serve a significant number of new clients, who will be enrolled in work experience with a classroom component.

Workforce Briefing: Carole Coates reported that Kathleen McFadden and Tiffany Allison have been hired as temporary Board-level staff to support the additional work resulting from ARRA activities.

North Carolina is one of the states selected by the U.S. Department of Labor as part of its ARRA oversight process. The High Country Workforce Area will be visited on April 28th to assess readiness for ARRA.

In addition to the submission of WIA Plan Modification # 4 on April 30th, Plan Modification # 3A, incorporating ARRA into the PY 2008 plan, is due on May 30th.

Coates informed the Board that letters with appropriate forms will soon be mailed to WDB Consortium members.

The Future Forward Workforce Alliance (FFWA) met on March 24, 2009, and will be making some modifications to the Memorandum of Agreement (11/10A). Earl Tipton's term as Chair ends June 30th.

Economic Recovery Advisory Workgroup: Jake Blood reported on the March 26th meeting of the group. Blood presented the following recommendations:

- Include the following concentrations in participant training: **green technologies** (incorporated into other training programs), **hospitality training, customer service training, information technology** with emphasis on electronic health records systems, **modules on working the social media**, and **wellness** as one of the health care training programs.
- Help ensure that businesses know how to prepare for grants that may be available through the economic stimulus package.

Future meetings will be scheduled as needed.

Presentations: David Waechter, Sustainable Technology Coordinator with Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, offered insight into the state of "Green Jobs and Workforce Development in the High Country".

Jake Kidd, graduate student at UNC-Greensboro, Geography Department, presented his research on the location and economic impact of renewable energy firms in North Carolina.

Other Business: Mr. Tipton announced the presentation of a plaque, by the North Carolina Division of Workforce Development recognizing the High Country Workforce Development Board as a high-performing board. He noted that the High Country Workforce Development Consortium Chief Elected Official, Walter Savage, was on hand to receive the plaque, along with Chairman Tipton and Director Carole Coates. He commended Director Carole Coates for all her efforts on behalf of the Board

Mr. Tipton appointed the following Board members to serve as Nominating Committee for WDB Officers: Barbara Barlow, Jake Blood, Sam Ray, and Sandra Reese, and asked committee members to meet immediately following the conclusion of the Board meeting.

Chairman's Comments: Mr. Tipton reminded Board members to take a few moments to return a completed meeting evaluation form.

Adjournment: Motion offered and seconded at 4:39 PM.

The next meeting of the High Country Workforce Development Board will be held on Thursday, June 11, 2009, at 3:00 PM.

High Country Workforce Development Board
Meeting Attendance
April 9, 2009

%	Name	Apr. 08	Jun. 08	Aug. 08	Oct. 08	Dec. 08	Feb. 09	Apr. 09
43%	Vanya Baker							
57%	Barbara Barlow				late			
57%	Connie Barnette							
100%	Jake Blood							
72%	Anne Bowlin							
0%	John Brubaker (Eff. 8/08)							
57%	Maria Cunningham							
86%	Marie Gwyn							
100%	Jim Halsey							
80%	Fonda Harris							
43%	Dwayne Howell							
29%	Tom Hughes							
57%	Joallen Lowder							
72%	Scott Moncrief							
100%	Charle Nash							
57%	Jayne Phipps-Boger	phone						
50%	B an Peterson (Eff. 1/09)							
0%	Dou Pratt							
100%	Sam Ra							
100%	Sandra Reese							
60%	Stacy Sears							
100%	Sallie Woodring (Eff. 1/09), Susan Pittman throu_h 12/08.							
100%	Earl Tipton							
		56%	65%	62%	55%	68%	78%	52%

Youth Council Members Present

Jennie Harpold
Julia Rowland
Amanda Smith

LEGEND

Present
Absent
Vacancy