

## High Country Workforce Development Board Meeting

December 11, 2008, 3:00 PM

### MINUTES

**Call to Order:** by Chairman Tipton at 3:02 PM

**Members Present:** Barbara Barlow, Connie Barnette, Kathy Bishop, Jake Blood, Anne Bowlin, Maria Cunningham, Marie Gwyn, Jim Halsey, Jennie Harpold, Dwayne Howell, Scott Moncrief, Charley Nash, Suzanne Owens, Jayne Phipps-Boger, Sam Ray, Sandra Reese, Stacy Sears, Earl Tipton, Sherry Wood

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

**Guests:** Dawn A. Boyer, Sheila Dotson, Calvin Dull, John Greene, April Jones, Patrick McKemie, Dan McMillan, Helen Parker, Judy Poe, Bill Robertson, Roger Shackelford, Ginger Shaffer, Jim Stout, Robert Wiseman

**Welcome:** Mr. Tipton welcomed special guest and presenter, Dr. Helen Parker, USDOL Regional Administrator, Atlanta.

**Consideration of October Minutes:** Minutes of the October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 meeting were approved as submitted.

### Committee Reports

**Executive Committee:** Maria Cunningham reported on 1<sup>st</sup> quarter Board and committee meeting attendance, with the request that all committee chairs and staff continue working on attendance issues, with meeting reminders and replacement activities.

- Executive Committee: 80%
- Quality Assurance Committee: 71%
- Youth Council (full membership currently 17): 41%
- Youth Council WDB Voting Members (7): 57%
- Incumbent Worker Grant Workgroup (6): 67% (1 meeting, 9/11/08).
- Workforce Development Board meetings: 62%

**Quality Assurance:** Scott Moncrief noted a date correction from November 11<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> in the heading of the committee's meeting notes. Moncrief stated that approximately 100 area residents of the High Country region will be affected by the Vaughan-Basset closure in Elkin. An application from East Coast Mill Works for an Incumbent Worker Grant was received during the most recent funding round, and was approved for funding. The Local Area's request for an additional allocation of \$200,000.00 in funding from the NC Division of Workforce Development has been approved in two installments of \$100,000.00 each.

**Youth Council:** Marie Gwyn reviewed information on youth services for 2007 and September/October of Program Year 2008/2009, stating that a total of 158 youth received WIA services. Of this number, 121 were out of school, 68 had dropped out of high school, 46 youths were parenting, and 103 were identified as basic skills deficient. Gwyn reported that childcare and transportation continue to be major challenges for youth receiving services. On Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, the College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) will hold a training session for WIA youth services staff. Ms. Gwyn announced the date of the next Youth Council meeting: January 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM

**Presentation:** A panel presentation in the format of a television talk show highlighted various regional initiatives in which the High Country Workforce Development Board is involved. Discussion focused on the Regional Collaboration Grant, which resulted in the formation of the Future Forward workforce Alliance, a regional Allied health Skills Planning Grant, participation in the US Department of Labor's *Driving Transformation* initiative, the state's Disability Navigator Grant, and a twenty-five county regional labor market needs and availability study. Program participants included Roger Shackelford, Executive Director, NC Division of Workforce Development; Sheila Dotson, Director, Western Piedmont

Workforce Development Board; Bill Robertson, Director, Region C Workforce Development Board; Rebecca Bloomquist, High Country Workforce D; and featured John Greene and April Jones of Mayland Community College as hosts.

**Special Remarks:** Dr. Helen Parker, USDOL Regional Administrator, Atlanta, further developed the themes of regionalism and collaboration, commenting on the importance of developing strong workforce development partnerships. She stated that she expects the workforce system to be in the center of activity with the change of administration. Dr. Parker encouraged the Board to prepare now for an eventual economic upturn. Emphasizing the need to develop new approaches to educating and training a workforce in sophisticated information technologies, Parker recommended Don Tapscott's Growing Up Digital: The Rise of the Net Generation, and Grown Up Digital: How the Net Generation Is Changing Your World. Parker concluded her remarks with the following recommendations to the High Country Workforce Development Board for progress in transforming the workforce development system:

- **Be bold and visionary** (disruptive thinking)
- **Be recklessly inclusive** (no turf/boundary issues)
- **Freely steal good ideas**
- **Collaborate until it hurts**
- **Always question the status quo**
- **Measure and celebrate success**
- **Commit to the long haul**

**Workforce Briefings:** Carole Coates announced that in January Board members would be receiving a survey requesting current information on professional affiliations, for the purpose of identifying strengths and potential gaps in Board relationships with key organizations. Plans are underway for a Workforce Development Consortium Meeting the evening of January 29, 2009. Coates also stated that she and Anne Bowlin, Wilkes ESC Manager, would be meeting with Vaughan-Basset management on the following day to discuss the plant closing and next steps for affected workers. Coates thanked Board members for their dedication and participation throughout the year.

**Other Member Business:** Tipton announced the formation of a workgroup to review the Board's "Philosophies and Values" document for potential updating. Jake Blood, John Brubaker, Maria Cunningham (Chair), and Stacy Sears, will serve on the workgroup, and will report to the Board at its April 9, 2009 meeting, with the June meeting as back-up date.

**Chairman's Comments:** Mr. Tipton thanked all members for their continuing participation and support of Board activities, urging members to carry out their responsibilities of meeting participation.

**Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 4:39 PM.

The next meeting of the Workforce Development Board will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2009 at 3:00 PM.

**High Country Workforce Development Board  
Meeting Attendance  
December 11, 2008**

%	Name	Dec. 07	Feb. 08	Apr. 08	Jun. 08	Aug. 08	Oct. 08	Dec. 08
43%	Vanya Baker							
71%	Barbara Barlow						late	
57%	Connie Barnette							
100%	Jake Blood (Eff. 6/08) Gwen Harris, 8/07-2/08							
71%	Anne Bowlin							
57%	Maria Cunningham							
86%	Marie Gwyn (CBO eff. 1/08)							
100%	Jim Halsey							
67%	Fonda Harris (Eff. 7/08)							
57%	Dwayne Howell							
20%	Tom Hughes (Eff. 4/08) Marie Gwyn, 8/07-3/08							
60%	Joallen Lowder (Eff. 4/08) Carol Coulter, 8/07-12/07							
71%	Scott Moncrief							
100%	Charley Nash (Eff. 7/08)							
43%	Jayne Phipps-Boger			phone				
14%	Susan Pittman							
14%	Doug Pratt							
100%	Sam Ray							
100%	Sandra Reese	late						
75%	Stacy Sears (Labor, eff. 4/08)							
0%	John Brubaker, 8/08- Ben Shoemake, 8/07-6/08							
100%	Earl Tipton							
	Vacant (Yancey Private)							
		67%	78%	56%	65%	62%	55%	68%

**Youth Council Members Present**

Kathy Bishop  
Jennie Harpold  
Suzanne Owens  
Sherry Wood

**Legend**

Present
Absent
Vacancy