

High Country Workforce Development Board Meeting
June 11, 2009, 3:00 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order: by Vice-Chair Maria Cunningham at 3:05 PM

Members Present: Barbara Barlow, Connie Barnette, Maria Cunningham, David Edwards, Marie Gwyn, Jennie Harpold, Charley Nash, Sam Ray, Sandra Reese, Julia Rowland, Stacy Sears, Sherry Wood, Sallie Woodring

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

Guests: John Greene, John L. Greene, Paul Hugger, Patrick McKemie, James Perez, Ginger Shaffer, Betty Silver

Consideration of April Minutes: Minutes of the April 9, 2009 meeting were approved as submitted.

Committee Reports

Executive – Maria Cunningham reported unanimous endorsement of the Executive Committee for Plan Modification # 3-A, Program Year 2008, dealing specifically with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funding. Members received a summary of the plan's highlights in the most current Board Book (6/11/09) mailing. Ms. Cunningham requested a motion for endorsement of the full implementation of Plan Modification # 3-A. Marie Gwyn moved to approve, seconded by Sam Ray. Motion carried.

The October 8, 2009 Board meeting has been moved to the following Thursday, October 15th, to resolve a conflict with the simultaneously scheduled NC Workforce Development Partnership Conference in Greensboro. Several Board members and staff traditionally attend this conference, and it is expected that coverage of Recovery Act issues will be beneficial to staff.

The Executive Committee approved a change in meeting format. Meeting time will be reserved for discussion of workforce response to economic conditions and related issues. As local area recovery efforts develop, there will be flexibility to provide updates and related presentations to the Board. The August 13th meeting will devote time to the evaluation of progress in achieving established strategic plan goals.

Youth Council – Marie Gwyn reported that implementation of the Summer Youth Employment Program is progressing very well. Youth participants are expected to be in assigned worksites by mid-June. Ms. Gwyn commended staff member Misty Bishop-Price for her hard work in coordinating the implementation. The next meeting of the Youth Council will be held on **July 16th**.

Quality Assurance – Ruby Greene presented the report on behalf of Scott Moncrief. Ms. Greene reported that 52 customers have been enrolled into ARRA-funded WIA services, and that service providers are in the process of hiring and training new staff to assist with service delivery.

Staff have been facilitating meetings with the three local area community colleges to coordinate participation in the statewide "12 in 6" Initiative for the development and implementation of additional training programs. Each community college may apply for ARRA Workforce Investment Act funding to establish a core of short-term, intensive skill development training options.

Four Incumbent Worker Grants were received in the last funding cycle of this program year. The committee requested that staff research previously unfunded applications as part of the committee's consideration of development of a local incumbent worker grant program with ARRA funds.

Both Mayland Community College and Wilkes Community College have exceeded performance goals in PY 2008, and committee members agreed that strategic plan goal measures should remain the same for PY 2009.

Nominating Committee – Barbara Barlow presented the nominations of Earl Tipton for Chair, and Jim Halsey for Vice-Chair. No nominations were offered from the floor. Sam Ray moved to accept both nominations. A show-of-hands vote was unanimous, with no abstentions.

Presentations

Kathleen McFadden introduced the Board's new website, "Recovery in the High Country" (www.recoveryinthehighcountry.com), which is expressly dedicated to providing local area information on the implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, and resources for training in high-demand occupations, as well as upgrading skills. The website, developed by staff members Tiffany Allison and Kathleen McFadden, offers a broad range of information on services to those in need of jobs, from the Summer Youth Employment Program, to assistance for adults and dislocated workers.

Paul Hugger, representing Wilkes Vision 20/20, presented an overview of the "Circles of Care" initiative, now underway in Wilkes County as part of Vision 20/20. The "Circles Campaign" is a formal approach to ending poverty by befriending families who have a genuine desire to improve their lives.

Workforce Briefing

Don Sherrill presented the report on behalf of Carole Coates. Mr. Sherrill summarized a series of discussions with local community colleges and the statewide "12 in 6" job training initiative. He also reported that to date, 68 youth are enrolled in the Summer Youth Employment program, and 91 adults and dislocated workers enrolled in re-training programs under ARRA.

Other Member Business: Ms. Cunningham introduced new member David Edwards, who replaces John Brubaker on the Board.

Public Comments Period: Don Sherrill presented certificates of appreciation to off-going Board members Maria Cunningham, Tom Hughes, and Sherry Wood.

Adjournment: Motion offered and seconded at 3:52 PM.

The next meeting of the High Country Workforce Development Board will be held on Thursday, August 13, 2009, at 3:00 PM in the COG Board Room.