

High Country Workforce Development Board Meeting

December 10, 2009

MINUTES

Call to Order: by Vice-Chair Jim Halsey at 3:03 PM.

Members Present: Barbara Barlow, Kathy Bishop, Anne Bowlin, Marie Gwyn, Jim Halsey, Dwayne Howell, Carl Jenkins, Scott Moncrief, Jane Moore, Charley Nash, Bryan Peterson, Jayne Phipps-Boger, Sam Ray, Sandy Reese, Truman Robbins, Stacy Sears, Sallie Woodring

Staff Present: Oliver Adams, Carole Coates, Misty Bishop-Price, Rebecca Bloomquist, Ruby Greene, Kathleen McFadden, Don Sherrill, MaryAnn Urka, Judy Winebarger

Guests Present: Skip Carson, Rick Herndon, Dan McMillan, Judy Poe; Joyce Glenn, Cynthia Grant, Paula McClellan, Ricky Roten, Ginger Shaffer, Sonny Sweet, Phillip Tedder, David Waechter, Pam Wilson

Consideration of October Minutes: October 15, 2009 minutes were approved as submitted. No declarations of conflict of interest were reported for today's agenda.

Committee Reports

Executive: Mr. Halsey directed members to page six of the October Board Book for full coverage of the 10/1/09 Executive Committee Teleconference.

Business Services: Dwayne Howell reported that at the committee's Nov. 12 meeting, mission and goals were reviewed. The committee is sponsoring an economic development forum on January 26, 2010. Howell also announced that Carolina Timberworks, Cannon Memorial Hospital, and the Ashe County Division of Gates Corporation have been awarded Incumbent Worker Grants.

JobLink Continuous Improvement Committee: Jim Halsey reported that the committee reviewed goals and established a vision statement, pending agreement of all committee members at its November 12th meeting. The committee is investigating JobLink Center data reporting issues.

Youth Council: Marie Gwyn announced that Mayland Community College will continue to provide WIA Youth services to Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey Counties for Program Year 2010. High Country COG will continue to provide youth services in Alleghany, Ashe, Watauga, and Wilkes Counties.

Adult Services: Scott Moncrief reported that since the committee's September 10th meeting, one Rapid Response meeting was conducted at a mortgage processing center with 55 employees. He also informed the Board that approval of a local Incumbent Worker Grant policy as well as statewide Incumbent Worker Grant applications have been temporarily suspended by the NC Division of Workforce Development pending review of new U.S. Department of Labor policies.

Information

Staff Update: Carole Coates conveyed Chairman Tipton's regret at his inability to be in attendance. She presented an update on the "12 in 6" programs underway at the local area community colleges, which are funded by the Workforce Development Act:

- 85 participants have been enrolled at CCCTI, where 40 participants have earned credentials and forty-nine "12 in 6" courses have been offered.
- 403 participants have been enrolled at Mayland Community College. 158 credentials have been earned in forty-three "12 in 6" courses.
- Wilkes Community College has enrolled 92 "12 in 6" participants, 28 of whom have received credentials. Thirty courses have been offered.

The Workforce Development Board will sponsor a forum on community responses to economic conditions on the afternoon of January 26, 2010, in conjunction with the Southern Growth Policies Board. Members will receive invitations in January.

Coates also shared a Wilkes Journal-Patriot article on the new, "green" Visitors' Center, and announced that Brushy Mountain Bee Farm, a former Incumbent Worker Grant recipient, has been

honored as "Small Business of the Year" by [NC Small Business Magazine](#); and congratulated member Sam Ray on a recent newsmagazine article featuring his U.S. Air Force service.

Presentation: Three local area employers shared their experiences with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Summer Youth Employment Program. **Bill Carson**, owner of **Altapass Orchard** (Mitchell County) employed six youth participants. **Cynthia Grant**, Director of the **Sparta Teapot Museum** (Alleghany County), employed one youth. **Sonny Sweet**, Director, **Watauga County Chapter, American Red Cross**, employed two youths.

Joining the discussion were two ARRA Workforce Investment (WIA) Adult Services participants, **Paula McClellan** and **Phil Tedder**, both of whom discussed how their WIA work experience benefitted them and led to unsubsidized employment.

Chair and Member Comments: Director Carole Coates expressed the appreciation of the staff for the support and commitment of Board members. Anne Bowlin explained that severance packages are no longer a factor in determination of unemployment insurance benefits. Scott Moncrief recognized the ongoing hard work of Board staff members, with special thanks for arranging today's program.

Announcements: Jim Halsey informed the Board that 20 new jobs had recently been created at Tristate Components, Inc. (Alleghany County).

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn offered by Sam Ray at 3:57 PM.

The next meeting of the High Country Workforce Development Board will be held on Thursday, February 11, 2010, at 3:00 PM in the HCCOG Board Room, 468 New Market Blvd., Boone.