

High Country Workforce Development Board Meeting
August 14, 2008, 3:00 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order: by Earl Tipton at 3:05 PM.

Members Present: Vanya Baker, Jake Blood, Anne Bowlin, Maria Cunningham, Marie Gwyn, Jim Halsey,

Jennie Harpold, Fonda Harris, Scott Moncrief, Charlie Nash, Suzanne Owens, Sam Ray, Sandra Reese, Julia Rowland, Stacy Sears, Amanda Smith, Earl Tipton, Sherry Wood

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

Guests: Sid Connor, Marshall Gasperson, Joe Furman, John Greene, Ginger Shaffer, Azalee Simandle,

Phil Trew

Welcome: Chairman Tipton welcomed new Board members Fonda Harris and Dr. Charlie Nash, and new Youth Council members Julia Rowland and Amanda Smith. Ms. Harris and Dr. Nash then recited the Oath of Office.

Presentation on the NC Center for Engineering Technologies by Sid Connor. Dr. Connor is the Director of the new Center for Engineering Technologies in Hickory, which operates under the auspices of Appalachian State University, where he also serves as Special Assistant to the Provost. Dr. Connor's PowerPoint presentation provided a brief history and overview of the center, and its role in helping the Board achieve its goal to supply a qualified workforce to targeted high-growth industry sectors.

Consideration of June Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2008 Board meeting was offered by Sam Ray, and seconded by Jim Halsey for unanimous approval.

Committee Reports

Quality Assurance: Committee Chair Scott Moncrief summarized the meeting of July 10, 2008, at which it was reported that Connectinc has been awarded a contract for provision of follow-up services to WIA participants in Alleghany, Ashe, and Wilkes Counties. Statewide activity funding is expected to decrease by 14%, primarily due to the decrease in chartered JobLink Centers in PY 2008. The third Quarterly Performance Report indicated that outcomes were comparable or ahead of the previous year's performance. Staff met with service providers on July 11 to discuss the RFP modification document and the need for any changes. Rapid Response meetings have been underway to provide terminated Leviton Manufacturing employees with services, due to closure of the New River plant.

Executive Committee: Vice-Chair Maria Cunningham reviewed the meeting held on July 29th by conference call, during which the committee approved by consensus the definition and categorization of direct community investment, one of the strategic plan measures. The committee also approved the staff recommendation that the goal for percentage of expenditure for direct community investment of WIA funds be set at 70%. Ms. Cunningham announced that Chairman Tipton requested former Chair Doug Pratt to remain on the Executive Committee, and that the Chair is encouraging increased meeting attendance among Board members throughout the new program year.

Ms. Cunningham reminded members to check the committee assignment and membership list for the new program year. Several possible board meeting program themes emerged from discussion during today's Executive Committee meeting:

- A presentation by Dr. Helen Parker, USDOL Regional Administrator from Atlanta, and liaison to North Carolina.
- President of the NC Community College System, Scott Ralls, on the system's reorganization, which emphasizes economic development.
- Houston, Texas WDB Director on system transformation issues
- Green industry
- Additional High-Growth/High Demand Areas
- Various local and statewide initiatives related to workforce issues

The Executive Committee has decided that it will hold its regular meetings by teleconference call, unless special circumstances necessitate face to face meetings. It was also decided that the Executive Committee will meet the first Thursday of the month when the Board meets. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on October 2, 2008 at 3:30 PM, via teleconference call.

Youth Council: Council Chair Marie Gwyn summarized activities of the July 10th meeting, commenting on the review of the April-June 2008 Youth Provider Reports. Describing these reports as useful tools, Gwyn emphasized that in addition to providing statistical information, they also provide a valuable understanding of the many Get Real services available to youth participants. Lower enrollments in Watauga and Mitchell Counties during this period were influenced by a combination of factors which are currently being addressed by service providers. Watauga County youth staff have partnered with Caldwell Community College to build their connection in serving more students. Gwyn also reported that the Avery County ESC office closed on July 18th. Therefore, WIA staff are searching for a new location to provide services.

The Council is beginning discussion of the upcoming Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2009-2010 program year. This process permits organizations to be considered for WIA funding. Three years is the maximum contract period allowed.

Amanda Smith of Alleghany County and new Youth Representative on the Council, has been nominated for this year's Governor's Youth Award.

The Youth Council **will not meet** on September 11th at 3:00 PM as originally planned, but the meeting will be rescheduled.

CEDS Update: Phil Trew, Director of Planning and Development, High Country Council of Governments, briefly summarized the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2008 Performance Report, which will be submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration. The Workforce Development Board serves as the Strategy Committee for assisting High Country COG staff in developing the CEDS. Mr. Trew stated the need for a date correction on page 9, changing the year 2007 to 2008, in reference to the Adult and Dislocated Worker program. Scott Moncrief offered a motion to approve, with the following amendments: date correction (Goal 3, Action 5, p. 9), and provision of additional information on the partners and staff of the reestablished Watauga County small business incubator. Motion seconded by Stacy Sears, to unanimous approval.

Workforce Briefings: Don Sherrill for Carole Coates. Mr. Sherrill reported on the following noteworthy events and future important dates:

- Appalachian Regional Development Institute Summit, 8/11/08
- SHARE Network Event: Build Your Community Network, 8/12/08. 1 of only 2 such events hosted in NC.
- COG Annual Banquet, 9/5/08
- NC Workforce Development Partnership Conference, Oct.22-24. Interested members should contact MaryAnn Urka for additional information.
- Incumbent Worker Grant Program – Recent award of \$17,101.00 to Wilkes Regional Medical Center. With the beginning of a new program year, applications should be submitted by end of September.
- Catawissa Lumber (Ashe Co.) closing, sixty-seven workers affected. Rapid Response services are underway, 8/27/08.
- Wachovia Bank – layoff of fifty employees

Public Comment Period: Azalee Simandle announced that Avery County ESC services would be available at the Senior Center one day a week, the day still to be determined.

Adjournment: Motion offered by Scott Moncrief and seconded by Sam Ray.

The next meeting of the Workforce Development Board will be held on Thursday, October 9, 2008 at 3:00 PM.

High Country Workforce Development Board Meeting Attendance August 14, 2008

%	Name	Aug. 07	Oct. 07	Dec. 07	Feb. 08	Apr. 08	Jun. 08	Aug. 08
71%	Vanya Baker							
57%	Barbara Barlow							
57%	Connie Barnette	late						
100%	Jake Blood (Eff. 6/08) Gwen Harris, 8/07-2/08							
86%	Anne Bowlin							
71%	Maria Cunningham							
86%	Marie Gwyn (CBO eff. 1/08)							
86%	Jim Halsey							
100%	Fonda Harris (Eff. 7/08)							
71%	Dwayne Howell							
33%	Tom Hughes (Eff. 4/08) Marie Gwyn, 8/07-3/08							
67%	Joallen Lowder (Eff. 4/08) Carol Coulter, 8/07-12/07		late					
57%	Scott Moncrief							
100%	Charlie Nash (Eff. 7/08)							
57%	Jayne Phipps-Boger		late			phone		
14%	Susan Pittman							
29%	Doug Pratt							
100%	Sam Ray							
71%	Sandra Reese			late				
100%	Stacy Sears (Labor, eff. 4/08)							
17%	Ben Shoemake, 8/07-6/08 John Brubaker, 8/08-							
100%	Earl Tipton							
	Vacant (Yancey Private)							
		74%	67%	67%	78%	56%	65%	62%

Youth Council Members Present

Jennie Harpold
Suzanne Owens
Julia Rowland
Amanda Smith
Sherry Wood

Legend

Present
Absent
Vacancy