

High Country Workforce Development Board Meeting

MINUTES

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

Members Present: Barbara Barlow, Kathy Bishop, Jake Blood, Gunther Doerr, Marie Gwyn, Jim Halsey, Jennie Harpold, Fonda Harris, Joallen Lowder, Scott Moncrief, Charley Nash, Suzanne Owens, Susan Pittman, Sam Ray, Sandra Reese, Julia Rowland, Earl Tipton, Sherry Wood

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

Guests: Calvin Dull, John Greene, Betty Silver, Sallie Woodring, Ginger Shaffer, Pam Wilson, Jim McMahan

Welcome: Mr. Tipton welcomed new Youth Council member Gunther Doerr, Chief of Police at Appalachian State University.

Consideration of August Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2008 Board meeting was offered for unanimous approval.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee: Director Carole Coates for Vice-Chair Maria Cunningham. Ms. Coates reported committee satisfaction with use of conference call technology for its meetings and noted meeting schedule.

Coates reported that the Executive Committee has reaffirmed the Board's agreement to reimburse Advantage West with \$10,000.00, to help support its labor market availability survey. The HCWDB area will be one of the first labor sheds surveyed in this project.

Ms. Coates highlighted various efforts to prepare for the NC Commission on Workforce Development's High Performing Boards Standards, including the launch of the WDB website, and written measurement methods to gauge progress toward 2008-2011 Strategic Plan Update goals. A new community audit is planned for 2011-2012, after census data is available. Ms. Coates offered congratulations to the region's WIA service providers on meeting USDOL performance measures for Program year 2007.

Coates noted that the Future Forward Workforce Alliance (FFWA) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was ratified by all partners in August, with Earl Tipton and Carole Coates signing for the Board.

Quality Assurance: Mr. Moncrief highlighted the efforts of the Rapid Response team, which conducted five recent meetings to assist workers facing imminent layoffs.

Moncrief noted that a "Swap Meet" was held on October 3, 2008 for WIA service providers, offering an opportunity to exchange best practice ideas. He also stated that staff member Ruby Greene developed information on high-growth area industries for the committee's review.

Mr. Moncrief encouraged members to refer businesses that might qualify for an Incumbent Worker Grant to contact staff member Ruby Greene.

Youth Council: Council Chair Marie Gwyn reported that the Youth Council did not meet in September, but is scheduled to meet on November 13th.

Presentation: "21st Century Workforce Challenges" PowerPoint – Ginger Shaffer and Pam Wilson. Director Carole Coates introduced the program, noting that the region's workforce services are driven by data and demand, a process which is emphasized in the presentation.

Shaffer and Wilson traced the effect of closings and worker layoffs, resulting in the loss of 8,611 jobs in the region over a ten year span. Data identifies gaps in existing skill levels with current and future needs, and also points to the need for a change in educational focus. Shaffer and Wilson presented compelling questions which have led to an approach to providing workforce development services in

the region which focus on the needs of industry sectors which have been identified as high-growth, high-demand, high wage sectors.

Workforce Briefings: Director Carole Coates announced that funds are budgeted to allow two Board members to participate in the National Association of Workforce Boards' Forum in March 2009, and asked that interested persons contact staff member MaryAnn Urka by the end of October for additional assistance with arrangements.

There will be a New Member Orientation session held on November 6th, at the HCCOG, from 12:30-2:45 PM.

The Executive Committee will meet on December 4th, from 3:30 to 4:30 PM, by teleconference call.

On December 11th, the Executive Committee will meet at 2:00 PM at the HCCOG, followed by the WDB Meeting at 3:00 PM.

Ms. Coates congratulated Chairman Tipton on his receipt of the award for Outstanding Workforce Development Board Member at the HCCOG annual banquet on September 5th. Tipton thanked members for their support and pointed out that the Board's success is due to the dedication and skills of all members.

Public Comments: Betty Silver, Western Regional Customized Training Director for NCCCCS Economic and Workforce Development, announced that \$12 million dollars in state funding has been combined into a Customized Training program for businesses to provide greater flexibility in upgrading employee skills.

Adjournment: Motion offered by Jim Halsey at 4:25 PM and seconded by Scott Moncrief.

The next meeting of the Workforce Development Board will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 3:00 PM

**High Country Workforce Development Board
Meeting Attendance
October 9, 2008**

%	Name	Oct. 07	Dec. 07	Feb. 08	Apr. 08	Jun. 08	Aug. 08	Oct. 08
57%	Vanya Baker							
57%	Barbara Barlow							late
43%	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							
100%	Fonda Harris (Eff. 7/08)							
57%	Dwayne Howell							
29%	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%	Charley Nash (Eff. 7/08)							
57%	Jayne Phipps-Boger	late			phone			
14%	Susan Pittman							
29%	Doug Pratt							
100%	Sam Ray							
86%	Sandra Reese		late					
67%	Stacy Sears (Labor, eff. 4/08)							
0%	John Brubaker, 8/08- Ben Shoemake, 8/07-6/08							
100%	Earl Tipton							
	Vacant (Yancey Private)							
		67%	67%	78%	56%	65%	62%	55%

Youth Council Members Present

Kathy Bishop
 Gunther Doerr
 Jennie Harpold
 Suzanne Owens
 Julia Rowland
 Sherry Wood

Legend

Present
Absent
Vacancy