

**KERR-TAR**  
**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD/CONSORTIUM MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, June 11, 2024**  
**Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments, Henderson, NC**  
**6:00 PM**

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (WDB) MEMBERS:** Hal Muetzel, Leo Kelly, Jr., Vanessa Cooke-Alvarado, John Alston, Gordon Agingu, Phillip Betts, Barbara Buchanan, Jennifer Jones, Jerry Edmonds, Yolanda Uvalle, Sara Lloyd, Charla Duncan

**COG/LA STAFF:** Lou Grillo, Diane Cox, Kelly Hundley, Desiree Brooks, Deborah Cozart, and Sharon Thomas

**Providers:** Helen Bradby, EDSI

**Welcome/Call to Order – Hal Muetzel**

Chairperson Hal Muetzel welcomed members and guests to meeting. Jennifer M. Jones, a DWS Staff and NCWorks Career Center Manager was welcomed as a WDB member.

**Approval of Consent Agenda – Hal Muetzel**

- Motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda (March 19, 2024)
- Minutes and Finance Report – (YTD through May 2024). Motion carried.

**PY 24 Planning and Procurement/Allocations – Lou Grillo**

- Kerr-Tar will continue with their current providers for the PY 24 Program Year. The following are the proposed allocations:
  - Division of Workforce Solutions – One-Stop Provider – no cost contract
  - EDSI - Adult - \$400,000, Dislocated Worker - \$200,000, and Youth - \$300,000
  - VGCC – Youth - \$50,000 (6 months)

**Recommendation:** Motion to accept the renewal of the Division of Workforce Solutions (DWS) contract at no cost.

- First motion – Barbara Buchanan, second motion – Vanessa Cooke-Alvarado. Motion carried. (Jennifer Jones abstained).

**Recommendation:** Motion to accept the renewal of EDSI Adult Services contract in the amount of \$400,000.

- First motion- Barbara Buchanan, second motion – Vanessa Cooke-Alvarado. Motion carried.

**Recommendation:** Motion to accept the renewal of EDSI Dislocated Worker Services contract in the amount of \$200,000.

- First motion – Sara Lloyd, second motion – Gordon Agingu. Motion carried.

**Recommendation:** Motion to accept the renewal of EDSI Youth Services contract in the amount of \$300,000.

- First motion – Phillip Betts, second motion – Jerry Edmonds. Motion carried.

**Recommendation:** Motion to accept the renewal of VGCC Youth Services contract in the amount of \$50,000 for six months.

- First motion – Barbara Buchanan, second motion – John Alston. Motion carried. (Jerry Edmonds and Sara Lloyd abstained).

**Performance Update– Deborah Cozart:**

The performance update for WIOA programs(Adult, Dislocated Workers (DW) Youth, and Wagner Pyser (WP)) the latest date is from April 14, 2024. The numbers that are more current are not available now so there is still time to increase these performance numbers.

- The state outcomes are passing for all performance indicators (Q2, Q4, Credential, and Measureable Skills Gains (MSG)) with the exception of the MSG for youth but there is still plenty of time to increase the percentage.

For the Kerr-Tar Area outlook:

- Adult Program performance indicator numbers are passing for Q4, MSG, and Median Earnings. The credential and the Q2 are in the red but there is still time to increase those percentages.
- Youth Program – Credential indicator is in the red at 72.46% but staff is reviewing process of reviewing to make sure that all credentials are recorded. Also, the indicator does not count until after the participants have exited. .

- Wagner Pyser – excelling in all performance indicators (Q2, Q4, and Median Earnings).

Several Success Stories shared:

- S. Jones, A. Cooper, and S. Evans VGCC Truck Driver Graduates in March 2024. All three graduates are actively searching for employment.
- M. Abarca , Graduate of Dental U, April 2024 with certifications in Dental Assistant I, Nitrous Oxide Sedation for Dental Auxillaries, Intraoral Radiography, and Basic Life Support,
- Jemarius Reid, Youth Participant – graduate of VGCC Truck Driving Training in March 2024. He is currently receiving follow-up services and is receiving job search assistance from his VGCC Career Advisor.

**Reentry Services – Sharon Thomas**

- Kerr-Tar Reentry Roundtable is now the Kerr-Tar Reentry Council and covers five counties. The council so far has received \$250,000 in funding to further the opportunities for participants that are returning to society and are in need of support.
- Kerr-Tar Reentry continues to offer the expanded self-serve Expungement Clinics sessions for those interested in expunging their records. Informational packets with filing instructions and applicable forms are given out. The sessions are available in four counties (Vance, Warren, Person, Granville counties.). We are currently getting Franklin County set up as well. In some of the sessions, an attorney is available to answer questions about expungement.
- Kerr-Tar Reentry Roundtable collaborates with Kittrell Job Corps and Ken Spellman, owner of Ken’s Construction and “Back to Eden. Mr. Spellman developed a mentoring program called “MMEAT Program. The Program consists of modules such as Management, Entrepreneurship, Accountability, and Training. The Reentry Program received Z Smith Funding. Because of the collaboration with Ken Spellman, Kittrell Job Corps, and the Z Smith Foundation funding , justice-involved youth and adults, and at risk youth were able to attend a four week program and participate in the MMEAT Mentoring Program, and get information on expungement Informational sessions. The first cohort will graduate Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>.
- P.R.O.W.D. Updates YTD:
  - 152 Participants enrolled.
  - 125 Participants served.
  - 54 Participants completed training.
  - 17 Participants employed.
  - 18 Participants in follow-up services.
- Fresh Start Career & Resource Expo held at Federal Correction Institute in Butner. Seventy participants participated and split in a two-part session. Some of the activities included mock interviews, career exploration, social skills workshop, and employment strategies. Some of the agencies that participated were social services, NCDOT, regional employers, and DSS.

**Business Services Update– Desiree Brooks:**

- Businesses Served -194
- Services Provided – 2,271
- Employers Self-Service –405
- Registered Employers – 19
- Kerr—Tar Center Customers Hired – 141
- On-the-Job Training Participants – 2
- Work Experiences (Paid Internships) – 10 (3 more starting next week)
- Rapid Response Services:
  - GKN – 82 of the 400 employees were affected. The other employees affected transferred to other GKN facilities and a lot of the employees were staggered as far as leaving the plant so not all at one time left. Some are engaged in attending school, new employment , or retirement.

- Future small layoffs at GKN will take place over several months.
- Total Hiring events held was 75 (includes Workforce Wednesdays), and employer events. The total attendees at these events was 840.
- Workforce Wednesday – at the last one, Walmart Distribution Center participated and had 14 attendees that were interested in employment.
- A few of the Hiring Events –
  - The Certainteed event on May 4, 2024 at the career center, eighty-six attended. Eighty-six attended and several attendees were hired.
  - The Wilford's Commissary Hiring Event at the Center had 146 attendees.
  - The Young Adult Hiring Event held at the Raleigh Road Outdoor Theater. Many high schools attended and Person County Schools won for best dressed and best prepared. Approximately one hundred and fifty individuals and 35 employers attended.
- Advance NC – began September 23, 2023 – a regional consortium driving workforce readiness. It is made up of community colleges, universities, and seven local workforce boards. This partnership seeks to prepare workers for the manufacturing companies in the region. Some of the companies that are included are VinFast, Wolfspeed, and Toyota.

#### **Director's Report – Lou Grillo**

- PY24 Local Area Plan Overview:
  - WIOA requires each local area to develop and submit a comprehensive four-year plan.
  - Kerr-Tar Local Area Plan (PY 24 – PY 28) submitted to NC Commerce DWS on May 1 and approved May 29, 2024. An annual plan modification is submitted annually.
- Local Area WDB Strategic Planning Goals:
  - Form a strong integrated workforce system
  - Further development of career pathways – making additions as things change
  - Improve access to activities leading to industry-recognized credentials
  - Partnering with education and employer partners
  - The goal for PY 24 is to reach out and serve underserved and disconnected populations (youth, dislocated workers, veterans, justice-involved, persons with disabilities, priority of service through partners)
- NCWorks Career Centers:
  - NCWorks Brand Awareness
  - Communication and Collaboration with Partners
  - Referrals from Partners
  - Weekly All Staff Meetings
  - Veteran Services
- Employer Services:
  - Creativity with Events
  - Supporting Economic Development
  - Coordination with Partners
  - EDC, Community Colleges, Chambers
  - K-12, Vocational Rehabilitation, DSS

The Kerr-Tar Local Area Plan is available at [www.kerrtar.org](http://www.kerrtar.org)

- The Local Reentry Council Grant
  - NC Commerce Division of Workforce Solutions (DWS) and NC Department of Corrections (DAC)
  - Three WDB Boards were selected (Eastern Carolina WDB, Kerr-Tar WDB, and Piedmont Triad Regional WDB)
  - Kerr-Tar was recommended existing reentry related work and was awarded \$250,000 on April 1<sup>st</sup>
  - The grant funding will help our local reentry council in supporting justice-involved people in making a successful transition to employment
- Governor's Justice Reentry Council

- January 29, 2024, Governor Cooper issued Executive Order No. 303 – establishes a Joint Reentry Council from various agencies focused on improving rehabilitation and reentry services for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals.
- Reentry services for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals includes:
  - Have a reentry council in every county
  - increase credential rates and increase post-secondary degrees
  - Medicaid for those that are eligible
  - increase number of second chance employers
  - increase career services
  - providing resources for obtaining a driver's license
  - providing resources for outstanding legal issues
- US DOL visit by Deputy Assistant Secretary Dr. Lenita Jacobs-Simmons
  - PROWD Program Success
  - Partner activities with Kittrell Job Corps

**Other Business:**

**Nominations for WDB Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary:**

Recommendation: Vanessa Cooke-Alvarado nominated by Jennifer Jones for WDB Chairperson.

- First motion – Jennifer Jones, second motion –Phillip Betts. Motion carried.

Recommendation: Yolanda Uvalle nominated by Jerry Edmonds for WDB Vice Chairperson.

- First motion- Jerry Edmonds, second motion – John Alston. Motion carried.

Recommendation: Gordon Agingu nominated Sara Lloyd for WDB Secretary. First motion – Phillip Betts, second motion – Barbara Buchanan. Motion carried.

\*\*There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Next Meeting for Kerr-Tar WDB/ Consortium will be Tuesday, September 10, 2024, 6:00 PM**

Respectfully Submitted by Kelly Hundley, Kerr-Tar Program Specialist