

KERR-TAR
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD/CONSORTIUM MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 3, 2022
Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments
6:00 P.M.

**Due to the COVID -19 pandemic, the meeting will be held virtually.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (WDB) MEMBERS: Hal Muetzel, Fred Keller, Tim Karan, Sara Lloyd, Dawn Michelle Tucker, Derrick Sims, Gordon Agingu, , Harry Mills, Leo Kelly, Kellie London, Michelle Burgess, Vanessa Alvarado, Yolanda Tharrington, Phillip Betts, John Alston

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

SERVICE PROVIDERS: Jamie Cunningham

DWS STAFF: Jennifer Jones

Welcome and Call to Order – Hal Muetzel

- Chairperson, Hal Muetzel welcomed board members and attendees to the meeting.
- Welcome of new board member, Yolanda Tharrington, HR Plant Administrator with Captive Aire.
- Roll Call by Kelly Hundley. Quorum was established.

NCWorks Career Center Operation Update:

There is current and post pandemic impacts on the workforce

- Impacts locally NC Division of Workforce Solutions (DWS)
 - Loss of DWS staff members due to budget cuts – early retirement
 - Historically low unemployment and because of that, reduction in WIOA funding and funding is expected to continue to be cut

RESET, REFRESH, REENGAGE:

Reset:

- a. Businesses are connected but tight labor market Virtual service capabilities are at an all time high and enrollments using smartphones and other devices to access career center services and this, in turn, cuts down on center traffic.
- b. Off-site events such as open air job fairs being held in all five counties and resource fairs
- c. Career Center totals for March, 2022: Oxford – 105 and Henderson – 171 is one example
- d. January, 2022 – 9 DWS staff in centers and in May, 2022 – 3 DWS staff in centers. The total number of staff at both centers is 10 including EDSI.
- e. Oxford CC – 9,339 square feet, \$14/square foot and cost - \$130,746 per year. Henderson CC – 2,492 square feet, \$10.50/square foot and cost - \$26,400 per year.
- f. Combination of both centers is 11,831 square feet at \$13.28/square foot and \$157, 146 per year.

Refresh:

- Unified career center - Bank of America building on Garnett Street for a stand alone career center.
 - 10,644 square feet (12/square foot and \$127,728 per year (savings of \$29,418 per year)
 - The large space will be able to handle many of our events (inside or outside and even simultaneously)

Reengage:

- A central career center
- Multiple access points in our neighboring counties (Warren – VGCC Warren Campus @ no cost, Person – @ B Deck @ no cost), Franklin and Granville counties – possibly at the county libraries)

- Community programs: Non-custodial Parent Program – great partnership
- Reentry Roundtable – at last meeting, Advisor for DPS recognized our local roundtable as a council will open doors for funding and other opportunities

*It is not mandated that the board make this decision but this was brought to the board to have their support in moving forward with the lease of the Bank of America Building for the central career center location on August 1, 2022.

- Landlord of both Henderson and Oxford will not be penalized and will work with us so that we can vacate by August 1, 2022.
- Diane - Oxford Career Center was being leased by DWS and the Henderson CC and the proposed new site for the center will be leased by the current Adult/DW service provider which is currently EDSI.
- A clause within the lease that if current service provider changes, that the lease would change to the current service provider.

Recommendation: For staff to obtain the support of the WDB in moving forward with the Bank of America building lease to house the career center (Henderson and Oxford centers).

- First motion by Phillip Betts and seconded by Leo Kelly.
- Roll Call by Kelly. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 6 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Hundley

Workforce Development Program Specialist