

Triangle South Workforce Development Board
Meeting Minutes
December 7th, 2016

Board Members Present:

Chairman Russell Hieb, Blake Arnett, Carolyn Blue, Amanda Bryan, Jim Burgin, Ronald Hewett, Deanna Jones, Robert Kain, John Lowery, Meg Moss, Vicki Newell, Eugene Pearsall, Jim Roberts, Angie Stewart, Donna Williams

Absent: Scott Daniel, Gary Mac Herring Jr., Alice Kendrick, Bruce Ledford, John Ruffin, Edward Timmons

Others in Attendance: Rosalind Cross, Tiffany Swenson, Mike Peluso, Dottie Cieciorca, Gordon Springle

Meeting called to order at 5:04 pm, quorum established.

Discussion of current financial expenditures: TSWDB Fiscal Coordinator Dottie Cieciorca gave a brief review of the financial reports. Chairman Hieb asked if IWDP contractor Pentair was spending their grant. Mike Peluso responded that there hasn't been any initiative to move forward with the grant on the part of Pentair even with support offered since the award of the grant. A motion was made by Jim Roberts to approve the financial report. It was seconded by Vicki Newell. The financial report was approved with no opposition.

Dunn and Lillington Career Center Updates: Director Rosalind Cross reported that the Dunn Workforce Center is scheduled to close on January 15th, 2017. Rosalind Cross and Michele Muir met with the mayor of Dunn to explain why the center is being closed. The rationale is based on the fact that \$6600 in rent was paid monthly for just two people in a low traffic facility. Dave Taylor will remain in Dunn in a space provided by Vocational Rehabilitation. Elaine Blackmon will relocate to Lillington, but will also be available to service Dunn Job Seekers several days per week, as service delivery is expected to remain the same.

Hurricane Matthew Relief: Director Rosalind Cross provided updates on the Hurricane Matthew relief effort. \$90,000 of our initial \$500,000 request has been received thus far. The state requested \$14.9 million, and the money is expected to be allotted in installments. Director Rosalind Cross stated that the biggest challenge in spending the allotted money is locating worksite agreements in our local area counties, as 49 counties were declared eligible for this relief fund. Our goal now is to place people from our local area in worksites in other affected areas.

TSWDB member Blake Arnett inquired about using Dislocated Worker Grant funds with local area businesses. Director Cross replied that the grant money is mandated at employing dislocated workers. Mike Peluso added that Business Services continually works to encourage prioritization of local area business in any area the board is associated with.

2017 Request for Proposal Schedule: Chairman Hieb stated that the board needs to begin the RFP process. He pointed out that there are two vacancies on the Program and Planning Committee, and that a new chair is needed for that committee to avoid any potential conflict of interest as he currently serves as the committee chair, and the board chair. Chairman Hieb and Director Rosalind Cross explained that the challenge for the proposals is that TSWDB manages a multi-county area with a fragmented system of contracts awarded on a per county basis. By splitting the total WIOA funds into four separate contracts the contracts become less desirable to potential contractors vs. a large award for the whole service area. This is why the board has traditionally had challenges driving interest with potential contractors.

Regional Operations Director, John Lowery, stated that he interfaces with five workforce boards, and that the TSWDB does a great job of planning ahead. Director Rosalind Cross informed the board members that the RFPs are reviewed by staff, and staff summarizes them to the board members who may feel intimidated by the commitment of reviewing the proposals in full. Chairman Hieb suggested page limitation and Director Rosalind Cross responded that there is a page limitation already in place, but she believes the RFPs can be tailored even further. Chairman Hieb said he will contact members outside of the board meeting to identify a candidate to take over as chair of the Program and Planning committee.

Nominating Slate of Officers: Director Rosalind Cross identified that the majority of the current slate of officers has offered to continue to serve in their current roles, leaving only the Lee County Vice Chair seat vacant. Meg Moss was nominated and offered to serve if she was able to continue her current roll as co-chair of the Communications Committee. A motion to name Ronald Hewett as chair of the Communications Committee was made by Bob Kain. It was seconded by Eugene Pearsall and passed unanimously.

Jim Roberts motioned that the following board members serve on the executive committee for 2017:

Russell Hieb (Harnett), Board Chair
Eugene Pearsall (Sampson), 1st Vice Chair
Deanna Jones (Chatham), 2nd Vice Chair
Meg Moss (Lee), 3rd Vice Chair

The motion was seconded by Vicki Newell and passed unanimously.

2017 Calendar Year Meeting Dates: Chairman Hieb presented the proposed meeting dates for 2017. Ronald Hewett motioned to approve the proposed meeting schedule, and Bob Kain seconded and the motion. It was approved with no opposition.

Committee Reports:

- **Program and Planning Committee** – Chairman Hieb reported that the committee did not meet but expected to meet in the early part of the new year according to the approved schedule.

- ***IWDP / Maximize Carolina Committee:*** Mike Peluso and Director Cross reported that the Director's Council has approved some of the requested changes to the new grant, and staff expects a formal announcement of the final grant after the holiday break.
- ***Career Center Certification:*** Director Cross reported that the Chatham County Career Center has been formally certified as an NCWorks Career Center. The Harnett County Career Center in Lillington is the only remaining center that requires certification and that center should be certified within the next few months.
- ***Communications Committee:*** Mike Peluso reported for the Communications Committee. He reported that the Work Based Learning updates were presented to board members at the board retreat, and that Business Outreach resources have been developed and will be distributed to Board members in early 2017. The NCWorks Commission WDB Goals were also discussed and will be sent to the board early next year. Meg Moss requested that outreach resources go out to board members in January with a feedback deadline of January 31st. The board was reminded that staff is available to travel with Board members as a Subject Matter Expert on TSWDB services. As the top priority of the committee is to leverage board contacts to increase business engagement, Ron Hewett requested that we set aside time next meeting to set benchmarks and to measure success of the board members.

Staff Updates: Director Rosalind Cross reported that Adena Mitchell completed her Mini MBA in Social Media through Rutgers Business School and Mike Peluso completed his career development facilitator training. She requested that everyone keep Ashley Voss and her family in their thoughts and prayers.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mike Peluso.