



PIEDMONT REGION

PIEDMONT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (PWDB) MEETING MINUTES

PWDB Quarterly Meeting Wednesday, September 9, 2020

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 555 677 5434

Meeting held virtually via Zoom due to a state of emergency called by the Governor.

VCW - PIEDMONT BOARD	PROGRAM YEAR 2020 (JULY 2020 – JUNE 2021)			
BOARD MEMBERS	ATTENDED			
QUARTERLY MEETINGS	Sep 2020	Dec - 2020	Mar - 2021	June - 2021
Private:				
Elizabeth (Liz) Walters, Chair	X			
Allyn Gutasuskas	X			
Annette Hyde	X			
Antwon Brinson	X			
Dave Kilgore	X			
Don Cantore				
Kenny Allison				
Laura Amdusky	X			
Linda Copeland	X			
Melanie Thigpen				
Peter MocarSKI	X			
Randy Soderquist				
Ray Knott				
Steven Ray	X			
Public:				
Don Shotwell	X			
Bo Bundrick	X			
Carol Coffey	X			
John Baldino	X			
Laura Duckworth	X			
Lorne Seay				
Bryan Rothamel				
Naomi Aitken	X			
Ravi Respeto	X			
Phyllis Savides	X			
Ridge Schuyler	X			
Jeanne Wesley	X			

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Board Chair Liz Walters called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. Determination and Announcement of Quorum

Board Chair noted that a quorum was present.

III. Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comment was received.

IV. Consent Agenda

a. June 10,2020, PWDB Meeting Minutes

Correction to last meeting's minutes – Liz Walters was not in attendance.

Peter Mocarski moved to approve minutes as presented; Naomi Aitken second. Motion carried unanimously

b. VEC-PWDB MOU (PPE)

- MOU has consistent language across the state so we did not have the opportunity to make any changes. The Council approved the MOU, which provides dollars for center reopening, particular to clean and sanitize.
- There was discussion about Consent Agenda vs. items for discussion. The Board decided that if there is concern regarding contracts being in the consent agenda, they can be pulled off and considered as separate line items. In general, the Board members would like have items listed separately instead bundled on a Consent Agenda.

c. Policy Updates and Amendments

- Per the findings in the state monitoring report, policies submitted in the meeting packet were updated with new language per the federal guidelines. Updated policies were submitted to the State Monitoring team for acceptance

d. Network2Work Collaboration

- NW2W would like to expand outreach to advanced manufacturers and IT companies and proposes to team up with VCW and CVPED to combine workforce efforts. This collaborative opportunity will provide VCW with additional funding to support the scope of work.

e. Board Appointments

- Board appointments were approved by the Council.
- New Board members included Jeanne Wesley of Germanna Community College replacing Valerie Palamountain due to retirement and Bryan Rothamel, Fluvanna County, as the new economic development representative.

Naomi Aitken motion to approve the Consent Agenda; Second by Don Shotwell.

Motion carried - one abstention.

V. Fiscal Agent Reports and Financials

a. Financial Report (Year End) – **Detailed report provided in meeting packet for review**

- Year End Financial Reports – Rahul Maitra provided funding at a glance for this year as well as reports for last year in comparison. Illustrated that there was more funding this year.
- Although the 40% training goal was not met, there will not be a penalty due to the pandemic.

b. Financial Report Revisions –

Now that carryover dollars are known, the revised FY 2021 budget is subject to approval.

- There was an addition to discretionary funds (\$20,000) for cleaning and sanitizing centers as well as replacing some computers for the centers as well.

- It was pointed out that ‘Funding at a Glance’ is much more helpful on a topline level. The detailed reports are available and distributed for those who prefer more detail.

Naomi Aitken motioned to approve both financials year end report and the revisions; Antwon Brinson second. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. VA. Employment Commission Update

a. VEC Report

- Chris Pope provided an update on the reopening strategy to focus at least one access point for the VEC in every region. Charlottesville is one of the few Centers in the State to offer face to face appointments.
- MOU regarding Wagner Peyser, which shifted some responsibilities from VEC to VCW-Piedmont, was a huge help in getting reopened and was an opportunity to engage workforce development boards.
- Agency focus is getting ahead of unemployment claims.
- Don Shotwell added that the Center offers in person meetings, resource room help, emails and phone calls. VEC wants to serve the public safely and fairly.

VII. Partner & Provider Presentations

a. Goodwill Updates – Detailed reports with specific statistics were provided in the meeting packet

- Mary Ann reported that performance numbers were significantly lower due to the pandemic.
- Note that pre-pandemic, Charlottesville had the most live hiring events in the state. Charlottesville was also the last center in the state to close due to COVID.
- Pre-pandemic, 38 individuals did receive credentials and had them recognized during the pandemic.
- One-Stop Updates – Report regarding numbers of job seekers seen as well as shared success stories from Goodwill staff were sent to the Board in their meeting packets. The information highlighted work in ensuring strong resources for unemployed in terms of fulfilling obligations (ie child support).
- Goodwill continued to help job seekers virtually when the centers couldn’t be opened.
- Tom Gillette (Charlottesville Center manager) continues to build partnerships with libraries.
- Ravi Respetto spoke to the openings with the local YMCA regarding childcare centers and Phyllis Savides also says Boys and Girls Clubs are looking as well. Sarah suggests Deborah Harms may be helpful in making connections.

VIII. COVID & Grant Updates (Detailed statistics and reporting was distributed in meeting packet)

- Sarah provided in her director report an update on new hires Stephanie McNamara – VCW-Piedmont Operations Manager starting in July and Deborah Harms VCW-Piedmont Workforce Transition Coordinator starting in August.
- GO Virginia Project Reconnect – Debbie Harms will be working through a GO Virginia grant to connect job seekers with companies that are hiring and appropriate agencies. Debbie has put in a lot of time in making our social media more prevalent as well as developing a YouTube channel for training purposes.
- Economic Equity Initiative – At the time of the meeting 18-20 clients have been co-enrolled in WIOA as well as EEI.
- Wagner Peyser – the WP workers in the One-Stop Centers are entering job seekers as they come in to be matched in the VAWC system. We have a phenomenal team – Jason Ford, Debbie Gannon and Rubina Catalano.
- Aversion Grant (Month to date) – launched in early March and served 56 companies and saved over 800 jobs. Final report due to state on October 15, 2020.
- Monthly newsletter will be put out to highlight community connections as well as offerings from

- partners.
- Our social media presence is more prevalent and part of a robust outreach plan (ie LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and our website.)
 - Committee Assignments – members will be assigned if they weren't able to respond. Meetings will be established initially to introduce individual committees and set goals as well as action steps.

IX. Other Announcements

- a. What's on the horizon for VCW Piedmont?
 - Looking to set up a workforce board orientation
 - Cultural competency training due to current climate and movements.
 - Develop local plan due after the first of the year – will most likely lean into committees regarding strategies on funding.
 - Serving in different localities (11) – looking on how to place staff most efficiently
- b. Dave Kilgore spoke up about the improvement in the team from this time last year – more productivity and activity. Liz Walters, Ravi Respeto, Antwon Brinson and more concur that there is more clarity as well as the energy flowing and it is 'a different board.'

X. Adjournment

With no other matters, the meeting was adjourned by Liz Walters at 4:30 PM.

***Next Quarterly Meeting December 16, 2020 @ 3:00 PM**