



WEST PIEDMONT REGION

**West Piedmont Workforce Development Board Meeting
Minutes
March 4, 2019**

Present: Adam Wright, Brian Wilson, Dick Ephgrave, Guy Stanley, Jim Daniel, Julie Brown, Mark Powers, Marsha Mendenhall, Monica Mosley, Rhonda Hodges, R J Weaver, Robin Ferguson, Shannon Hair, Sharon Barksdale, Teresa Fontaine, Tim Clark, Tom Davis, Tora Terry, Tory Shepherd

Guests Present: Natalie Hodge (Ross), Lucius Chandler (VEC)

Staff Present: Robert Bencini, Tyler Freeland, Robbin Hall, Robbie Knight, Lavinia Wingfield

Adam Wright, Chairman, called the meeting to order at RCATT in Danville, VA. Ms. R. Hodges called roll. Quorum was established with 19 in attendance. Mr. Bencini welcomed all guests.

Mr. Wright asked the Board members to review the minutes attached for December 17, 2018. Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Stanley seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Wright explained to the Board members that Finance Committee was unable to meet; therefore, Mr. Martin with Mallard and Mallard gave the financial report at the Executive Committee meeting on February 27, 2019. Mr. Wright explained that Ross is working to make some necessary adjustments and are projecting to finish on target. Promise Grant will finish on target. VFSN/WIF Grant will end June 30, 2019. WIB staff are looking for grants to apply for to find more programmatic funding. Mr. Davis made a motion to approve the financial report; Mr. Ephgrave seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. N. Hodge with Ross gave an update. Enrollment is on target at 72%. The new TANF grant will help to reach goals. IKEA did receive Trade Act. Youth will reach goal through Project Imagine enrollments. Ms. N. Hodge highlighted two success stories. She gave an update on training provider information with discrepancy between DCC and PHCC. Only six Danville/Pittsylvania County participants had training at PHCC because the program they chose was not on the eligible training provider list at DCC. Most popular trainings are healthcare occupational skills training such as CNA, CMA, and Phlebotomy. CNA has an 83% completion at Medical Solutions Academy, CMA has an 86% completion at PHCC and 100% at DCC, Phlebotomy has 100% completion at Medical Solutions Academy. Ms. Mendenhall asked what percentage found employment? Ms. N. Hodge replied that she would provide that answer later. Ms. Brown asked if there was a waiting list for these trainings? Ms. N. Hodge replied that they are working through solutions for dislocated workers and that Adult training solutions will be handled through co-enrollment. Ms. Mendenhall offered her employer, PATHs, a federally qualified healthcare center, as a source for healthcare solutions for participants and outreach for Medicaid expansion.

There was no old business.

Mr. Bencini presented a revision on the Work Experience Policy to include work experiences or internships to eligible Adults and Dislocated Workers for local training activities including our Rapid Response assistance program. Any customer receiving this service will receive a stipend comparable to \$10 per hour and will typically train for 360 hours. He explained that by adding Rapid Response to this policy, we would be able to use Rapid Response funding to provide these trainings to those who qualify. Mr. Clark made the motion to approve this revision; Ms. Brown seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Wright updated that the bylaw revision is in process and should be ready in May. He reported that the committee structure will change and that a Property Task Force will be setup to help with relocation of Martinsville One Stop. Mr. Stanley asked how the committee structure would change? Mr. Wright stated that it will be modeled after the Federal and State. Ms. Carter-Fontaine asked if there would be fewer committees? Mr. Wright responded that there would be fewer committees.

Mr. Bencini thanked all for their support as we move ahead. He informed that State Monitoring is scheduled for March 25-29. He is confident that participant files are in good order for our audit. He shared that West Piedmont Planning District Commission is finishing their annual review of economic development and transportation needs in our area. He explained that our focus is on grants and partnerships. We received the TANF grant with the City of Martinsville and are applying for five other grants. There is a focus on building relationships in the areas of re-entry, disability, and non-profit to learn how to leverage resources and partner to help clients.

Mr. Clark made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Ephgrave seconded; the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.