



**Think Progress. Think Tomorrow. Think GRADD.**

## **GREEN RIVER WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

November 4, 2020

M-I-N-U-T-E-S

The Green River Workforce Development Board (Board) held its regular meeting on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 12:30 p.m., via Zoom. It was determined both required quorums were present with the following members in attendance:

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Cecil  
Mickey Dunbar  
Rains Evans  
Kim Humphrey  
Tamara Clark  
Pam Cox

Lindsay Durbin  
Jeff Jones  
Jason Warren  
Mike Baker  
Jason Cole  
Jonathan Pendergrass  
Eddie Embry

### MEMBERS ABSENT

\*Bruce Eblen  
\*Dan Douglas  
Mike VanWinkle

\*Excused Absence

### GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Kris Subler, Thomas P. Miller and Associates  
Brittany Dougherty, Thomas P. Miller and Associates  
Lindsey Kafer, Owensboro Community and Technical College, Adult Education  
Matt Bartlett, Equus Workforce Solutions  
Deb Giordano, Equus Workforce Solutions  
Sara Dodeci, Equus Workforce Solutions  
Paula Snyder, Career Development Office

Whitney Risley, Henderson Economic Development  
Cindy Fiorella, Owensboro Community and Technical College  
Brittaney Johnson, GO EDC  
Jodi Rafferty, Green River Area Development District  
Jill Gray, Green River Area Development District  
Michelle Drake, Green River Area Development District  
Beth Ferguson, Green River Area Development District  
Charity DeHart, Green River Area Development District  
Paula Payne, Green River Area Development District

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Karen Cecil called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Pam Cox presented the minutes of the August 5, 2020 meeting of the Green River Workforce Development Board for approval.

A motion was made by Tamara Clark and seconded by Kim Humphrey to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2020 Green River Workforce Development Board meeting. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Rains Evans presented the fiscal year 2021 quarterly financial report. There were no questions or concerns.

A motion was made by Mickey Dunbar and seconded by Tamara Clark to approve the fiscal year 2021 quarterly financial report. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

IV. STRATEGIC PLANNING/THOMAS P. MILLER AND ASSOCIATES

Mr. Kris Subler from Thomas P. Miller and Associates (TPMA) introduced Ms. Brittany Dougherty to present a draft of the Strategic Plan. Ms. Dougherty thanked the Board and Jodi Rafferty, along with her team, for being allowed the opportunity to work together. The Strategic Plan goals and strategies, as determined during the September strategic planning retreat, were presented through a PowerPoint Presentation. The Board was asked to share thoughts or suggestions. Mr. Dunbar stated there is not a K-12 representative on the Board and further it should be a priority in resolving that weakness. Ms. Cox stated she and Jill Gray had tried, through the Youth Committee, to add representation from K-12 and were unsuccessful. Ms. Dougherty commented several superintendents and assistant superintendents attended the input sessions. Ms. Cox suggested contacting superintendents to request their suggestions for a K-12 representative. Mike Baker stated he had advocated to include broadband as a priority of the

Strategic Plan. Ms. Dougherty stated the TPMA representatives often heard during their sessions about the need to improve broadband, as well as affordable housing, childcare affordability and quality, and transportation. She stated although the Board would work with groups in the community to improve such broad issues, it may not be a specific goal of the Board. With the recent COVID-19 pandemic, it has become more important than ever for parents working from home, along with students attending school from home, to have reliable wi-fi access. It was added the Board would be remiss if a statement is not included to address this issue in the Strategic Plan. It was decided to add a narrative to the Strategic Plan emphasizing the role of the Board advocating improved broadband services.

Ms. Dougherty expressed the Strategic Plan should be specific to what the Board wants to emphasize their efforts toward. Ms. Rafferty stated she and her team will have follow up conversations with TPMA regarding the action plans and then present to the Board for final approval.

A motion was made by Ms. Humphrey to approve  
The Strategic Plan and seconded by Ms. Cox.  
A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

#### V. RESCARE WORKFORCE SERVICES QUARTERLY REVIEW

Chairperson Karen Cecil offered the floor to Matt Bartlett to present the ResCare report. Mr. Bartlett requested to combine this agenda item with the Kentucky Career Center update and Chairperson Cecil approved. Mr. Bartlett reported the Kentucky Career Center remains closed to the public, but much work is being done virtually. He updated current enrollment data and shared new participants continue to be enrolled. An update on the National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG) was shared including humanitarian aid data involving dislocated workers put to work at a temporary job while still being eligible to draw unemployment insurance. Mr. Bartlett shared that a Talent Engagement Specialist is on staff and 42 people have been placed in employment over the last quarter with her assistance. All deliverables were met or exceeded for Quarter 2 of 2020. Rescare has rolled out “LinkedIn Learning,” an on-line service providing training courses that can be taken for free.

Ms. Rafferty reported the ResCare name has been changed to Equus Workforce Solutions (EWS). She shared Mr. Bartlett worked closely with Owensboro Community & Technical College and Henderson Community College to provide short-term training programs with a NDWG grant. Additionally, she reported other local workforce areas have found difficulty placing people in temporary work, while Mr. Bartlett and his staff have excelled in this area.

#### VI. KENTUCKY CAREER CENTER PARTNER UPDATES

Paula Snyder provided the quarterly report for Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments. The move is toward providing employment services rather than focusing on unemployment. Kentucky Unemployment statistics for those actively seeking employment and working part-time, but seeking full-time work, were shared. Additionally, she reported two virtual sessions were held following approval of the Dal-Tile trade petition with only four participants attending. Efforts continue to encourage former Dal-Tile employees to take advantage of services.

Jason Cole shared Office of Vocational Rehabilitation data for Quarter 2 of 2020 as well as year-to-date statistics. Mr. Cole expressed they are 20% behind their goal year-to-date, which is to be expected with the COVID-19 pandemic.

## VII. WORKFORCE UPDATES

Chairperson Cecil called on Ms. Rafferty to provide a Workforce Development update. Ms. Rafferty shared Century Aluminum, with the assistance of Kentucky Career Center (KCC), recently held a job fair at the Owensboro Convention Center. Interviews were by appointment and the turnout was very good. She expressed other companies may also benefit from similar services. Ms. Rafferty gave details of a Delta Regional Authority (DRA) grant application that was submitted by Board Staff. Award notifications will be made in November, and the outcome will be shared when available.

Ms. Rafferty expressed appreciation to Deb Giordano and Sara Dodeci from EWS for joining the meeting today. She reiterated Mr. Bartlett and his team continue to do a fantastic job. Regarding KCC reopening, she stated a request has been received from the Labor Cabinet for a reopening proposal to be submitted and that is in process. A meeting was held with a representative from state facilities/maintenance to determine all necessary accommodations to safely reopen. At this point, Career Development Office and Office of Unemployment Insurance do not have plans to return to KCC due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Rafferty announced the next meeting will be held on February 3, 2021, with the Strategic Plan being an agenda item.

## ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

/pep

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Chairperson