



GREEN RIVER WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

February 3, 2021

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

The Green River Workforce Development Board (Board) held its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 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
Eddie Embry
Jason Cole
Jonathan Pendergrass

MEMBERS ABSENT

Bruce Eblen
*Dan Douglas
*Mike Baker
Mike VanWinkle

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Judge/Executive Al Mattingly, Jr., Daviess County
Amanda Blohm-Thompson, Henderson Community College
Cindy Fiorella, Owensboro Community and Technical College
Matt Bartlett, Equus Workforce Solutions
Paula Snyder, Career Development Office
Rachel Snyder, Tyson Foods

Samantha Reynolds, Henderson Community College
Whitney Risley, Henderson Economic Development
Beth Ferguson, GRADD
Charity DeHart, GRADD
Jill Gray, GRADD
Jodi Rafferty, GRADD
Mariah Myres, GRADD
Michelle Drake, GRADD
Paula Payne, GRADD

*Excused Absence

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Karen Cecil called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Jodi Rafferty introduced Camron Knott. Mr. Knott will be serving as a business representative and invited him to share a little about himself. Mr. Knott shared he owns two Camron's Foodliners in McLean County and employs approximately 20 people. He is interested in the local workforce and looks forward to serving on the Board.

II. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes of the November 4, 2020, Green River Workforce Development Board meeting were presented for approval.

A motion was made by Mickey Dunbar and seconded by Kim Humphrey to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2020 meeting of the Green River Workforce Development Board.
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 Pam Cox and seconded by Tamara Clark to approve the fiscal year 2021 quarterly financial report. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

IV. EQUUS WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS QUARTERLY REVIEW

Chairperson Karen Cecil offered the floor to Matt Bartlett to present the quarterly Equus Workforce Solutions report (October 2020 – December 2020). Mr. Bartlett requested to combine this agenda item with the Kentucky Career Center (KCC) update and Chairperson Cecil approved. Mr. Bartlett reported business continues despite the pandemic. Current enrollment data was shared and he stated new participants continue to be enrolled in all Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act areas.

An update on the National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG) was shared, which included humanitarian aid data involving dislocated workers, who have been put to work at a temporary job while still being eligible to draw unemployment insurance. Mr. Bartlett shared the Talent Engagement Specialist on staff assisted 36 additional people in obtaining jobs over the last quarter, and she has gained a statewide reputation for quality service. All Equus deliverables were met or exceeded for Quarter Three of 2020.

Mr. Bartlett was thanked for a good report and asked if he is aware of a re-open date for Kentucky Career Center. He stated a list of supplies needed to reopen was provided at the State's request, and he understands there is a preliminary plan to reopen but he has not been made aware of a reopen plan/date.

V. KENTUCKY CAREER CENTER PARTNER UPDATES

Paula Snyder provided the quarterly report for Re-employment Services and Eligibility Assessments. She expressed there are still hurdles due to COVID-19 and customers remain appreciative of the assistance with unemployment claims and job placement. In particular, she mentioned one customer who was able to receive back pay and save her home with their assistance. She stated additional Wagner-Peyser staff has been hired to focus on re-employment including assisting clients with resumes, interview skills, etc. Interviews are being held this week for a Disabled American Veterans Program Representative who will provide intensive services for veterans with barriers and will also reach out to potential employers. Ms. Snyder also shared there is approval for hiring three additional Unemployment Insurance staff representatives. Unemployment data by county was shared along with the Kentucky Labor Force Update which focuses on how Kentucky's unemployment rate is the lowest in the nation. Tamara Clark added it is exciting to hear of the additional positions to help process unemployment claims as she continues to field concerns from employees regarding their inability to successfully file and receive unemployment funds. Ms. Snyder requested Ms. Clark provide her with a list of names and offered her assistance. Judge Mattingly expressed he also continues to receive calls regarding unprocessed or unpaid claims. Jonathan Pendergrass reported some claims, dating back as far as March and April 2020, need additional information, and staff can assist with those corrections. There are reports of "failed identities" on claims and letters are being issued to help prevent fraud. Ms. Rafferty attested to fraudulent claims, as she recently received notification an attempt had been made to file a claim using her personal information.

Jason Cole shared Office of Vocational Rehabilitation data for Quarter Three 2020, as well as year-to-date statistics. Mr. Cole expressed many clients with disabilities want to go to work. In Quarter Three 2020, 47 applications were received from clients with disabilities, and 43 of those were accepted. Twenty-two of the 43 have been placed in employment. Despite the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, 150 clients were able to be placed.

VI. STRATEGIC PLAN

Chairperson Cecil opened discussion of the Strategic Plan. It was decided a committee will be appointed for each of the Strategic Plan goals with an Executive Committee member serving as chairperson. Board members were requested to review the goals and then to notify Jodi Rafferty which goal/committee they wish to serve. Matt Bartlett was requested to have a "point person" for each committee. Committee updates are expected to be given at each Board

meeting. As requested, Matt Bartlett agreed to have a “point person” for each committee.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Jodi Rafferty reported she will share information during months between quarterly meetings. She requested Board members contact her about any items for which they would like information. She also plans to reach out to each Board member for a brief and informal one-on-one discussion.

The first apprentice has been hired by the City of Sacramento for the H₂O (Hire To Operate) Project, and it is going well for both the utility and the apprentice. Ms. Rafferty had a call with Kentucky Rural Water Association earlier today, and there is potential for an additional three apprentices. In cases where appropriate, Matt Bartlett will enroll apprentices for wraparound WIOA services.

Ms. Rafferty reminded the Board she and her staff are here to serve and asked for any constructive criticism regarding ways can better support the Board.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

/pep

Karen Cecil

Chairperson