



Think Progress. Think Tomorrow. Think GRADD.

GREEN RIVER WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

August 4, 2021

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

The Green River Workforce Development Board (Board) held its regular meeting on Wednesday, August 4, 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
Anna Larson

Dan Douglas
Mike VanWinkle
Jason Warren
Amanda Curry
Jason Cole
Jonathan Pendergrass

MEMBERS ABSENT

Bruce Eblen
Camron Knott
Lindsay Durbin

Eddie Embry
Mike Baker

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Congressman Brett Guthrie, Kentucky Second District
Judge/Executive Al Mattingly, Jr., Daviess County
Amanda Blohm-Thompson, Henderson Community College
Brittany Hippler
Brittany Johnson, Greater Owensboro Economic Development

Green River Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes
August 4, 2021 - Page 2

Chanda Prater, Kentucky Wesleyan College
Cindy Fiorella, Owensboro Community and Technical College
Elizabeth Griffith, Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corporation
Jennifer Carman, Kentucky Career Center
Lindsay Kafer, Kentucky Community and Technical College System
Mary Steely, Murray State University
Matt Bartlett, Equus Workforce Solutions
Melissa Coker, Union County First
Michael Johnson, Board Member, Owensboro Public Schools
Missy Vanderpool, Henderson County Economic Development
Naomi Sutton, Kentucky Cabinet for Education and Workforce Development
Paula Snyder, Career Development Office
Sara Dodeci, Equus Workforce Solutions
Representative Suzanne Miles, Kentucky Seventh District
Whitney Risley, Henderson Economic Development
Beth Ferguson, Accounting Clerk, GRADD
Joanna Shake, Executive Director, GRADD
Jodi Rafferty, Director for Workforce Development, GRADD
Jill Gray, Workforce Development Administrator, GRADD
Michelle Drake, Employer Liaison, GRADD
Paula Payne, Program Assistant, Workforce Development, GRADD

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Karen Cecil called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone. She requested a vote to approve Jennifer Carman as proxy for Jonathon Pendergrass.

A motion was made by Mickey Dunbar and seconded by Tamara Clark to approve Jennifer Carman serving as proxy for Jonathon Pendergrass at the meeting.
A vote was taken and the motion carried.

II. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes of the May 5, 2021, Green River Workforce Development Board meeting were presented for acceptance.

A motion was made by Pam Cox and seconded by Amanda Curry to accept the minutes of the May 5, 2021, 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 2022 Budget noting the revisions sent via email today. Jodi Rafferty explained revisions were made based on notification she received that \$105,000 will be recaptured by the State.

Additionally, Ms. Rafferty stated that she has requested the formula used in determining allocations and is awaiting a response. There were no further questions or concerns.

A motion was made by Mickey Dunbar and seconded by Pam Cox to accept the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

IV. GUEST SPEAKER

Chairperson Cecil gave a brief introduction for Congressman Brett Guthrie. Congressman Guthrie thanked the Board and guests for allowing him to join the meeting. He shared the Education and Labor Committee is a bi-partisan effort focused on getting people back to work. He stated the hope is to increase apprenticeship opportunities for people to have a career, not a job. The Committee is actively seeking the right pathways to get people enrolled, and they recognize the challenges in finding workers with skills. Congressman Guthrie explained the Payroll Protection Program was developed to assist businesses in keeping employees on the payroll during the pandemic, not to encourage long-term unemployment. The eviction moratorium expired July 31, 2021, although many thought it would be extended. Congressman Guthrie feels the majority of Congress believes it is time to pull emergency spending back. More information will be known by September.

V. EQUUS WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS QUARTERLY REVIEW

Chairperson Cecil shared Equus Workforce Solutions achieved all set deliverables for the quarter ending June 30, 2021 (report attached), and offered the floor to Matt Bartlett. Mr. Bartlett requested to combine this agenda item with the Kentucky Career Center (KCC) update, and Chairperson Cecil approved. Mr. Bartlett reported that Tuesday hiring events at KCC continue. Additionally, a "Close the Gap" Job Fair was held in conjunction with Goodwill. Plans to return to KCC local access points may be delayed due to the uptick in COVID cases in some GRADD counties.

Jennifer Carman, proxy for Jonathan Pendergrass, reported appointments for the KCC office are still being scheduled and are running two weeks out. There are sixty (60) appointment slots daily and additional staff will be hired to offer more appointments. She stated security staff greets walk-up visitors and explains the process of scheduling an appointment through the website, kcc.ky.gov. Clients are encouraged to sign onto the website at 9:00 a.m. as that is when new appointment times are added. Rapid Response was offered for Chick-Fil-A employees as they have temporarily closed for construction. Assistance has been given for registering and filing unemployment claims.

VI. KENTUCKY CAREER CENTER PARTNER UPDATES

Jason Cole shared Office of Vocational Rehabilitation data for Quarter Two 2021, as well as year-to-date statistics (attached). Mr. Cole reported that they are seeing an increased number of clients come to the office.

VII. STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEES

Chairperson Cecil asked Kim Humphrey to report on the Employer Outreach and Recruitment Committee. Ms. Humphrey stated discussion has focused on the most effective ways for employers to reach job seekers. The Committee visited Hancock County recently with representation from eight companies. The goal is to provide this service at each county. Additionally, the Committee obtained bids for a video to be produced and shared on social media. The cost would be approximately \$3,000. Discussion ensued regarding ways to pay for the video. The Board was requested to consider funding the outreach video but other resources will also be considered.

Chairperson Cecil asked Pam Cox to report on the Employee Outreach and Recruitment Committee. Ms. Cox shared the committee has reviewed the Strategic Plan and looked at services that Equus currently provides targeting youth, underemployed, and hard-to-serve populations. The Committee hopes to re-engage resource staff at high schools and to use social media platforms to increase awareness of services available. Ms. Cox also stated that possibly a YouTube video could be created and virtual tours could be given of KCC.

VIII. WORKFORCE UPDATES

The following updates were given:

- The Workforce Development Board has been certified for another two years by the Department of Workforce Investment.
- Jodi Rafferty and Kim Humphrey hosted a meeting with other local Kentucky Workforce Innovation Members. The main focus of the meeting was procurement of local grant sub-recipients.
- Jeff Jones has submitted his resignation to the Board.
- A nominating committee will be appointed as elections will be due at the November meeting. Board members will be contacted if their term is expiring.

IX. GUEST

Michael Johnson, Board Member, Owensboro Public Schools, thanked the Board for allowing him to share his concerns about the lack of opportunity for inner city youth. He stated part of the issue is young people being unable to secure early work experience. Mr. Johnson sees a great need to develop programs for youth to deter dropouts and drug abuse, especially in ages fourteen (14) to seventeen (17). According to Mr. Johnson, there are 700 youth in the Daviess County Judicial System for behavior issues. He wondered if there is some way to partner and bring a summer youth employment program to the area. Jason Cole (Vocational Rehabilitation) and Dan Douglas (Junior Achievement) expressed their support of pursuing a youth program.

Green River Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes
August 4, 2021 - Page 5

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

/pep


Chairperson

