



Think Progress. Think Tomorrow. Think GRADD.

GREEN RIVER WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

August 3, 2022

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

The Green River Workforce Development Board (Board) held its regular meeting on Wednesday, August 3, 2022, at 12:30 p.m., at the GRADD office. It was determined both required quorums were met with the following members in attendance:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mickey Dunbar	Jason Warren
Kim Humphrey	Isaac Murphy
Pam Cox	Eddie Embry
Marybeth Henshaw	Kenneth Calloway
Rains Evans	Jason Cole
Dan Douglas	Mike Baker
Jonathan Pendergrass (Represented by Paula Snyder)	

MEMBERS ABSENT

*Camron Knott

*Excused

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Bart Darrell, Vice-President of Owensboro Health
Chancellor of the Commonwealth West Healthcare Innovation Center
Honorable Al Mattingly, Daviess County Judge/Executive
Honorable David Johnston, Ohio County Judge/Executive
Lindsey Kafer, Owensboro Community and Technical College
Melissa Coker, Union County First
Matt Bartlett, Equus Workforce Solutions

Paula Snyder, Career Development Office
Beth Ferguson, Accounting Clerk, GRADD
Mariah Myres, Director, Finance, GRADD
Jacob McAndrews, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Jodi Rafferty, Director for Workforce Development, GRADD
Michelle Drake, Employer Liaison, Workforce Development, GRADD
Paula Payne, Program Assistant, Workforce Development, GRADD
Jessie Howard, Public Administration Specialist/Special Projects Coordinator
Jill Gray, Workforce Development Administrator, GRADD
Samantha Reynolds, HCC Workforce Solutions
Amanda Blohm-Thompson, HCC Workforce Solutions

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mickey Dunbar called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Chairman Dunbar stated Jonathan Pendergrass has requested Paula Snyder be present as his proxy.

A motion was made by Kim Humphrey and seconded by Eddie Embry to recognize Paula Snyder as proxy in the absence of Jonathan Pendergrass. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

II. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Pam Cox presented the minutes of the May 4, 2022, Green River Workforce Development Board meeting.

A motion was made by Kim Humphrey and seconded by Rains Evans to accept the minutes of the May 4, 2022, meeting of the Green River Workforce Development Board. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

Jodi Rafferty shared that in the process of closing the fiscal year, a reimbursement request was made to draw down funds. There has been a delay by the state due to merging the Labor Cabinet and the Workforce Development Cabinet as well as closing the biennial budget. June financials cannot be finalized until the requested funds are received. The youth allocation of \$253,000 has been received. Additional budget information will be shared at the November meeting.

IV. GUEST SPEAKERS:

Chairman Mickey Dunbar introduced Mr. Bart Darrell as the guest speaker. Mr. Darrell spoke about the Commonwealth West Healthcare Innovation Center. He shared that the new Center is not only about Owensboro Health but about strengthening the region, training the workforce, and keeping workers in the area. He discussed the importance of secondary schools aligning their curriculum to start career paths earlier in education and how it strengthens the workforce.

Chairman Dunbar introduced Jessie Howard, GRADD Public Administration Specialist/Special Projects Coordinator. Ms. Howard shared she is working on the GRADD Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, a plan which is required by the Economic Development Administration, in order for our cities and counties to receive funding. Ms. Howard asked for feedback regarding strengths and weaknesses, specifically in the workforce, or comments about the economic situation in general. Items mentioned included the need to work with those with disabilities, being cognizant as needs change, workforce participation, and bringing incarcerated clients and those with substance abuse history back into the workforce. Additionally, Judge Johnston, Ohio County, shared a re-entry program started with ARPA funds that assists incarcerated individuals prepare to rejoin the workforce.

V. EQUUS WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS QUARTERLY REVIEW

Chairman Dunbar introduced Matthew Bartlett to present the report for quarterly deliverables. Mr. Bartlett started by saying that all enrollment forms have been placed on their website which has made it much easier enrolling clients in programs. He shared that social media posts are made to try to reach both employers and job seekers. Mr. Bartlett also pointed out that their Outreach Plan was included in the meeting packet. He gave details of a Job Fair held at the Ohio County Library that was extremely well attended. He also showed pictures and gave details of other job fairs. Mr. Bartlett additionally gave details of several success stories also included in the meeting packet. Recent survey results revealed a 99% satisfaction rating.

VIII. KENTUCKY CAREER CENTER PARTNER UPDATES

Jason Cole shared Office of Vocational Rehabilitation data for Quarter 2, 2022, as well as year-to-date statistics. Mr. Cole reported the number of client referrals is up significantly since this time last year.

Paula Snyder shared Career Development Office updates. She stated that Kentuckians affected by the disaster in the Eastern part of the state are eligible for Disaster Related Unemployment as of July 26, 2022. Updated information can be found on the kcc.ky.gov website. She shared staff is still seeing and resolving unemployment issues from 2020 but the gap is closing for clients outside the area and most clients being assisted are local. Unemployment statistics were shared and Ms. Snyder reminded that an appointment is not necessary and walk ins are welcome. Additionally, staff continues to be involved in state-wide assistance with adjudications.

IX. WORKFORCE UPDATES

Jodi Rafferty shared the following updates:

- Recertification has been received from Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board for the Kentucky Career Center.
- Currently working on performance negotiations.
- Compliance monitoring which began in May has been completed with no programmatic or financial findings.
- Rapid Response meetings have been held to aid Century Aluminum staff in preparation of idling the Hawesville location for nine to twelve months.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Mickey Dunbar, on behalf of the Board, presented Ms. Jodi Rafferty with a gift of appreciation to acknowledge her upcoming retirement.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

/pep


Chairperson