

**KERR-TAR**  
**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD/CONSORTIUM MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, December 10, 2024**  
**Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments, Henderson, NC**  
**6:00 PM**

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (WDB) MEMBERS:** Vanessa Cooke-Alvarado, Hal Muetzel, Leo Kelly, Jr., Gordon Agingu, Jennifer Jones, Yolanda Uvalle, Sara Lloyd, Rob Williford, Derrick Sims, Ryan Randall, Jerry Edmonds, Derrick Sims, Dr. Barbara Buchanan, Phillip Betts (by phone).

**COG/LA STAFF:** Lou Grillo, Diane Cox, Kelly Hundley, Deborah Cozart, and Sharon Thomas

**DWS:** Michelle Muir

**Providers:** Helen Bradby, EDSI

**Welcome/Call to Order – Vanessa Alvarado**

Chairperson Vanessa Cooke-Alvarado welcomed members and guests to meeting. Ryan Randall with Maria Parham Hospital was introduced and welcomed as a WDB member.

**Approval of Consent Agenda – Vanessa Alvarado**

- Motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda (9/17/24).
- Minutes and Finance Report – (YTD through June 2024). Motion carried.

**Program Updates – Helen Bradby (EDSI)**

Helen Bradby, Adult, Dislocated Worker, and NextGen (Youth) Program Operations Manager, reported on the WIOA Programs:

- Since July, 2024, EDSI has enrolled 54 into the WIOA Program. (Adult – 25, 16, DW – 16, and 13- Youth)
- There are 35 participants in various trainings. (27 – Career related training, 7 – WEXs, and 1 OJT).
- So far, 19 participants have attained credentials.
- Seven single employer events held at center. Some of the larger employer events were Certainteed, Central Regional Hospital, and Burlington Coat Factory. Burlington Coat Factory had 124 customers that came in for job interviews.
- Workforce Wednesdays are held at the center every Wednesday at 10:00 AM and include:
  - ☐ WIOA Orientation for those customers to learn more about the WIOA Program
  - ☐ Workshop on Resumes/Ace the Interviews
  - ☐ Virtual Reality Sessions – Career Exploration
- In October, 2024, two EDSI Career Center staff members went to the Piedmont Community College Manufacturing Day. There were 70 high school students (11 and 12 grade) in attendance. The students participated in the Virtual Reality Simulator.
- In November, 2024, EDSI Career Center staff attended Career Day at Warren County Middle School and at the booth, provided brochures to students and answered questions about the WIOA Program.
- Two Adult success stories to share – two participants completed training through Dental U for Dental Assistant. They successfully completed the program and with the help of the Business Services Representative, they are actively seeking employment.
- Youth success story – Youth participant successfully completed a WEX at Sugar and Spice Preschool. The very next day after completion of the WEX, she was employed full-time as a Child Care Assistant at Sugar and Spice Preschool.
- At the Roxboro Housing Authority a Fall Festival event was held for the public and Career Center staff provided attendees with resource materials about the WIOA Program.

- On December 11 from 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM, a Holiday Business Social was held at the Career Center. The event was available for the five counties served. Staff shared information about Work Based Learning programs and services that are offered.

#### **Director's Report – Lou Grillo:**

- PY24 Planning and Procurement:
  - Adult Program (EDSI)- \$400,000
  - Dislocated Worker Program (EDSI) - \$200,000
  - Youth (EDSI) - \$300,000
  - Youth Services (VGCC, In School - \$50,000 - (6 month contract – 7/1/24 – 12/31/24))

VGCC decided to end its program on 12/31/24 and EDSI will be taking over the VGCC youth program. EDSI will have an additional \$50,000 to cover WIOA services for In –School and Out-of-School youth.

#### **Reauthorization of WIOA:**

- WIOA – signed into law by President Obama, is currently up for reauthorization. New name would be “A Stronger Workforce for America” (ASWA)
- WIA – signed into law in 1998 by President Clinton
- ASWA – “A Stronger Workforce for America Act” - current proposal for reauthorization and extend funding five more years.

#### **P.R.O.W.D. Update:**

DOJ and DOL Collaborative Initiative serving individuals in Butner Federal Correction Complex.

- Initiative time period is October, 2022 – March, 2026
- 144 participants in training
  - 110 participants – Measureable Skills Gained
  - 57 participants – earned credentials
  - New programs coming through partnership with VGCC - CDL (complete class portion in facility and complete driving portion when released), Entrepreneurship, Mechatronics
- Potential for a 4 year Phase 3 Extension
  - Funding has not been established yet, but it seems very likely an extension will happen.

#### **Reentry activities:**

- Driver's License Restoration Clinic held on Monday, December 19 at the Career Center – Justice Serve NC from Durham provided clinic. There were 8 participants in attendance.

Local Reentry Council Grant:

- NC Commerce Division of Workforce Solutions (DWS) and NC Department of Adult Correction (DAC)
- April 1<sup>st</sup> awarded \$250,000
- Support justice involved individuals to make a successful transition to employment
- Support Governor Roy Cooper's Executive Order 303

#### **Other activities:**

- Final interviews happening for the Business Services Manager position will be filled by January, 2025.
- Received a WARN notice for Keeco:
  - Over 140 people will be affected
  - Staff met with them and a hiring event will be held at the Career Center.

**Next Meeting for Kerr-Tar WDB/ Consortium will be Tuesday, March 11, 2025**

Respectfully Submitted by: Kelly Hundley, Program Specialist