

**KERR-TAR**  
**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD/CONSORTIUM MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, March 11, 2025**  
**Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments, Henderson, NC**  
**6:00 PM**

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (WDB) MEMBERS:** Vanessa Cooke-Alvarado, Hal Muetzel, Jennifer Jones, Rob Wiliford, Joshua Carver, Laura Holden, John Alston, Barbara Buchanan, Charla Duncan (by phone), Derrick Sims (by phone), Phillip Betts (by phone).

**COG/LA STAFF:** Lou Grillo, Diane Cox (by phone) , Donna Lee, Kelly Hundley, Deborah Cozart, Sharon Thomas, Matris Robinson

**DWS:** Eric Haddock (State Re-entry Coordinator)

**Providers:** Helen Bradby, EDSI

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

Chairperson Vanessa Cooke-Alvarado welcomed members and guests to meeting. Joshua Carver with Food Lion in Person County was introduced and welcomed as a WDB member.

**Approval of Consent Agenda – Vanessa Alvarado**

- Motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda (12/10/24).
- Minutes and Finance Report – (YTD through February, 2025). Motion carried.

**Guest Speaker – Eric Haddock:**

Eric Haddock, the State Re-entry Coordinator with the NC Department of Commerce DWS was guest speaker. Eric provided an overview of the Reentry Program and how the career centers provide services to the reentry population. At each career center there is a Reentry Coordinator on site to assist reentry customers that are transitioning out of correction facilities by providing case management services, connecting them with resources, and promoting their successful reintegration into the community. The Reentry Coordinator for our area is Matris Robinson. In addition to the services the career centers offer to all customers, the Reentry Coordinator provides one on one counseling and an individualized plan that is relevant to the needs of reentry customers.

**Program Updates – Sharon Thomas, Re-entry Program:**

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

- Enrollments: Goal is **375** and YTD Total is **201**.
- Recidivism is less than **36%** (12 months from prison release) : The goal is less than **50** and the YTD Total is **0**.
- Earned Credentials are **89**. (Some have received Forklift license and Safe Serve license).
- Job Readiness Training is **180**.
- Measurable Skills Gain is at **138**.
- CDL classes began in the Butner Camp Facility (10 participants started last week). Hybrid classes will begin in the Butner Medical Facility. A driver course is set up within the facility. Lower security individuals will be able to drive on the highway outside of the facility.

**Reentry Update:**

- The Kerr-Tar Reentry Council (serves all five counties) is led by Matris Robinson.
- Matris has a caseload of seven participants and is assisting them with supportive services, referrals to services, and any other services they may need.
- Expungement Clinic – held at Oxford Housing Authority and the Henderson Career Center. Ten participants were present and all ten are eligible for criminal record expungement.
- Reentry Simulation - Thursday, April 17, 2025 at the Henderson Career Center.
- A Driver's License Restoration session was held on December 9, 2024 and facilitated by Diana Powell with Justice Serve NC. There are five individuals that have started this process. More sessions are planned.

## **WIOA Adult, Youth, & Dislocated Worker Programs – Helen Bradby:**

### **WIOA Enrollments:**

- Adults – **28**, Dislocated Workers (DW) – **19**, and Youth – **25**. The Adult and Youth numbers have increased.
- Currently, WIOA is in its third quarter of the program year.
- The majority of the Adult and DW are from Vance, Franklin, and Granville counties.
- The majority of the Youth are from Vance, Person, and Warren counties.

### **Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) and Occupational Skills Training (OST):**

- **18** Adult have either entered short term training or completed training.
- **8** DW have either entered short term training or completed training.
- **8** Youth have either entered short term training or completed training.
- CDL, Phlebotomy, Medical Assisting, Dental Assisting 1, and Heavy Equipment Operator are the short term trainings.

### **WIOA Customers Hired:**

So far, there are **44** WIOA participants that have exited to employment.

- **12** – CDL
- **2** – Customer Service
- **8** – Healthcare Industry
- **3** – Dental Hygienist
- **1** - Advance Manufacturing
- **3** - Retail Industry
- **5** – Other (Preschool teacher, Peer Support Specialist)

### **Work Based Learning - Work Experience (WEX) and On-the-Job Training (OJT):**

- **6** A/DW completed WEX assignments.
- **1** youth completed WEX assignment.
- **2** youth currently on WEX assignments.

**NextGen Tuesdays** – Job Club that meets once a month at the career center from 3 pm – 5 pm. The first meeting was held last month.

- Meetings consist of the NextGen Program eligibility requirements and activities offered, resume writing, mock interviewing, and other job readiness skills. There is also an opportunity to participate in the Virtual Reality Room. Mentoring and also discussions shared with former WIOA participants about the NextGen program, a

### **Upcoming Events for Youth:**

- Young Adult Hiring Event – April 29, 2025 at the Raleigh Road Outdoor Theater. All high schools within the local area will be in attendance. Youth can meet with local employers that are hiring for either full time, after their completion of high school or some hire for summer employment.
- There are opportunities coming up for youth with an On-the-Job Training activity with K-Flex and WEX activity with Community of Hope, HUBZone, Turning Point CDC, Power GPU, A & S Pest Control, K-Flex.
- Workforce Wednesdays are held every Wednesday and an employer is present each week to speak with those in attendance about job opportunities. So far, Central Regional Hospital, GRRONC, Huff Consulting Group, and Granville Medical Center have participated in this.
- Offer Resume writing and Mock interviewing sessions . There were 27 in attendance for January and February.

### **Success Stories:**

- William Lolly from Person County and father of two, graduated from VGCC with a CDL license in December, 2024. He is working full time with US Trucking Express.

- Precious Satterwhite, a single mother from Warren County, graduated from NC Dental U with a Dental I Assistant certification.
- Hunter Godwin, has a baby on the way and graduated from VGCC with his CDL. Now he works full- time with GRD Trucking.
- Xander Shotwell from Person County graduated with a HVAC Electrical degree from Piedmont Community College. He is working at Regan and Son Heating and Air.

#### **Community Outreach:**

- Warren County Industry Breakfast – networking with other businesses and resources in the area.
- Falls Lake Academy students visited the NCWorks Career Center for a tour, VR Simulation, and NextGen program overview.
- CareerLAUNCH Program Lunch and Learn at VGCC for Turning Point CDC participants. Job Readiness skills were shared and EDSI provided information on our WIOA Programs.

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

#### **Rapid Response for KEECO (make bedding). ger position will be filled by January, 2025.**

- Received a WARN notice for Keeco on December 5, 2024.
- 114 people will be affected.
- January 22, 2025 - cooperate and local operations met.
- February 3, 2025 – small layoff of 8-10 people.
- February 28, 2025 – large layoff.
- January 31, 2025 – VGCC and NCWorks Career Center were on site to provide information on job search, education and training options and referrals to other services. NCWorks Mobile Career Center was on site to offer computer access and computer related assistance.
- February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025= Hiring event was held for those employees that were without jobs. There were twelve employers on site to meet with dislocated workers about job openings.

#### **Focus on Outreach:**

Staff Engagement and Positioning – Visibility, Event, Assess

#### **External Events:**

- April 16 - Community Resource Fair at the VGCC Civic Center from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Kerr-Tar WDB will be participating.
- April 24, 2025 – Warren County Resource Fair
- April 29, 2025 – Youth Adult Hiring Event
- May 14, 2025 -Person County Job Fair
- June 5, 2025 – Creedmoor Community Center Job Fair

**Next Meeting for Kerr-Tar WDB/ Consortium will be Tuesday, June 10, 2025**

Respectfully Submitted by: Kelly Hundley, Program Specialist