

KERR-TAR
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD/CONSORTIUM MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 13, 2023
Kerr-Tar Council of Governments, Henderson, NC

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (WDB) MEMBERS: Hal Muetzel, Fred Keller, Leo Kelly, Monica Satterwhite, Barbara Buchanan, Phillip Betts, Gordon Agingu, Rob Wiliford, John Alston, Vanessa Cooke – Alvarado, Sara Lloyd, Yolanda Uvalle

COG/LA STAFF: Lou Grillo, Desiree Brooks, Kelly Hundley, Deborah Cozart, Sharon Thomas and Donna Lee

SERVICE PROVIDERS: Helen Bradby

DWS STAFF: Jennifer Jones

GUESTS: Dr. Cooper, Ken Spellman, William Betts

Welcome/Call to Order – Hal Muetzel

Chairperson, Hal Muetzel, Chair, welcomed members and guests to meeting.

Approval of Consent Agenda – Hal Muetzel

- Motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda (September 19, 2023) Meeting)
- Minutes and Finance Report – YTD through November 2023). Motion carried.

Youth Program Update - Kelly

On Wednesday, November 29, 2024, Lou and Kelly attended the first ever-statewide summit on Re-engaging Opportunity Youth called “Stories Brought to Life. The event took place at the Friday Conference Center in Chapel Hill. . Thirty-seven counties representing the mountains to the coast –all aimed at connecting North Carolina’s young adults to jobs that pay a living wage.

Around 300 people from across the state were in attendance (educators, youth providers, school systems, etc.) The goal is to expand education and employment career pathways for Opportunity Youth. The summit:

- Brought together state and community leaders, sector professionals, and local advocates to share insights and celebrate progress.
- Connected with national and state level data trends on Opportunity Youth.
- Listened to a panel of Opportunity Youth discuss successes and roadblocks.
- Discussed policies impacting young people.

Business Services Update- Desiree Brooks:

- Total Hiring Events - 33
- Total Attendees – 326
- Total Hires – 91
- Workforce Wednesdays – held every Wednesday at the Career Center. Workforce Wednesdays include Career Center Orientation followed by Employer On-site, Virtual Reality, and a resume workshop.
- Job Fair Services:
 - NC DOT Franklin County Hiring Event held on October 24, 2023 from 9 am until 2 pm at the career center. There were 44 attendees and 13 job offers.
- Veterans Appreciation Job Fair was held on 15 attendees and 3 were hired
- Incumbent Worker Training
 - Funding to assist employers with training and retaining employees
 - Employers may get reimbursed up to \$10,000 for training per year

Director is Report – Lou Grillo:

- EDSI Program Manager Stacey Graham passed away recently from an illness. She was employed at the career center for six months. While there, Stacey made quite an impact with her colleagues and with the WIOA program.
- NC P.R.O.W.D. – federal grant to help people transitioning out of federal prison to gain job skills and employment after their release.
 - DOL and DOJ Collaborative Initiative Serving Individuals in Bunter Federal Correctional Complex enrollment - October 2022 – March 2026.
 - Enrollment period – from 9/1/23 to 9/25/23 – 54 participants enrolled.
 - Classes began for 48 participants.
- Local Kick-off Events held in October and November in all three of the board areas. (Kerr-Tar, Durham, and Capital Area). Participants were provided job search assistance, employability skills, educational and training providers, supportive services needs such as housing and assistance with the utilizing of technology
- Participants complete a six week module and are given as much time as they need to complete the modules. It was well attended and the
- New training provider success story – NC Dental U
 - Provided presentation at an all staff meeting at Career Center
 - First student enrolled with Dental U from Kerr-Tar area was Kearna Shaw. She was employed but looking for something better. Ms. Shaw attended Dental U from October – December 2023 and became a Dental Assistant.
- WIOA Financial Monitoring for PY 20, 21, and 22. As soon as we receive the final report, we will share with the board.
- Programmatic Monitoring took place and four issues found from the three program years.
- The local school systems are visiting the career center for tours. Every board will have virtual screening with certification.
- Fred Keller, Vice-Chair of WDB, will be “retiring “. Fred served on the board for many years. Lou expressed his appreciation for his service on the board and Fred remarked how valuable the board members and the staff are to the board.
- Fred nominated Yolanda Uvalle for Vice-Chair in his place . Recommendation made and motion carried.
- Monica Satterwhite was honored for 26 years of service with the WDB and given an engraved vase by the board members. She will be working with Business Services with DWS.

***There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Kelly Hundley, Workforce Development Program Specialist