

KERR-TAR
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD/CONSORTIUM MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 17, 2024
Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments, Henderson, NC
6:00 PM

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (WDB) MEMBERS: Hal Muetzel, Leo Kelly, Jr., Vanessa Cooke-Alvarado, John Alston, Gordon Agingu (by phone), Jennifer Jones, Yolanda Uvalle (by phone), Laura Holden

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

Providers: Helen Bradby, EDSI

Welcome/Call to Order – Vanessa Alvarado

Chairperson Vanessa Cooke-Alvarado welcomed members and guests to meeting. Laura Holden with Altec Industries Inc. was introduced and welcomed as a WDB member.

Approval of Consent Agenda – Vanessa Alvarado

- Motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda (6/11/24)
- Minutes and Finance Report – (YTD through June 2024). Motion carried.

Performance Update– Deborah Cozart:

Key Challenges Faced in PY 2023:

- Staffing changes for Provider staff - Ongoing turnover in Provider key staff roles (Operations Manager, Business Services , Youth Career Advisor)
- Staffing changes for Board staff - multiple shifts in responsibilities such as the Youth Program Coordinator moving to the Reentry Manager position and the Business Services Manager moving to the Economic Planning Department at the COG. Key Workforce Development staff went from five staff members to three staff members.
- External Factors with a negative impact - the State Monitoring of the Kerr-Tar WIOA program was three years behind and program years PY20, PY21, and PY22 were completed at one time.
- Eligible Training Provider Team at the state level was under – staffed and this affected training programs availability.
- Performance Outcomes – Due to all of the challenges, despite best efforts of staff, not all outcomes were successful.

Positive Changes for PY2024:

- Collaboration and Training – strengthen partnerships through intentional communication and revive and increase staff training to enhance performance
- Expanded Training Opportunities – more Occupational Skills Training (OST) and more online trainings
- Faster WIOA approvals for ETPL programs – State Level
- Restructured Responsibilities – Shifting contractual duties to providers – enhance accountability, cultivate outreach (Employers/Job Seekers)
- Improvement of teamwork, clear roles, cross-training, ensure contingency plans for staff shortages and continued support through the celebration of team efforts and accomplishments.

PY23 Performance Outcomes:

Performance overview of All WIOA Programs:

- Adult –Did not pass goals for Employment Q2, Median Earnings, and Credentials. But for Q4 Goal and Measureable Skills Gain (MSG) MSG Goal, Adult program passed their goals.
- Dislocated Workers (DW) –Did not pass Employment Q4 goal but did pass their Q2 Employment Goal, Median Earnings Goal, Credential Goal, and MSG Goal.

- Youth – Did not pass Credential Goal, but passed Q2, Median Earnings, Q4, and MSG goal.
- Several Success Stories shared – Mr. Francis obtained CDL license and working at Carolina Eagle Distributing. Also, Mr. Burton received his CDL license and is working with Sunrock.

Youth Program Update for PY2023– Kelly Hundley

- Total of New Enrollments – 24
- Total of Youth Served – 64
- Credentials Earned – 28
- Work Experience – 10
- Job Fair Events – 5 County Young Adult Hiring Event – hosted by Kerr-Tar WDB and NCWorks Career Center and the Career and Technical Career Coordinators at the high schools. It was held at the Raleigh Outdoor Theater in May. There were 149 job seekers and 25 employers.
- Career Fairs at VGCC, high school events, VGCC initiative on Equity for Women Summit, and various community events.
- Virtual Reality Demonstrations held at the Career Center for groups of high school students.
- On April 17, Kittrell Job Corps participated in a virtual reality demonstration at the Center.
- Youth Success Stories - Shaconna completed Nurse Aide Training and Medication Aide training. Samya completed a WEX with Carolina Sunrock and is now employed full time with UPS. Two participants received Associate Degrees – Kaley (Welding) and Sydkitra (Business Administration). Both are employed full time. Two participants (Demarius and Travon) received their CDL licenses and both are working full time at Variety Wholesale.

Reentry Services – Sharon Thomas

- Regional Reentry Events - NCWorks Reentry and Career Services presentation at Cornerstone Christian Community Church and Leadership Vance, Judicial, Law Day NCWorks Reentry Presentation.
- An upcoming event will be the Regional Resource Fair in the fall, 2024.
- The expansion of the self-serve expungement. Informational packets are provided with filing instructions and applicable forms. Sessions are offered in four locations: Granville, Person, Vance, and Warren counties. Hopefully soon, there will be a location for a clinic in Franklin County.

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

Enrollment (First Step Act) is 156 YTD and there are 8 enrolled in WIOA.

- For training/education, 113 served, 83 completed MSG goals, 53 e
- 53 earned credentials and 21 gained employment.

Regional updates –

- 18 participants completed Forklift Training
- Reentry Circles with Campbell Law began August 29
- Therapeutic Yoga classes will start in Butner in September.

Upcoming Trainings/Events:

- Working Smart, VGCC and Mechatronics, VGCC,
- Manufacturing Day, October 4, VGCC
- CDL Pilot with TransTech
- Mock Interview Event at Butner will be held on Monday, September 30.

Director's Report – Lou Grillo

Local Reentry Council Grant Funding:

- NC Commerce Division of Workforce Solutions (DWS) awarded three Workforce Development Boards (Kerr-Tar is among them) to support the creation of Local Reentry Councils and in support of Governor Cooper's Executive Order 303
- Local Reentry Council will collaborate with the NC Department of Adult Correction (DAC) along with other workforce development partners to support justice-involved people in assisting with successful transitions to employment.
- Kerr-Tar received \$250,000 on April 1st.

NC PROWD Extension:

- Through the collaboration of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Labor (DOL), the "First Step Act Initiative", an effort to bring job training and reentry expertise to federal prisoners.
- "First Step Act Initiative" covers October, 2022 – March 2026.
 - Extends the initial contract funding \$989,792 - Grant year 2 & 3 (May 1, 2024 through April 31, 2026)
 - Total \$1,489,792

Numbers Review for PY22 and PY23

- Total individuals served (WIOA/WP) – PY22 – 5,250 PY23 – 5,528
- Total individuals served in WIOA – PY22 – 280 PY23 – 110
- Youth Served – PY22 – 121 PY23 – 274
- Total Credential Attainments – PY22 – 50 PY23 – 45
- Total Services Provided (WIOA/WP) – PY22 – 39,597 PY23 - 48,834
- Total Services Provided in WIOA – PY22 – 1,571 PY23 – 1,137
- Total Number Veterans Served – PY22 – 4 PY23 – 183
- Total Exited to Employment – PY22 – 2,345 PY23 – 1,020

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

Next Meeting for Kerr-Tar WDB/ Consortium will be Tuesday, December 10, 2024, 6:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Kelly Hundley, Kerr-Tar Program Specialist