

**80KERR-TAR**  
**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD/CONSORTIUM MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, March 19, 2024**  
**Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments, Henderson, NC**

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (WDB) MEMBERS:** Hal Muetzel, Leo Kelly, Jr., Vanessa Cooke-Alvarado Rob Williford, Derrick Sims, John Alston, Gordon Agingu, Phillip Betts, Jennifer Jones, Yolvanda Uvalle, Sara Lloyd

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

**GUESTS:** Chalis Henderson – Turning Point Community Development Corporation

**Welcome/Call to Order – Hal Muetzel**

Chairperson Hal Muetzel welcomed members and guests to meeting. Jennifer M. Jones, a DWS Staff and NCWorks Career Center Manager was welcomed as a WDB member.

**Approval of Consent Agenda – Hal Muetzel**

In the absence of Kelly Hundley, Deborah Cozart took minutes for the meeting tonight.

- Motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda (December 13, 2023 Meeting)
- Minutes and Finance Report – (YTD through November 2023). Motion carried.

**Community Partner Program Presentation – Chalis Henderson:**

- Turning Point Community Development Corporation (TPCDC) is a registered nonprofit organization that serves Vance, Warren, Franklin, and Granville counties. TPCDC provides leadership and programming across four key areas: Education, Health & Wellness, Economic Development, and Community Engagement. These areas help to advance learning, improve health outcomes, promote skills gains for professional success, these, and to build experiences that unite communities. TPCDC operates as a Catalyst for the continuous development, transformation, and empowerment of the citizens in this region. They are in partnership with the Oasis of Hope Ministry to help meet the holistic needs of communities.
- The following are a few of TPCDC programs and services:
  - The Flagship Program - a 5-Star Afterschool/Summer Program for grades 2-8.
  - Mobile Learning Lab- Travels throughout the community to provide program services to youth, adults and senior citizens. Some of the available services are to assist individuals with completion of job applications, offering digital literacy assistance, and equity awareness.
  - The Launch Pad Program (summer only) - offers soft skills and public skills training along with other various services.
  - Community Day on August 1, 2024 –attendees are able to learn about available resources and ways to collaborate and serve with TPCDC throughout the region.

**Program Performance – Deborah Cozart:**

For all programs (Adult, Dislocated Workers (DW), and Youth):

- 33,706 individual services provided.
- 878 individuals enrolled in the Wagner Peyser, WIOA and TAA (Trade Adjustment Act, which is a program that co-enrolls Dislocated Workers).
- WIOA - 141 served  
Wagner Peyser – 736 served
- TAA – 1 served
- Follow-up services - 276 provided.
- Median Earnings Reported – Adult – 84.85%, DW – 144.29%, YOUTH – 162.41%, AND Wagner Peyser – 137.56%.
- For all programs combined, there were 25 credentials attained and 17 Measureable Skills Gains. In Quarter 2, Employment (Entered employment after exit) – 420 and in Quarter 4 Employment (Entered employment after exit) – 489.

- Performance Outcomes – this is not the end of the program year and numbers are not the final numbers for PY23. For those areas that are below the goal, some participants are in training and/or the numbers are not reported at this time. Overall, the majority are achieving their goals or overachieving their goals.
  - Adult – approximately 14% from goal for credentials.
  - Youth – approximately 42% from goal for credentials and around 39% from reaching goal for Measureable Skills Gains.
- Several Success Stories were highlighted:
  - **C. Morgan** – Youth Program – will enroll in CDL training and while waiting for training to begin, Mr. Morgan is enrolled in a Work Experience (WEX) within his career pathway while earning wages. His title is Construction Helper with Ken's Construction.
  - **K. Sneed** – Youth Program and is a parenting youth. She completed the Nursing Assistant Program at Vance-Granville Community College (VGCC) and completed her state certification in December 2023. Helen Brady with EDSI announced that Ms. Sneed has also completed the Medication Aide course. She is currently employed full-time and seeking out other opportunities in the Healthcare industry.
  - **D. Burchette** – Adult Program- Successfully completed CDL training and attained credential through WIOA in 2021. He accepted a position at EPES Transport System, LLC. An update: Mr. Burchette now the owner of his own business; Mangum's Logistics, LLC in Person County. He also owns two trucks and trailers.

#### **Business Services Update PY 23 – Desiree Brooks:**

- Businesses Served – 137
- Services Provided – 1,303
- Employers Self-Service – 299
- Registered Employers – 13
- Kerr—Tar Center Customers Hired – 118
- On-the-Job Training Participants – 1
- Work Experiences (Paid Internships) – 10
- Rapid Response Services:
  - Gate Precast – 77 affected employees.
    - Informational Sessions held for English and Spanish speaking persons. The NC Department of Commerce Spanish Interpreter assisted.
    - Employees attended a Job Fair on January 9, 2024. VGCC attended to assist any employees interested in training opportunities.
  - East West Manufacturing – 107 affected employees
    - Informational Session and a Resume workshop held on January 16, 2024 with eight employees in attendance.
    - NCWorks Mobile Career Center was available for employees to register in NCWorks and begin the process of unemployment applications.
  - Job Fair Services – Total hires were approximately 200 and there were 60 Job Fair Services provided.
    - Next Workforce Wednesday is on March 20, 2024 at the Career Center. Walmart Distribution Center will be the employer on-site. A VR session and a Resume Workshop are scheduled and available to customers at various times during the Workforce Wednesdays.
    - March 5, 2024 – Vance County and City of Henderson held a hiring event at the center. VGCC was also on-site to provide information on trainings. Several fire trucks and the Public Utilities truck parked outside for the event. Thirty-five individuals attended the event.
    - Young Adult Hiring Event –on April 30, 2024 at the Raleigh Outdoor Theatre. Forty employers will attend and the schools in all five counties will attend. The event is open to the public.

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

- Reentry Program - M.M.E.A.T. Program (Ministry, Management, Entrepreneurship, Accountability, and Training)

- First group starts in April and there are 2 modules – 4 weeks each
- Justice Involve Job Corps Students
- Z. Smith Reynolds Community Progress Funds
- NC PROWD:
  - Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Labor (DOL) Collaborative Initiative – serving individuals in Butner Federal Correctional Complex. There are 108 residents enrolled in Phase 1
- Pathway Home 5:
  - Eckerd currently operates Pathway Home 2 – Durham and Capital Area.
  - Applying for Pathway Home 5 funding – 23 counties including Kerr-Tar.
- Eligible Training Provider (ETP) – is a statewide ETP list and application process. The WDBs’ grant access to Local Areas. An ETP in our Local Area, Medical Career Readiness of NC is suspended indefinitely due to multiple complaints in our Local Area.
- Virtual Reality (VR) Grant – Kerr-Tar received \$5,000 for VR exploration.
  - TRANSFR VR Headsets and 32 Career Exploration Modules
- US Department of Labor Visit – Deputy Secretary Lenita Jacobs Simmons and NC Commerce Assistant Secretary DWS Chet Mottershead will visit Kerr-Tar NCWorks Career Center on April 17.

**Other Business:**

- Robert Wilford mentioned that the new Interim Vance County economic developer is John Stallings, and McKinley’s last day in office was today.
- A “Congratulations” to Helen Brady as the WIOA Program Manager for all EDSI WIOA Programs.

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

**Next Meeting for Kerr-Tar WDB/ Consortium will be Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 6:00 PM**

Respectfully Submitted by  
Kelly Hundley, Kerr-Tar Program Specialist