

MID-CAROLINA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

January 10, 2023

Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC)

General Classroom Building (GCB) 108/114

2817 Fort Bragg Road, Fayetteville, NC 28303

Members Present:

Mr. Ken Adelberg (Representative of Business) -Virtual
Mr. Kevin Brooks (Representative of Business)
Mr. Hugh Carr (Representative of Business) -Virtual
Ms. Phyllis Godwin (Representative of Workforce – Registered Apprenticeship) – Virtual
Ms. Juanita Hooker (Representative of Education and Training – Vocational Rehabilitation) – Virtual
Mr. Michael Jackson (Representative of Business)
Dr. Jon Matthews (Representative of Education and Training – Adult Education and Literacy) – Virtual
Mr. Tony McKinnon (Representative of Workforce – Labor)
Mr. Naynesh Mehta (Representative of Business)
Ms. Michelle Muir (Representative of Education and Training – Wagner-Peyser Act/State Employment)
Mr. Chuck Spell (Representative of Business) – Virtual

Members Absent:

Mr. Curtis Brown (Representative of Workforce – Registered Apprenticeship)
Mr. Jimmy Keefe (Representative of Business)
Ms. Denver Hopkins (Representative of Business)
Mr. Gregory McElveen (Representative of Education and Training – Higher Education)
Mr. Jerry Milton (Representative of Business)
Mr. Jeff Nethercutt (Representative of Business)
Mr. Scott Tart (Representative of Business)
Mr. Robert Van Geons (Representative of Education and Training – Economic Development)
Mr. Bartley Warren (Representative of Business)

Guests Present:

Mr. Glenn Adams (Cumberland County Board of Commissioners) – Virtual
Mr. Stephen Barrington (Sampson County Economic Development Commission)
Ms. Amanda Bradshaw (Sampson Community College)
Ms. Rochelle Brown (Equus)
Mayor Alice Butler (Town of Roseboro) – Virtual
Ms. Amy Epley (NC Community College System)
Mr. Victor Glover (Division of Workforce Solutions)
Mr. Raymond Godsave (DWS)
Ms. Sonja Godsey (Equus)
Dr. David Goodin (Sampson County Schools)
Ms. Jennifer Holcomb (EDPNC) – Virtual
Mr. Jerol Kivett (Sampson County Board of Commissioners)
Ms. Charlotte Leach (Harnett County Government) – Virtual
Mr. Chip Lucas (Cumberland County Schools)
Dr. Mark Sorrells (FTCC)
Ms. Sandra Webster (DWS)
Mr. Justin Wilkinson (Harnett County Schools) – Virtual

Staff Present:

Ms. Peggy Aazam
Mr. Matthew Fowler
Mr. Justin Hembree
Ms. Tamara Hodge
Ms. Verna Jones
Ms. Kiersten Powell
Mr. Andrew Resnick

I. Call to Order. Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Reminder:

9:05: Mr. Naynesh Mehta calls the meeting to order.

9:06: Introductions.

9:07: Ethics Awareness and Conflicts of Interest Reminder.

II. Approval of Minutes from October 4, 2022 and November 9, 2022 MCWDB Meetings

9:08: Mr. Naynesh Mehta requests a motion to approve minutes from the previous meeting. Ms. Michelle Muir makes a motion to approve; Mr. Michael Jackson seconds. Motion passed; minutes approved.

III. MCWDB Chair Report

9:09: Mr. Naynesh Mehta asks for volunteers to join standing committees. Mr. Matthew Fowler explains the tasks expected of each committee, and how they are essential in getting projects completed for the board. Dr. Jon Matthews asks about the Executive Committee looking like a defined committee that is formed by the chairs of the other committees. Inquiry is confirmed; all other committees must be assigned first before the Executive Committee can be formed. Ms. Muir volunteers to be on the One-Stop Committee, Mr. Kevin Brooks and Mr. Jackson volunteer for the Youth Committee. Mr. Mehta volunteers to join the Business Services Committee. Mr. Stephen Barrington volunteers to join the Business Services Committee. Mr. Fowler will send an email out to the rest of the board about interest in joining a standing committee.

9:17: Board vacancies are brought up. If anyone has a recommendation or contact that would be good for the Board, please contact Ms. Verna Jones.

9:18: Mr. Mehta recaps the previous RFP solicitation discussions, opens the floor to new RFP discussions. Ms. Muir asks how the RFPs were reviewed despite not having an Executive Committee, and also asks about how many bidders there were for the RFP. Mr. Fowler responds that there were 7 bidders and the Board decided to go with 3 bidders.

9:21: Ms. Rochelle Brown and Ms. Sonja Godsey give a talk about Equus, their familiarity with the state and an overview of their company. Company has changed ownership; APM Group now runs Equus which is helpful in consolidating the company's focus toward workforce development. Not Equus' goal to change

things in the regions they're in, but rather support the area and provide assistance in any way possible. Currently providing training for their employees in the Career Centers as well as hiring for additional staff positions. Also want to get out and engage and interact with members of the communities they're working with. Open up the floor to questions about the company. Mr. Barrington asks about what area of the contract Equus has received; they are the service providers for adult, dislocated worker, and youth programs in Cumberland and Sampson counties. Staff is about 13 or 14 staff members; want to continue within the constraints of the contract funding while also providing sufficient services. Mr. Brooks asks about the details of the contract term, which is currently for a year and a half; the contract has a renewable timeline built within it based on performance measures.

9:32: Mr. Mehta asks for a motion for staff recommendations. Mr. Tony McKinnon makes a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Brooks; unanimously approved with Ms. Muir from the state abstaining. Motion approved.

IV. MCWDB Director Report

9:33: Mr. Fowler discusses the details of the ARPA grant awards given to the Workforce Development Board and how the implementation has been taking place thus far. Overall, \$600,000 in grant monies; \$400,000 toward Work-Based Learning as well as \$100,000 each toward substance usage populations and re-entry populations. Additionally, Mr. Fowler discusses the Career Center certification process and how each location (Harnett, Sampson, and Cumberland) has been certified. Staff will accept Center certifications at the February 8th NCWorks Commission meeting. Mr. Fowler gives his thanks to the Board for their help throughout the certification process, making sure that the Centers are well-run. Mr. Fowler also previews how in the future, we will be picking up two additional counties (Moore and Montgomery) for the Workforce Local Area. Mr. Fowler opens up the floor to Mr. Justin Hembree to further discuss the realignment.

V. New Business

9:39: Mr. Hembree talks about how the state is realigning Workforce Board areas, and it has met some resistance throughout the state, but Mid-Carolina had already formed a local workforce area that has the same geographic boundaries as the COG. Moore and Montgomery counties had expressed interest in joining our Workforce Development Board area. Workforce Board consortiums consist of elected officials from each county that the Board encompasses; Mr. Hembree has had conversations with elected officials from Cumberland, Harnett, and Sampson counties about adding Moore and Montgomery counties into the Mid-Carolina Workforce Development Board area. Mr. Hembree wants us to be one of the engaging agencies in realigning the workforce system; if the state continues to realign down the road, this could pay dividends for the Workforce Board in the future. Moore and Montgomery counties have put in a formal request to join the Mid-Carolina Workforce Development Board area, which will be discussed at a February meeting. If approved, they will join the Mid-Carolina Workforce Board as of July 1, 2023. However, Mr. Hembree will talk with existing members of the Workforce Board, as well as officials in Montgomery and Moore counties, to ensure everyone is on the same page before the realignment takes place. Mr. Barrington asks whether the realignment will affect the funding and resources for each county. Mr. Hembree responds that the realignment will allow for service funds to be more catered toward specific tasks. Mr. Brooks asks why

there is interest in this group of counties and if it's indicative of the Board moving forward in a specific direction. Mr. Hembree responds that although Moore County's economy is different from some of the economies in our region, Moore County makes sense because of its connection to Ft. Bragg. Montgomery County is a little different, but they are in the Sandhills prosperity zone, as is the majority of the Mid-Carolina region (with the exception of Harnett County). Montgomery County Commissioners also wanted to be in the same Workforce Development Area as Moore County. Mr. Mehta asks what the current structure of Moore and Montgomery counties are in terms of contractors; Ms. Muir answers that every region will have either a one-stop operator and Title I, or just Title I contractors. Ms. Muir also asks about whether the existing contracts that MCWDB have will allow for the realignment of Moore and Montgomery counties, or if there needs to be a new RFP process for the two counties. Mr. Fowler responds that the current contract does not extend out to the potential realignment of Montgomery and Moore Counties. Mr. Hembree answers that DWS would not be opposed to extending the contract if it applied to Moore and Montgomery Counties. Ms. Muir discusses how the Center in Dunn is not a certified Center, but rather an affiliate center (no onsite Title I services).

10:03: Mr. Mehta opens the floor for the Harnett County provider to discuss the Career Center. Ms. Charlotte Leach talks about her gratitude of being with the Mid-Carolina Workforce Board again and how the Career Center will be working with the Board going forward this year.

VI. Follow up and Open Discussion

VII. Adjourn

10:05: Mr. Naynesh Mehta enters a motion for adjournment. Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 4 at 9:00 AM in Harnett County. Location TBD