

MID-CAROLINA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

April 4, 2023

Harnett County Public Library & Resource Center

455 McKinney Pkwy, Lillington, NC 27546

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)
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)
Mr. Gregory McElveen (Representative of Education and Training – Higher Education) - Virtual
Ms. Michelle Muir (Representative of Education and Training – Wagner-Peyser Act/State Employment)
Mr. Jeff Nethercutt (Representative of Business) - Virtual
Mr. Scott Tart (Representative of Business)
Mr. Robert Van Geons (Representative of Education and Training – Economic Development) - Virtual

Members Absent:

Mr. Curtis Brown (Representative of Workforce – Registered Apprenticeship)
Ms. Denver Hopkins (Representative of Business)
Mr. Jimmy Keefe (Representative of Business)
Mr. Tony McKinnon (Representative of Workforce – Labor)
Mr. Naynesh Mehta (Representative of Business)
Mr. Jerry Milton (Representative of Business)
Mr. Chuck Spell (Representative of Business)
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)
Mayor Alice Butler (Town of Roseboro) – Virtual
Ms. Erin Cain (Sampson Community College)
Dr. Britt Davis (Campbell University) - Virtual
Ms. Amy Epley (NC Community College System) - Virtual
Mr. Victor Glover (Division of Workforce Solutions)
Mr. Raymond Godsave (DWS)
Ms. Sonja Godsey (Equus)
Ms. Anitra Hart (Harnett County Government)
Ms. Jennifer Holcomb (EDPNC)
Ms. MaryAnn Lawrence (PowerNotes LLC - Virtual)
Ms. Charlotte Leach (Harnett County Government)
Mr. Christian Lockamy (Harnett County Economic Development)
Dr. Jolee Marsh (Fayetteville Technical Community College)
Mr. Coley Price (Harnett County Assistant Manager)
Mr. Brent Trout (Harnett County Manager)

Mr. Lewis Weatherspoon (Harnett County Board of Commissioners)
Ms. Sandra Webster (DWS)
Mr. Justin Wilkinson (Harnett County Schools)

Staff Present:

Ms. Peggy Aazam
Mr. Ray Bolton
Mr. Matthew Fowler
Mr. Justin Hembree - Virtual
Ms. Tamara Hodge
Ms. Verna Jones
Mr. Andrew Resnick
Ms. Leronta Williams

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Meeting called to order at 9:08 AM by Ms. Phyllis Godwin.

Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Reminder: In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every Board member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearance of conflict. Does any board member have any known conflicts of interest or appearances of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the Board? If so, please identify the conflict or appearance of conflict and refrain from any undue participation in the particular matter involved.

Introductions: 9:10-9:14

II. Approval of Minutes from January 10, 2023 MCWDB Meeting

9:58: Motion to approve minutes by Mr. Jon Matthews; seconded by Ms. Michelle Muir; unanimously approved; motion carried.

III. MCWDB Chair Report

a. NCWorks Career Center Certification

9:15: Mr. Matthew Fowler explained the certification credentials, and that all 3 career centers in Harnett, Cumberland and Sampson counties received certifications for NCWorks Career Centers that were up to sufficient standards. These certifications were finalized and awarded at the state meeting on February 8th.

9:17: Representatives from Harnett, Cumberland and Sampson County Career Centers are presented with their certificates.

IV. MCWDB Director Report

9:20: Update on job ready Garland Apparel grant. This is to help fill skilled positions available at the plant. Been a challenge to fill skilled positions. 2 positions are being filled now through work-based learning. Reached out to the NC Department of Commerce to see if funds can also be used for frontline staff, which were approved. This will help to close the skill gap in the organization.

9:22: CHIP Act signed to law by President Biden. Chips for America has been implemented which allows for companies to use funds that assist potential workers with needed services like childcare services. This will also build a pipeline for workforce development in the state. All workforce development boards in the state are working with the state to build some sort of program using CHIP Act money. We're planning on working with some workforce boards in the region to support a pipeline in enrolling individuals into the NCWorks system. Low hanging fruit for the local community, and will continue to keep everyone aware of this workforce board system partnership which will strengthen workers in the state.

9:25: Introduced Ms. MaryAnn Lawrence and the consulting services she will be providing to the workforce development system to make sure that we're being as efficient as possible. MaryAnn has worked closely with WIOA, and has experience working in workforce development systems all over the country.

9:27: MaryAnn Lawrence asked to introduce herself. She has worked in the workforce system for over 40 years throughout the country. She has also worked at the US Department of Labor for 5 years. In her experience, she's seen a big difference between good and extraordinary, and she believes that the MCWDB has what it takes to become an extraordinary board.

Mid-Carolina Local Area realignment update (Moore & Montgomery)

9:28: Workforce realignment update. Effective July 1 we will be incorporating Moore and Montgomery counties. April 10, we will be meeting with staff in Moore and Montgomery counties to go over tasks such as transferring files as well as RFPs and other ongoing projects. The Workforce Board's help and support has been great.

9:30: Deputy Director of Workforce Development Verna Jones discussed Business Services and Business Engagement. Introduced Mr. Ray Bolton and Ms. Laronta Williams. Each introduced themselves.

9:32: Ms. Verna Jones reviewed her and Mr. Matthew Fowler's local listening tour, how they are trying to meet with businesses on the board to hear what issues are effecting them and how to provide as much support as possible. Ms. Verna Jones stressed how they want to know how much they can do to ensure regional success for local businesses.

V. Staff Reports

9:34: Ms. Peggy Aazam reviewed NCWorks Career Centers broken down by each county. Numbers served is everybody that was served at some point in the program year. Number enrolled is the members who were enrolled into a program from July 1. Number served is always higher than number enrolled. April is second

chance month and there will be numerous events held to promote second chance opportunities for populations in our region. The Career Center reports are available to try and be as transparent as possible and inform the Board about the region's NCWorks Career Centers.

a. Cumberland

9:38: Mr. Raymond Godsave briefs the Board on the Cumberland County NCWorks Career Center. The Career Center held a hiring event at Methodist University for their graduates, as well as a career resource fair at Fort Bragg. The Ft. Bragg resource fair is an event held twice a year, and this brings in local North Carolina providers to retain talent in North Carolina. Moving forward to next quarter, the Career Center will be holding a series of military spouse events in May. They will also be holding an adult dislocated services fair in May. Working on bringing a broad range of services and industries into the Career Center (FTCC returning to the Career Center too).

9:43: Ms. Sonja Godsey reviews Title I information. Young adults and youth population has been an area of struggle for Cumberland County, but they will be holding an event in May for youth looking for summer working opportunities. Served over 200 people in education training (mainly IT and healthcare). Work-based learning, about 18 people have been served so far. Partnership with Fayetteville State University, have about 5 students in this program which gives them technical skills and soft skills to professionally develop. Also working with FTCC to create a partnership with students that will help them transition easily into the workforce. Continuing to grow, provide outreach, and connect with community partners.

b. Sampson

9:46: Youth has been an area of success for Sampson County. Full-time position that focuses on Youth in Sampson County. 22 people served thus far. Work-based learning positions are being filled in organizations like Garland Apparel.

9:48: Ms. Sandra Webster announces multiple events that will be held in Sampson County to address youth dislocated workers and second chance individuals. These events will take place in the next quarter.

c. Harnett

9:51: Ms. Charlotte Leach highlights Harnett County Career Center statistics. Not seeing a lot of dislocated workers, but they are on target for Youth. Have served 60 adults, 40 of them have gone into training. Trained 22 nextgen youth and 13 have been to training. Still working on work-based learning program. Many training programs focus on truck drivers, and numerous program participants have been successful.

9:53: Ms. Anitra Hart gives update on the Career Center. Foot traffic in the career center has increased. There will be upcoming workshops for former offenders due to second chance month. Will be holding a job fair on April 27th at the Harnett County Resource Center. Increase in servicing of veterans. Mentioned successful experiences for participants who have used Career Center resources.

VI. New Business

9:59: Ms. Peggy Aazam gives update on new business items

a. Mid-Carolina Local Area Plan (Approval Action required)

Local Area Plan is currently being completed, it needs approval before being available on the Mid-Carolina website, and being submitted to the state.

Motion to approve of Local Area Plan by Mr. Kevin Brooks; seconded by Mr. Scott Tart; unanimously approved; motion adopted.

Signature will be provided and submitted to the state as needed.

b. ARPA Grant (Approval Action required)

Approval needed to pass ARPA Grant policy detailing the reporting requirements and references for implementing the grant. Once approved, will be submitted to staff and be available on Mid-Carolina website.

Motion to approve by Mr. Kevin Brooks; seconded by Mr. Michael Jackson; unanimously approved; motion carried.

c. Standing Committee Updates

Standing committees all met before the meeting. Chair and Vice Chair of the committees will be nominated and approved soon. The chair and vice chair will provide an update to the Board at each Board meeting. All standing committees need a chair and vice chair. The committees will meet once a quarter before the Board meeting. Many details necessary for the board are brought up in these committee meetings. If there are any questions, reach out to Peggy Aazam.

d. Highlights of SETA Conference

10:06: Mr. Kevin Brooks gave his review of the SETA Conference in Memphis, Tennessee. He made a number of connections and networked with many individuals at the conference. Attended a session about the age criteria that people are looking for in workforce. Additionally attended a women in the workforce session that was an eye opening experience, and diversified his understanding of the workforce systems in other states. He said he hopes to attend future conferences and may even run his own session at the next SETA conference. Finally, the first female NFL referee was at the conference and was incredibly impressive and inspirational.

VII. Follow up and Open Discussion

10:09: Ms. Phyllis Godwin opened up the floor for discussion.

10:10: Mr. Robert van Geons talked about April 18th FCEDC is hosting ECU honors seminar which has 4 hours of training and networking for non-practitioners who want to know more about economic development. If anyone is interested, please contact Mr. Robert van Geons. This is not virtual and is an in-person only event.

All who are able to make the next meeting in person are encouraged to attend in person.

VIII. Adjourn

Dr. Jon Matthews makes a motion to adjourn; Mr. Kevin Brooks seconds. Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Save the Date: MCWDB Meeting Tuesday, July 11, 2023 @ 9 am Sampson County (location to be determined)