

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18, 2017, QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

The Smoky Mountains Area Workforce Board met on Wednesday, January 19, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in the Foundation Room at Walters State Community College in Morristown, TN. Attendance was as follows:

PRESENT

Mr. Pete Barile
Ms. Ann Bowen
Ms. Darlene Ely
Ms. Elaine Ely
Ms. Sheri Frost
Mr. Chris Griffey
Ms. Carole Harwood
Mr. Jonathan Jones
Ms. Daronda Patterson
Mr. Noah Roark
Ms. Pam Stubbs

REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Mr. Will Bunch
Ms. Traci Ellenberg (Mr. Mike McCollough)
Mr. Michael Fishman (Ms. Donna Stansberry)
Ms. Susan Luker (Ms. Kay Hale)
Dr. Tony Miksa (Dr. Mark Hurst)
Mr. Jerry Patton (Ms. Susanne Cox)
Mr. David Popiel (Mr. Noah Roark)
Ms. Amy Rader (Ms. Darleen Strassner)
Mr. Jerry Sexton

ABSENT

Mr. Andrew Duncan
Ms. Sheila Harris
Mr. Darrel Helton
Mr. Rick Keck
Ms. Mechelle Robinson

Mayors: Mayor David Crum, Greene County

Staff: Ms. Mary Beth Brady, Ms. Barbara Byard, Ms. Kellee Collins, Ms. Krystal Johnston, Ms. Deborah LaRoy, Mr. Victor Oakley, Ms. Connie O'Vercum, Mr. Don Shadow, Ms. Donna Stansberry, Ms. Terry Trivette, Mr. Bobby Williams, and Ms. Debra Williams.

Guests: Ms. K.C. Alvarado, Ms. Heather Carrier, Ms. Susan Cox, Mr. Chris Edmonds, Ms. Kay Hale, Dr. Mark Hurst, Ms. Cheryl Lewis, Ms. Teresa Smith, Mr. James Stokely, and Ms. Darleen Strassner.

Mr. Noah Roark, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He welcomed board members and guests. Ms. Donna Stansberry, Interim Dean of Workforce Development, called the roll, and a quorum was declared.

BOARD CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Roark directed the board members' attention to consent agenda items.

- A. Minutes of the October 26, 2016, WIOA Meeting
- B. Career Center Activity Report
- C. Incumbent Worker Training Report
- D. On-the-Job Training Report
- E. Rapid Response Report
- F. Re-Employment and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) Report

Mr. Pete Barile made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ann Bowen, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed.

Ms. Barbara Byard reviewed the fiscal report and budget. She said that the reports had not been approved as the Mayors did not meet prior to the January 18th meeting. As stated in the October 2016 meeting, the state imposed a .49% decrease in funding for LWIDA2 adults and dislocated workers programs. However, since the amount was so minor, the budget was not changed, and the reduction will be reflected as a smaller carryover at the end of the year. We still have not yet received FY '17 contracts. They are commonly sent on October 1st. Dr. Mark Hurst made a motion, seconded by Ms. Elaine Ely, to approve the fiscal report. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Donna Stansberry, in an update of the PY 2016 Transitional Regional Plan, told the Board that Dr. Nancy Brown has been hired as a temporary, part-time staff person to work with the East Region WIOA Directors to write the regional plan. Meetings have been held, and the plan will be posted by January 28 to allow for the 30-day comment period. It will be submitted to the state on March 1, 2017. All 5 local areas will pay 20% of her salary for this time period.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Stansberry reminded the Board that Walters State is both the administrative entity for the WIOA program and a training provider. A request for a waiver for Walters State Community College to provide training must be submitted to the governor annually. The intent of this waiver is to provide the option for local boards to provide training services in extenuating circumstances, such as rural areas with limited training providers and programs. There will be a period of 30 days for public review before the request is made. This process will allow the executive committee to recommend approval of the letter at the annual meeting. Ms. Elaine Ely made a motion, seconded by Ms. Daronda Patterson, to approve the letter for submission.

Ms. Stansberry explained the new policy, recently passed by the state workforce board, which modifies the way Incumbent Worker Training grants are awarded. Rather than awarding IWT to each individual LWDA, the awards will be made by region. Currently, \$333,000 has been set aside for each region (East, Middle and West). The directors have designated a regional Business

Services Team (BST) to review the applications submitted by employers in our region and to make a determination, with input from the LWDA Directors and Regional Directors, on what businesses will be awarded training grants. This money must be expended by June 30, 2017, which will give these companies only about four months to do their training. During this round of grants, LWDA 5 has chosen to use their formula money to fund incumbent worker training, therefore allowing the other 4 areas a greater amount of money to share.

OTHER BUSINESS

The TN Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development, in conjunction with LWDA 2, has submitted an application for a \$6.9M grant to assist Sevier County in the clean-up required after the recent wildfires. Ms. Stansberry told the Board that this will require the local area to administer the grant by subcontracting with another agency to hire dislocated workers to assist the National Park Service and the Sevier County Waste Management Service. This grant will expire in 12 months.

Ms. Donna Stansberry presented a training session on Certification of LWDA 2 American Job Centers.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Stansberry congratulated Ms. Darlene Ely who received the Administrator's Award from the TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development for her dedication and service during the Sevier County wildfires. Ms. Ely worked tirelessly to coordinate services and stall 24/7 for several weeks.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ms. Sheri Frost made a motion, seconded by Ms. Daronda Patterson, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.