



Workforce Development *is* Economic Development

512 29 ½ Rd  
Grand Junction, CO 81504

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Mesa County Workforce Development Board - Bi-Monthly Meeting  
July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 7:30am-9:00am

- A. Welcome: Light Breakfast and handouts available**
- B. Nina Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:32 am**
  - 1. Attendance and Roll Call/ Visitor Recognition**
- C. A Letter rcvd from a WFC client was read and shared as the  
Spotlight Workforce Center Success Story**
- D. Consent Agenda**

**\*\*The Consent Agenda is intended to allow the WDB to spend its time on more complex items and initiatives. These items are generally perceived as non-controversial and can be approved by a single motion. Board members may ask that an item be removed from the Consent Agenda for individual consideration.**

- a) Approval of May Meeting minutes (Included in attachments)*
- b) Adult Priority of Service Policy (Included in attachments)*
- c) Registered Apprenticeship Exit Policy (Included in attachments)*
- d) Incumbent Worker Training Policy (Included in attachments)*
- e) Eligible Training Provider List Policy (Included in attachments)*
- f) Banned and Flagged Client Policy (Included in attachments)*
- g) WIOA Title I Eligibility Policy (Included in attachments)*
- h) Work Experience/Youth Incentive Policy (Included in attachments)*
- i) Business Services Guidance/A comprehensive Approach to Business Services Policy (Included in attachments)*

- 2. Dennis made a motion to approve all consent agenda items as presented. Buzz 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.**



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**E. Child Care Program Overview presented by Melissa Schierland, Child Care Supervisor**

1. **An integral part of our Mesa County WFC One Stop Shop Model**
  - a) *The Child Care program is an income based eligibility program which provides child care assistance to low income individuals employed, seeking employment, or enrolled in school including teen parents in high school. To qualify, applicant's income must be under 165% of the Federal Poverty level and eligibility is re-determined every 12 months. Currently there are 600 families being served in Mesa County*
2. **The program also helps provide childcare for foster families and for TANF clients**
3. **Children receiving the child care must be US citizens under age 13**
4. **Parents pay a portion of the child care costs known as a parent fee**
5. **The WFC Child Care program contracts with over 140 providers including School District 51, Little Mavs through CMU, and Grand Junction Parks & Rec program**
6. **Due to funding cuts, a waitlist was enacted last May, 2016. As many as 200 local families, and as few as 30, have been on the waitlist over the past year. At this time, a majority of big 10 counties have waitlists for this program.**

**F. Election of Officers**

- a) ***Executive Committee Recommendations:***
  - (1) Board Chair: Tim Fry
  - (2) Board Vice-Chair: Nina Anderson
    - a) *Both above have agreed to serve again for continuity*
- b) ***Other nominations were requested from the floor; none received***
- c) ***Diane made a motion to approve both Chair and Vice Chair nominations. Dennis 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, none opposed, motion passed.***

**G. Review of Workforce Center Volume Report**



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**(It was suggested to add a comparison of last year to charts for historical reference)**

- 1. Job orders overall are up over 30% YTD over last year/ up 60% for fulltime orders**
  - a) Over 4000 active job seekers are currently registered with Connecting Colorado*
  - b) 831 employers are using Connecting Colorado*
- 2. Wage stats: Mesa County average weekly wage has historically been lower than Pueblo, but now is slightly higher than Pueblo while still behind the average for the state**
- 3. Unemployment has dropped significantly from last year and was at 3.3% for May**
  - a) (3.6% for June - usually there is a large spike in June)*
- 4. There are 1500 fewer people in our labor force from last year.**
- 5. A Location Quotient measurement shows how concentrated a particular industry is in your area as compared to a state average. This measurement reflects that our local economy is starting to diversify.**
- 6. Title I (Hilltop contract) OJT, Internships, Kickstart programs - Over 100% enrollments in dislocated adult and youth programs 269 currently - leading all counties in the State of Colorado on a limited budget (less than the rest of the state) Last year we saved our employers over \$890K**



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7. **Attestation and Conflict of Interest forms were provided to all board members who were asked to read through and sign them. Curtis needs to have these on file for each board member stating they received a copy of the Bylaws, Conflict of Interest and PGL 1504**

*a) Executed documents can be turned in at the end of the meeting or emailed to [Curtis.Englehart@Mesacounty.us](mailto:Curtis.Englehart@Mesacounty.us) prior to next meeting*

**H. WDB Appointment Recommendations (1 current vacancy):**

1. **Darshann Ruckman from the Hospitality Industry was nominated to fill the vacant seat on the board**

2. **Buzz made a motion to approve Darshann's nomination to present to the Board of Mesa County Commissioners/Diane 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion was approved with all in favor, none opposed.**

**I. Program and Sub Committee updates:**

1. **One Stop Operator MOU approval update**

*a) Everything was approved at State & Fed level. In place and working as of July 1. Is now a state model.*

2. **Committee no longer meeting**

3. **Career-Link**

*a) This committee didn't meet this month, they will meet in August*

*b) Young entrepreneur program starting up*

*c) Presentations scheduled for Back to School night*

*d) Career Wise ended up with 14 students in 11 businesses apprenticeships*

*e) Funded D-51 for the next few years*

*f) Recruitment process will be more refined with a Career wise coordinator going forward*

(1) Curriculum for Healthcare on the docket (growing industry statewide) programs are needed

*g) Career wise considered charging employers going forward*



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- (1) They have since backed off as this will threaten the program.
- (2) Finances for this program may be in danger
- (3) If Mesa County needs to continue outside of the Career Wise business model in the future, we will

***h) Partnership between D-51 and CMU to work with students who do not plan to seek post-secondary education – career advisor in the High Schools***

- (1) Creating a “speakers bureau” to talk with high schoolers
  - (a) *May be looking for volunteers to talk about industries and jobs available in Mesa County*
  - (b) *May ask for small group field trips for students to tour jobsites*
  - (c) *May set up some short trainings for business reps to “learn to talk to teenagers”*

***i) Streamlining internships at CMU with one point of contact***

***j) Hire Me First program is going away because there are other opportunities for students to gain soft skills***

**Career-Link is the umbrella under which many programs reside**

***k) Career Link meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues of each month @ noon hosted by Diane/Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce. All Workforce Development Board members are invited to attend***

**J. Work Ready Community Initiative**

1. **Mesa County is the 1<sup>st</sup> Certified Work Ready community in the state as of March**
2. **Next steps are to re-engage employers and improved certificates (Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum)**
3. **Show employers how this can benefit them**
  - a) ***Job Profiles***
  - b) ***Using NCRC in hiring process***



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- c) *Would like to involve nearby counties in initiative going forward***
  - (1) Will help provide our local employers with skilled workforce
  - (2) Meeting August 28 – want to invite Delta, Montrose and Garfield Counties
  - (3) Would like Board members to attend and speak to benefits

***\*Board members were encouraged to try a profile for at least one position within their company to see the benefits for themselves***

**K. Job Connects – “Connecting you to employers”**

- 1. **Held Manufacturer Round table discussion with employers and WCCC**
- 2. **Helped to develop apprenticeship type model for adults**
  - a) *Sector funding and scholarships at WCCC***
    - (1) Can pay for OJT while navigating an 8 week education course
  - b) *Recruiting piece has been very difficult in the past***
  - c) *Now trying to enroll individuals who applied for, but weren't selected for, recent openings with our manufacturers.***
    - (1) Employer can refer applicants who need just a little more training or exposure into this program
  - d) *Also visited transition events at Ft Carson to recruit talent to the valley***
- 3. **The hope is to expand into other industries once we get it going.**

**L. Other?**

- 1. **It was suggested that 20 minutes of each meeting be set aside to address (brainstorm for) the coming needs of the community – planning for the future**
  - a) *Board members can help to introduce program ideas (example: Helmets to Hard Hats) and give some direction on how WFC can gear***
  - b) *Sub committees may be a good forum to follow through on ideas stemming from general board meetings***



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*c) Could have more time if the board would review the quarterly report ahead of the meeting and bring questions back.*

**M. Meeting was adjourned at 8:57am**