



Workforce Development *is* Economic Development

512 29 ½ Rd
Grand Junction, CO 81504

Mesa County Workforce Development Board - Bi-Monthly Meeting Agenda
September 26th, 2017 - 7:30am-9:00am

Room C of our Business Center, 512 29 ½ Road, Grand Junction, CO.

Call in Option: 683-4300 for local callers / 877-394-5806 for long distance callers

Access Code: 0198886 followed by the # sign

Attendance and Roll Call/ Visitor Recognition

Introductions, Welcome new Board members

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.*

Approval of July Meeting minutes (Included in attachments)

- Buzz Moore made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Diane Schwenke 2nd the motion. Motion passed unopposed.

Program Overview – Kick Start presented by Garrett Morrison

- Work based learning for young adults in Mesa County, ages 18-24, who are disconnected from employment & school. This group is entering the workforce without skills to do well in interviews and without work experience that jobs require.
 - Mesa County youth (18 – 24) with no work experience is a large part of our population
 - They often leave our community for opportunity and don't come back
 - Roughly 14% disconnected youth in Mesa County
- This program has gained momentum in the 3 years since inception and now employers are reaching out to the program to get interns.
- Kick Start program can help these young adults with
 - Mock interviews, Job search skills, Resume work, Soft Skills, Conversations and training regarding drug use (marijuana)
 - Can also offer Bus passes and fuel assistance
 - Matches candidates with employers for work-based learning
 - Work with employers able to provide mentoring
 - Partners with WIOA and Uses Connecting Colorado
 - If candidates are not employed at end of internship, the program will help update resumes and give additional referrals to work or post-secondary education
- Success Rate
 - In year 1 there were 80 participants with 60% success rate (hired by employer at end of internship)
 - 2nd year 60 participants with 70% success rate
 - This year's goal is to serve 50 individuals



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- Kick Start has partners in Health care (CNA), Administrative, Computer/Technology, Manufacturing, Construction
 - Some large participating employers have included: Capco, Hilltop, as well as occupations in Animal Grooming, Sales & Marketing

Elise Lowe-Vaughn - Director, Workforce Programs, Policy and Strategic Initiatives, CDLE

- Introduction
 - Oversee workforce programs; youth, dislocated workers, veterans
 - Champion local level work at the state level and represent interests at federal level
- National Update
 - Average 10% hit on WIOA funding across the state /Expecting further cuts in federal programs
 - Applied for 1/2M in dislocated worker funds which will instead be used for hurricane assistance
 - 41.5M in grants written & distributed to local levels over 7 years
 - Some WF have incorporated into 501.c.3 to receive additional grants
 - Congressional budget actions
 - Proposed budget reductions proposed in the house and senate
 - WDB's have been active in voicing their concerns
 - State updates
 - Upcoming summit: TalentFound Sector Summit – October 15th-17th Keystone, CO
 - Congress is making decisions on incomplete information
 - Workforce is working to make sure they have better information
 - White paper on funding cut concerns has been signed off on by Tim Fry WDB Chair, a local letter was also created and has been signed by the BoCC.

WDB Appointment Recommendations

- Brian Watson appointed to the WDB Executive Committee (replacing Buzz Moore – terming out)
- Tim Fry called for board approval of full Executive Board:
 - Tim Fry, Chair
 - Nina Anderson, Vice Chair
 - Dennis Bailey
 - James Milligan
 - Diane Schwenke
 - Brian Watson
- Will Hays made a motion to approve full executive committee. Kelly Flenniken 2nd the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed



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- WDB member Will Hays' can fill need for Adult Basic Education (ABE) Rep. as Hilltop was the grant recipient for the Adult Education Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) grant. Appointing Will Hays to the ABE slot will not affect his current term as a WDB member. The ABE rep. is a one year term. If Hilltop is not the recipient of the AEFLA grant in the future, Will Hays will remain in a part of the WDB in his current role.
 - Diane Schwenke moved to move Will Hays to the ABE slot. Dennis Bailey 2nd. Motion passed with all in favor, none opposed.
- **Kristi Pollard has submitted her resignation as she is leaving GJEP.**
 - Diane Schwenke moved to accept the resignation. James Milligan 2nd the motion. All in favor, none opposed, motion passed.
 - The WDB will retain this open seat until GJEP's vacancy is filled.

Workforce Center Volume Report (Included in attachments) Highlights:

- Lowest unemployment rate since October of 2007
- More job orders available to job seekers (FT / perm up over 60% from last year)
- WFC continues to see an increase of employers utilizing services with a high success rate
- Average wage has been climbing slowly but steadily
- Mesa County labor force is stabilizing
- Mesa County has a well-diversified location quotient, which is what is looked for in a healthy economy

Program and Sub Committee updates:

- Career Link -
 - CareerWise has engaged 3 new employers for next round
 - Young entrepreneurs academy has 10-12 students; high quality applicants
 - CMU interns connecting with employers- handshake software implementation has been delayed
 - Childcare 8000 initiative (Healthy Mesa County)
 - Employees need adequate/quality /affordable childcare
 - Evenings and weekend centers unavailable in Mesa County
 - Identifying a career pathway for child care providers
 - Employer interest and support
 - Connecting those who need childcare
 - 66 – 67% kids 0-5 need childcare (8000), only have 3400 slots
 - Early childcare provider's pay is not a living wage
 - Low wage levels in Mesa County don't allow families to pay more for their childcare providers



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- Quality is needed
- The WDB would like Jeff Kuhr to present on this topic at the next WDB meeting
- Next CareerLink meeting: October 10 @ noon – an in depth CareerWise presentation from CareerWise President will be the main topic, lunch will be provided.
 - Work Ready Community Initiative
 - Trying to expand to Delta, Montrose, Garfield (on the fence) to make a regional effort. If we can map our skilled workforce from a regional aspect it will benefit Mesa County tremendously from an economic development standpoint
 - Inventory workforce and provide information to local employers and prospective employers
 - Late Feb/early March – Mesa county will host a regional initiative
 - Job Connects – “*Connecting you to employers*”
 - Adult apprenticeship program
 - 80 people attended meeting specific to manufacturing
 - Developed 4 classes (10 students currently enrolled) based on feedback from that meeting
 - Will help offset salaries and have students employed by December
 - Healthcare Sector Partnership
 - A needs study found that surgical techs are needed in Mesa County but we are unable to train them locally (14% projected growth over the next 5 years)
 - Collaborated with CMU to help supplement the newly established Surg. Tech program through the CWDC sector grant
 - Classes started this fall and through the CWDC grant, we were able to make the classroom full.
 - TalentFound Sector Summit – October 15th-17th Keystone, CO
 - Conference coming up (flyer available) Oct 15-17
 - 4 tracks offered
 - WFC will pay hotel and per diem for (up to 6) board members to attend.
 - JobFest Job Fair – October 5th 9am-2p (9-9:30 veterans only)
 - 55 employers (currently hiring) are signed up
 - 9 Community providers available as well



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Open Board Discussion (areas for WDB focus)

- Tabled until next meeting, board requested that it be at the top of the next WDB meeting

Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 am