



Workforce Development *is* Economic Development

512 29 ½ Rd
Grand Junction, CO 81504

Mesa County Workforce Development Board - Bi-Monthly Meeting Agenda
November 28th, 2017 - 7:30am-9:00am

Location: 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: 0177590 followed by the # sign
Participants can also connect via the web: <http://voicemail.mesacounty.us/call/0177590>

Light Breakfast

Called to order @7:32am by Tim Fry

Workforce Development Years of Service Award and Recognition – Buzz Moore

Buzz served in Workforce Development for over 20 years and held the following positions:
June 1997 2003-2005 and 2014-2016 Chairman of the Board
Served on the Rural Consortium board for 12 years; served as chair for 4 yrs.
Representative for State council for 3 years

This will also be Mark Fugere's last meeting.
Mark is retiring after over 30 years with Hilltop.

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 September 26th Meeting minutes** (Included in attachments)
Buzz moved to approve the September 26th minutes. Nina 2nd the motion. Motion passed with all in favor, none opposed

Child Care 8000 Presentation by Jeff Kuhr, Executive Director of Mesa County Public Health Department

- In Mesa County, inadequate, unavailable, and unaffordable child care is a major barrier to many individuals finding and accepting employment
- Business hours barrier – Not one center in Mesa County is open in the evenings, no 2nd or 3rd shift.
- Licensed care in Mesa County can only serve 21% children in our community.
- There are 22,000 kids under 13 in our county
- Our school readiness – reading & math scores are 25% lower than national average
- There are currently 4200 licensed slots
 - Childcare 8000 initiative wants to increase to 8000 slots by the year 2020
 - This would create 700 additional jobs (\$14/hr)
 - And mean an additional \$20m to Mesa County economy

Mesa County Child care centers are currently at only 77% capacity due to lack of teachers yet



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100 children are currently on WFC Childcare waiting list

Challenges:

- Low paying wages (around \$10/hr)
 - Licensed In Home providers are limited to accepting 6 children under 5 yrs of age
- Lack of benefits
- Costly educational requirements
- Lack of local training opportunities

The work so far:

- Created 20 scholarships to offer CDA (Child Development Associate) credentialing
- Partner w/ high schools & CMU to expand certification, credit, & intern opportunities
- Working with GJEP to promote childcare industry
- Working with Bernie Buscher to promote EPIC - a childcare tax credit for employers who contribute to Mesa County Childcare industry

Need to:

- Increase wages to \$14/hr starting through efficiency gains
 - (Business incubator/small business loans/business mentors)
- Offset licensing costs, incentivize licensing, increase flexibility on training requirements
 - Federal funding = tiered reimbursement based on quality (rated 1-5)
 - Higher level = greater reimbursement
 - Most providers in our community are at a level 2.
 - There has to be a preschool component to get a higher rating
- Provide tools to providers in order for them to successfully run a business
 - Back office suite (Early Learning Ventures)– Would like to get a group discount for use and provide staff for technical assistance to users
- Startek will be pilot for workplace childcare.
 - Although staffed 24/7, none requiring childcare work past 5pm.

Request to the WDB:

- Part of the solution is to get local business to understand the importance of child care for employees.
- This group can get on board to brainstorm and implement. Curtis will provide updates to the board.
- Nina Anderson is willing to work on this with the Childcare 8000 board.
- Lobby to modify rules



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Thoughts/Suggestions:

- Look for other models throughout the state – find out what challenges have been overcome
- Centralizing childcare resources
- Involve the Incubator
 - Possibly use the kitchen for USDA program, could partner with Gray Gourmet
- Cohort for health insurance / offset childcare costs
- \$14/hr employees are not physically available in our community.
 - We cannot draw people to this community for \$14/hr.

WDB Appointment Recommendations

Business Rep. (Construction Industry needed) FCI has recommended Lance Kramer (Project Manager)

Dave Ash has resigned

2 additional vacancies:

1. GJEP Executive Director (vacancy being held for the new Director)
2. James Kief – Labor Rep. Looking for replacements
 - a. James motioned to accept resignations. Motion was seconded by Andrew Golike and unanimously approved.
3. Another Labor representative is needed. Will revisit in January meeting.

Dennis moved to fill the Construction Industry vacancy with Lance Kramer. James 2nd the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

CDLE Workforce Development Program Audit and Fiscal Allocation Review (Included in attachments)

- Executive Summary provided and overview by Curtis.
 - Kudos to this board in navigating the MOU / OSO procurement
 - Highest work-based learning opportunities in the state
 - Sampled 100 case files – very good case management & record keeping.
 - No compliance issues / action items – very commendable
 - Our Workforce Center, under Curtis' leadership, is breaking down silos, not just internally but community wide.

Program and Sub Committee updates:

- CareerLink
 - Met w/ all partner at chamber this month.
 - Internships thru CMU trying to be pulled together
 - Handshake program being implemented
 - WFC and WCCC internships going on through Kickstart and Job Connects.
 - State is offering up to \$5000 to hire interns – flyer provided
 - Childcare 8000 was brought up at that meeting also
- Work Ready Community Initiative



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- Trying to make this a regional initiative
 - Delta & Montrose committed
 - San Miguel & Ouray interested
 - Garfield County will not participate at this time
 - Will coach other participating counties to become a Certified Work Ready Communities
 - Hoping to hold the academy in March
- Job Connects – *“Connecting you to employers”*
 - Workforce Center, Cama West, WCCC, Chamber
 - Incorporated industry specific OJT, 10 enrolled in manufacturing
 - Capco success story: Capco hired one candidate after his classroom training. He developed further with hands on training during OJT. Eventually he was hired FT and asked to recommend a peer. The first hired is now helping to improve onboarding for others.
 - 2nd round recruiting job connects students will begin in a couple of weeks

8:53 AM

Adjourn

❖ Items in ***Bolded Italics*** require a vote

Attachments: CDLE Workforce Development Program Audit; September WDB meeting minutes