



Workforce Development *is* Economic Development

512 29 ½ Rd
Grand Junction, CO 81504

Mesa County Workforce Development Board - Bi-Monthly Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, May 26th, 2020 - 7:30am-9:00am

VIRTUAL MEETING

Meeting Link: meet.google.com/yjt-iaif-vfz

Call-in Information: 1- 302-481-5118 PIN: 326 687 215#

7:30 AM Attendance and Roll Call/ New Board Member Recognition
Introductions

WFC Success Story

“They were able to do everything I needed. Huge shout out to Victor and Nick and the guy that transferred me to Nick.”

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.*

- i. Approval of January 21st 2020 meeting minutes (included in attachments)*
- ii. WIOA Title I Eligibility Policy (included in attachments)*

Motion was made by Diane Schwenke and seconded by Brigitte Sunderman. Nobody opposed, motion passed.

7:35 – 7:45 AM CareerWise – Grand Junction: New Framework and Process (Diane Schwenke): **Please see attached document**

CareerWise in Grand Junction and Denver Metro were 2 pilot programs. After the fourth cohort, the program has had challenges. We have been in close communication with CareerWise customer service rep and the program has just not been growing. The latest recruiting effort has had 4 apprenticeships offered and we have never been above 14 individuals in the program. Mesa County has good collaboration and that is why we were chosen to be a pilot program. We totally support this effort with the transition from high school to careers and decided if things weren't working at the state level, we would do our own. The state model is not working and we sat down with Noel Ginsburg, CEO of CareerWise and created a sub-committee. The Chamber, WFC and SD51 want to come up with their own program. CareerWise is good with that because the program is not progressing like they planned. Diane has put together the framework of what GJ's CareerWise will look like. CareerWise is willing to work with us as a pilot or model to do this elsewhere. The framework will not take effect immediately as this is not the time with furloughs and laid off workers. We will gear up full board in the fall while still supporting current apprentices. Moving forward, apprenticeships will be 2 years instead of 3 years and they will most likely start as a junior or senior and transition into post-secondary schooling. At this stage, students have higher maturity levels and can support the demands on their time. We will offer more flexibility to employers to help with recruiting for apprenticeship slots. There will be a defined training that the employer will pay for and the employer will be able to choose. We are requiring any student who wants to apply to do some sort of a work-based experience before they apply. (This could be job shadowing or Kickstart) The WFC is taking on an increasingly important role in this new structure. We will be recruiting from D51 and Kickstart interns who have completed their program (high school age) as well as targeting



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P-Tech students. We will use other programs as a “feeder” and not hiring a full time person to manage this. GJ Chamber (Darcy) and WFC are taking the main role in taking this over. This will be more flexible, more user friendly, we will not be charging an upfront fee, and more educated students will be coming into the program. Major concessions have been made by CareerWise. There is strong support from Noel in particular, as his goal is to get to 20k apprenticeships in Colorado.

Curtis- We are shifting our CareerWise focus and looking at out-of-school youth. The Kickstart program has been very successful and it’s almost like CareerWise is trying to compete with that. This will be better collaboration with both programs. We are not changing Kickstart, as it is very successful.

7:45 – 8:00 AM Workforce Center Volume Report and Economic Overview – COVID 19 (Curtis Englehart): **Please see attached document**

Volume Report- WFC has seen an increase in the amount of people coming through the doors (virtually now). The building is closed to the public, but we are continuing to offer all services online. “Not Employed at Entry” is still increasing, and we expect that to increase for a while. Job orders have decreased 37% due to COVID and layoffs/furloughs. Active employers using Connecting Colorado is consistent and still higher than April 2019. Employee Wage Statistics (which has lags in the data) is up 322 people from 2018. The “Average Weekly Wage” has an increase of \$27. This is all pre-COVID so expect to see a dip. The unemployment rate came out on Friday for April- 12.6% in Mesa County and the State is at 12%. The labor force decreased by 4,022 people, which is concerning. We are starting to really see the effects of COVID, as the April 2019 unemployment rate was 3.3%. Interestingly enough, 2019 had the lowest unemployment rate at 2.5% and 12.6% is the highest we’ve ever seen. We hope to see this number gradually go down. Unemployment Initial Claims has a substantial amount of 9,430 initial claims for 2020. There was a spike on March 28th, but it has gradually gone down since then. Diane- Is some of the wage increase due to the increased minimum wage? Curtis- Yes that had a lot to do with it. Diane- Do we have a feel for why we had a decrease in the labor force year over year? Do we know how many of the initial filings were from self-employed people and others not typically eligible for unemployment? Curtis- We don’t really know how many, but 4/25 is when they were able to apply, and we did not see a huge spike that week like we were expecting. Top Industries Effected: Leisure and hospitality, trade transportation and utilities, education and health services, professional and business services, construction, natural resources and mining. There has been a huge increase in job seekers using Connecting Colorado, with a jump to 4,378 and I expect that number to continually increase. Job Service Inbound Calls: WFC implemented a virtual call center, we installed phone bricks so every employment specialist can take it home and they can answer the phone at home just like they would at work. We are able to field a lot of calls quickly. We have handled a high call volume, with an average of 2-3 actions per call. Work Based Learning: still on pace to hit our goal and the program runs from 7/1-6/30.

8:00 – 8:15am Colorado Workforce Development Council State Economic Overview – COVID-19 (Jean Doherty: CWDC) **Curtis emailed Jean’s presentation to the board**, which has links to all resources used for this data.

April 2020 National Data:

- Nonfarm Payroll decreased by 20.5 million
- National Unemployment increased to 14.7%.
- Unemployment Rate by Race/Ethnicity is highest at 18.9% for Hispanic/Latinos.
- Number of Full Time Workers decreased by 15 million.



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- # Not in Labor Force but Want a Job @ 9.9 million (doubled). Based on Dept. of Labor Statistics.

Colorado Data:

- April 2020 Unemployment rate at 11.3%, slightly lower than the national average.
- Nonfarm Payroll decreased by 323,500.
- UI Claims- 21.6% in mountain range, due to dependency on tourism. (3 week lag) Map is in the OSPA economic forecast- (link in the slide deck as well)
- Initial UI Claims by Major Occupational Group- highest is food preparation.
- Mesa County Job Postings have decreased by 16.2%.
- Colorado's Top 10 Posted Occupations- registered nurses, truck drivers, retail sales.
- CO's Top 10 Industries- admin and support, professional, scientific and tech, retail trade.
- Mesa County Top 10 Industries: #1 is Health Care.
- Mesa County Top Posted Qualifications: CDL, LPN, CNA, BSN.

8:15-9:00AM

Program and Sub Committee updates:

- P-Tech (Brigitte Sunderman)

There are approximately 38 students from last year who left the program and 5 students graduating and moving forward to CMU. 18 high school freshmen enrolled are enrolled in P-Tech and 7 are enrolling this year as well. There is a cohort of 25, with a total of 63 which is pretty amazing. ASCENT funding (5th year program where first year of college is free) has been suspended for next year. Right now PTECH funding will continue on, per the CDE and we are working with partners to make sure it stays, as students are excited to keep the mentorship going. Brigitte will let Diane know if we need to do some lobbying for this.

Upcoming deadlines:

- Local Plan – Due July 31st

This is updated every 2 years and we can modify and change as needed. It sets the direction for the WDB and the strategic plan. Curtis will sent it out for everyone, and it has to go through a 30-day public comment.

- Local Area Compliance Plan – Due July 31st

ADA compliance for the building itself and our programs. This ensures we are meeting regularly, hitting our measures, and are fiscally responsible. Curtis is putting this together.

- One Stop Operator Certification – Due August 15th



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- Local Workforce Development Board Certification – Due July 31st

Nina Anderson (Chair) is hitting 2 years, and Lance Kramer as vice chair. We will be accepting nominations for chair and vice chair going forward. Send Curtis and Nina an email with interest.

- ****July meeting is our Annual Meeting****

9:00 AM

Adjourn

- ❖ Items in ***Bolded Italics*** require a vote
- ❖ Attachments: January WDB meeting minutes; GJ-CareerWise Framework; Workforce Center Volume Report and Economic Overview – COVID 19; WIOA Title I Eligibility Policy