



Workforce Development *is* Economic Development

512 29 ½ Rd
Grand Junction, CO 81504

Mesa County Workforce Development Board - Bi-Monthly Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, July 28th, 2020 - 7:30am-9:00am

****Annual Meeting****

VIRTUAL MEETING

Meeting ID

meet.google.com/dqp-occn-gnt

Phone Numbers

[\(US\)+1 916-318-8945](tel:+19163188945)

PIN: 673 010 878#

7:30 AM Attendance and Roll Call/ Introductions

WFC Success Story:

GED student, Jessica, started the GED Program in November 2019. She attended regularly and was ready to take her GED test in March but was unable to due to COVID. Jessica was afraid of losing her skills and continued studying at home to keep her skills fresh. She had the option of doing an online test, but did not have the technology to do it. On 6/22 she took the test in the WFC resource room and passed. Jessica's goal was to pass the test before her birthday on 7/1. She will be moving forward with CNA training so she can become a nurse in the future.

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 May 26th 2020 meeting minutes**
- ii. Business Services Guidance Policy**
- iii. Criteria for One Stop Certification Policy**

Motion to pass- Lance Kramer, seconded by Brigitte Sunderman, nobody is opposed

7:35 – 7:45 AM **Nomination and Election of Chair and Vice Chair Roles**

Curtis- July is the annual meeting to elect Chair and Vice Chair. Nina has served for the last 2 years and we are very appreciative of her time and commitment. Tim Fry would like to nominate Lance as Chair and Diane Schwenke as Vice Chair.

Lisa Mullen seconds, nobody is opposed. – Motion Passed.

7:45 – 8:00 AM Workforce Center Volume Report and PY19 Year in Review (Included in attachments) (Curtis Englehart)

These are the June 2020 numbers. Our doors opened on 6/15 and we have seen a lot of traffic in our resource room, as well as the phone and online. These numbers are similar to the June 2019 statistics.



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Job orders are up from last year with 612 total job orders. Usually every job order is equal to 2-3 job openings. We are seeing a large increase in active employers and the employment wage statistic average has increased \$27/week. The unemployment rate for June is at 10, which is .7% lower than the state of Colorado. Mesa County has gained 6,000 people in the labor force since January, which is the highest it's been since 2012. This is attributed to school graduations, people moving to Mesa County, and single income families are now having the non-working parent look for a job. There have been two large layoffs- Startek and Ecogen, which affected 500 employees, however these will be counted in July stats. We are hoping to see gradual decreases in the fall. For location quotient industries, the highest is the energy industry, followed by: construction, healthcare, and retail. There was a large increase in initial unemployment filings the week of March 14, which peaked in the week ending March 28 @ 2583. We have seen consistent decreases since then. For the week of 7/4 we were at 188 filings. Expect to see an increase for July due to the Startek and Ecogen layoffs, but remain hopeful for steady decreases again in August. For regular unemployment in June (not including federal), there were 4,462 people actually on unemployment. Not all of the people who are unemployed are receiving benefits. The top industries effected are Leisure & Hospitality, Trade transportation and utilities, education and health services, professional and business services, and natural resources and mining.

John Justman- Are people not going back to work because they're making more on unemployment?

Curtis- Survey across the state last month showed 500k people on unemployment, and of the small amount that were asked to go back to work, a little over 800 people wanted to stay on unemployment. Approximately 700 of those were returning back to work. We have heard a little bit of that here in Mesa County, but it seems most people are wanting to go back to work.

Tracey Garchar- There are 4400 people who are currently receiving unemployment benefits. Do we have any plans for when they all drop off in October?

Curtis- The applications were staggered, so they won't all be dropping at the same time. The extra \$600 stipend ended, so we put a large amount of communication to those unemployment recipients that this was ending, and we have staffed up our phone line expecting to see an increase in call volumes due to that.

8:00 – 8:15am Program and Fiscal Monitoring Updates and PY20 Financial Review

Our program year runs 7/1-6/30. During that time, the WFC helped with 1,660 new jobs through WFC services, saved employers over \$2m, served 14,000 customers and served 832 employers. We partnered with Hilltop to complete 527 work-based learning activities- this is a large number considering COVID and staff needing to adapt to virtual platforms. This program has an 83.5% retention rate at 1 year. Employment Services served 6,700 individuals. Professional Services completed 4,900 assessments. For the Work Ready Community Initiative, we are the only certified program in the state with 168 employers supporting this initiative. The WFC partners with Hilltop as well for the KickStart Program, which completed 192 work-based learning activities with a 67% retention rate and 40 GED completers. We received \$168,000 in ESF community grants, the CareerWise framework has been launched and 33 scholarships were awarded to CMU and WCCC students. WFC partners with Western CO Area Health & Education Center to create 85 apprentices (PCP and CNA). The WFC established a virtual call center due to COVID which fielded almost 5,000 phone calls since February alone. We expect this to increase greatly with the \$600 unemployment stipend that is going away.



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8:15-9:00AM Program and Sub Committee updates:

- CareerLink (Diane Schwenke)
 - We continue to meet regularly, nailing down the final details of the MOU. Young Entrepreneurs had their trade show at the end of June at Mesa Mall. This year's academy has had struggles due to COVID, as most other programs have as well. We continue to see employers that are looking for students and KickStart individuals and see a wide interest in continuing these programs.
- P-Tech (Brigitte Sunderman)
 - Cheryl Taylor- 9 students are continuing at WCCC, and 28 new students participating in P-Tech. We greatly appreciate the mentors who have stayed in contact with the kids throughout COVID. P-Tech has been fully funded for another year, and we are very grateful for that.
- WFC Financials (Curtis Englehart)
 - We have big concerns for significant cuts to our programs which is very unfortunate. The Adult Program, which is the most popular, took an 18% cut from PY19-20. The Dislocated Worker Program took a 7.7% cut, Youth took 16% cut, WP 8%, and ESF 9.9%. Total cut was 13%. We will definitely have to adapt and don't anticipate any layoffs, but will probably be sitting on vacancies a little longer to try and save money there. The formula used for funding is very archaic and based off data that is 2 years old. These cuts are based on our 2018 unemployment rate of 3+%. We are looking for additional grants to try and help with this. Going into PY20, things will look different but we will continue to serve as many people as we can through all of our programs. The CDLE Audit went well and we expect to see the Exit Report later today. There will be more to come on this in the September meeting.
 - Greg Caton- ESF is state funding, the rest is federal.
 - The state has been working with the federal government to try and get this formula changed. We are running into some roadblocks with the USDOL. There are 2 grants that we are working on with the State on now for emergency funds. 1 is for temporary employment where the worker would be helping with the COVID crisis. (ex. temp workers for MCPH for testing sites and SD51 janitorial crew to help with sanitation and nursing aides.)
 - Tim- The formula is federal but the state has discretionary dollars to address needs. John Tillman is a liaison with CDLE- the formula is in law and the State does have some flexibility as far as selecting the formula that is in law and an alternate formula. We always make an attempt to choose the formula that has the lesser negative impact. Elise Lowe-Vaughn with



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CDLE- We use a federal formula that is 20 years old. We would love to have you all work with your congressional members as this is very painful to watch the impacts on Counties. The State has applied for disaster grants to try and offset this. Elise will send the waivers to Curtis to distribute to the Board.

Karen Troester- Local unemployment data is showing businesses unaffected by COVID and a number of them have positions open and are unable to find the qualified workers to fill them. (Ex True Value, Homestyle Bakery) Diane- There is flash-polling that supports the position that people are making more on unemployment and choosing not to get full time employment. We are starting to see that this is broader than we initially thought. Is there any support or discussion for business looking for an internship? We are hopeful that this fall we'll be able to go back to on-site internships. Curtis- We would love to partner with these businesses and help fill their positions.

9:00 AM

Adjourn

- ❖ Items in ***Bolded Italics*** require a vote
- ❖ Attachments: May WDB meeting minutes; Workforce Center Volume Report and Year in Review; Business Services Guidance Policy; Criteria for One Stop Certification Policy