



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 Minutes  
Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 - 7:30am-9:00am

**\*\*Annual Meeting\*\***

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

Meeting ID

[meet.google.com/imy-nhuf-wih](https://meet.google.com/imy-nhuf-wih)

Phone Numbers

[\(US\)+1 904-323-4842](tel:+19043234842)

7:30 AM Attendance and Roll Call/ Introductions

WFC Success Story

Rick was enrolled into the Vetworks program on 7/1/19 and was not eligible for WIOA. Rick wanted to become a CSP Trooper but had a hand tattoo, and troopers cannot have visible tattoos. We used funding for Rick's tattoo removal and EMS training. Rick applied and was accepted into the CSP academy in January 2020. He graduated and was promoted to a trooper in September 2020, with a salary of over \$6k/month. Huge congrats to Rick!

**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 July 28<sup>th</sup> 2020 meeting minutes**
- ii. Appoint Robin Brown to the WDB Executive Committee (replacing Tim Fry)**
- iii. Appoint Stacey Mascarenas (Family Health West) to the WDB (replacing Stephanie Motter)**
- iv. Approval of Individual Training Account (ITA) Policy**

**Tracey Garchar motions to consent, Diane Schwenke seconds. Nobody opposed, motion passed**

7:35 – 7:50 AM Public Health Protect Your Neighbor Overview/Update (Jeff Kuhr – Executive Director of MCPH)

In order to qualify for Protect Your Neighbor, Mesa County had to submit 8 measures to the State; three of which were the cumulative measure of cases for 2 weeks, the percent positivity, and our hospital capacity. We're testing 1000 more people per week now that we're working with a contractor at the Fairgrounds facility. We are going to see an increased number of positives since we're testing more people. Currently two Mesa County residents are hospitalized, which is very low and the highest sources of transmission are from a close contact family member and private gatherings. The businesses have done a great job promoting the public health orders. There are no significant numbers from retail businesses, and we do take that into consideration when it comes to the mask mandate. Protect Your Neighbor is the last phase and there is flexibility with the mask order that come with it. We just approved that masks can be removed during exercise and when seated at church. The Governor did amend "last call" for alcohol



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consumption to be 11:30. If we maintain low numbers, we will increase capacity by 5% per month until we hit 100% or until a vaccine is available. 76 businesses have qualified so far for the 5-Star Program, which has been very popular. 5-Star businesses have their own Facebook page now- "Mesa County Variance Protection Plan" and can apply at Health Department website. (health.mesacounty.us) The Ale House has this figured out- their revenue is equal to same time last year, but they are only operating at 50% capacity right now. We are still recommending that employees who are traveling should only do so when necessary. We are asking that people who do travel monitor themselves closely. Quarantine should be for people who have a known exposure. We do have a rapid testing machine and are trying to get 2 more. The turnaround time for a test is currently 48 hours.

**7:50 – 8:15AM One Stop Operator Annual Scope of Work Review (Barb Golden, Jane Wyman)**

*Slide Deck attached:* Scope of work- we oversee all MOUs for mandatory and voluntary partners, and work closely with Curtis at the WFC to negotiate new partners. We also ensure service delivery is being met and ensure an adequate firewall between programs and the one-stop-operator to maintain the separation of duties. FOQA does not provide career services and does not staff or develop budgets for the WDB. This year we renewed 9 mandatory partner MOUs. One Stop Operator has a 5 year term, ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 with cost sharing this last year of \$7,034.

Curtis- This board completed a competitive process for the One Stop Operator, but wanted to review this annually. This has been a really great partnership, especially with the WIOA program and the federal audit that we did last year. This is probably the cheapest one stop operator contract in the state.

Tim Fry confirms that from the state level, this is one of the lowest cost one stop operators in the state. This does have to go through a tighter review, which Mesa County does flawlessly.

***Andrew Golike motions to approve, Tim Fry seconds. Nobody opposed, motion passes.***

**8:15 – 8:30am Workforce Center Volume Report (Curtis Englehart)**

There is an increase in job seekers coming into the WFC. In July we had 4900 job seekers and August was 4100, which follows along with unemployment rates. This time last year we were at 3900. Job orders continue to be down, due to the pandemic but active employers are increasing which is good to see. The Employment Wage Statistics from 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2019 were projecting well, pre-pandemic and the next volume report we see will reflect the pandemic. Peak unemployment in March was 12% and in August we were down to 6.2% and ahead of the state. What is good to see is the labor force, which is up from this time last year. In July there was some data from the state that "reset" and the August numbers look more aligned. Location quotients comparing 2015 – 2020 show the energy industry is still the top industry for Mesa County. The 25-week initial unemployment claims (25 weeks because the beginning of the pandemic was March 2020) shows the spike March 28<sup>th</sup> (2500 claims) and reflects a downward trend continuing through August, with initial claims down to 125 currently. Regular unemployment claims (not including anybody receiving federal assistance) is down to 3,073, reflecting a downward trend every week. We are ahead of the state and the nation and expect to continue to see these downward trends, barring any COVID setbacks.



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8:30-9:00AM Program and Sub Committee updates:

- CareerLink (Diane Schwenke)

We are continuing the process of getting a new MOU for CareerWise. We look at this as a team effort, not just for the Chamber, but with the WFC, SD51 and the community college. The key question will be how businesses feel about adding apprenticeships with the ongoing pandemic, however we are really excited about the positive word-of-mouth referrals for this program.

- P-Tech (Brigitte Sunderman)

Cheri Taylor- P-Tech is going very well. For the manufacturing umbrella with Central High School, we received feedback from the business partners and we are looking at moving forward with a construction and IT P-Tech programs. The IT program may be based at FMHS and construction will be at all high schools. There are 59 kids currently in manufacturing and 7 have started college.

- \*\*CDLE Executive Director, Joe Barela will be here on 10/7. Please let Curtis know if you want to be included in the meeting with him\*\*

Joe would like to have a conversation with members of the WDB. Email Curtis if you can join.

Diane- Nina has been working with Joe's office to discuss the comps ruling, this is tentatively scheduled for 10/14.

9:00 AM

Adjourn

- ❖ Items in ***Bolded Italics*** require a vote
- ❖ Attachments: July WDB meeting minutes; Workforce Center Volume Report; Individual Training Account (ITA) Policy