



Workforce Development *is* Economic Development

512 29 ½ Rd
Grand Junction, CO 81504

Mesa County Workforce Development Board - Bi-Monthly Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, November 24th, 2020 - 7:30am-9:00am

VIRTUAL MEETING

meet.google.com/ijz-suhs-ryw

Phone Numbers

[\(US\)+1 984-212-6169](tel:+19842126169)

PIN: 586 812 818#

7:30 AM Attendance and Roll Call/ New Board Member Recognition Introductions
We have a quorum, and welcome Stacey Mascarenas as a new business representative from Family Health West.

WFC Success Story

“Lindsay Woodrich assisted me with my resume and I started getting calls from employers almost immediately. I also participated in mock interviews, which were an excellent tool. Lindsay responded to emails promptly, is extremely courteous and was a fantastic resource for me. She is an asset to your organization and I’m truly grateful.”

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 September 22nd, 2020 meeting minutes**
Andrew Golike motions, Diane Schwenke seconds. Nobody opposed
- II. Approval of Data Integrity and the Participation Cycle Policy**
Diane Schwenke motions, Brigitte Sunderman seconds. Nobody opposed
- III. Approval of updated bylaws – staggered term limits**
Diane Schwenke motions, Brigitte Sunderman seconds. Nobody opposed

7:35 – 8:00AM Economic Development First Responders Presentation (Robin, Diane, and others)
Diane, Robin, Curtis and Greg are members of Mesa County’s First Responders Economic Development Group to focus on policy issues and help businesses through the COVID pandemic. The group is represented by members encompassing the whole County and started meeting weekly in March to react quickly to the pandemic and solve problems for businesses. The group works collaboratively together to share information, meet with policy makers (ie CARES act packages), have 20 shovel-ready infrastructure projects, advocated for regulatory relief for businesses, worked on BIC processing for multiple loan and grant programs, and distributed 12,000 CMU masks which are seen everywhere in the community. The 5-Star program is one of their biggest success stories and has allowed businesses to remain open under all levels. This has been a very hands-on approach to help progress through this pandemic. Diane will share a list of 5-star businesses with the group, but the list is constantly growing. We are up to about 400 total



Workforce Development is Economic Development

512 29 ½ Rd
Grand Junction, CO 81504

applications for the program. The WFC is 5-Star rated as well which allows us to continue in-person hiring events which are significantly more successful than virtual events.

8:00 – 8:10 AM High Performing Board Designation Overview – Colorado Workforce Development Council (Lee Wheeler-Berliner)

CWDC created this designation to ensure boards are as effective as possible. We developed a process to create additional designation to set yourselves apart, provide incentives for best practices, and ensure all members are engaged. This was passed by CWDC in 2017. Performance incentives are optional if you want to pursue it and the PGLs are published online. August 2021 is when we can submit annual report for the current year and can apply for a high performing designation. We have to achieve 9/10 performance indicators- example: 80% of members actively participate (need to decide how to track this information- could send a survey), local members serve as liaisons between the community and the WFC, and show that the board accomplishes strategic priorities (5-star program would be a good example). CWDC staff reviews the applications and the incentives correspond to the level of the high performing designation.

8:10 – 8:30 AM Workforce Center Volume Report and Economic Overview (Included in attachments) (Curtis Englehart)

Curtis emailed the report this morning. The October Volume Report shows steady numbers although the WFC is “by appointment only”. Job orders have increased, due to increased seasonal hiring and total job orders are down 20% from this time last year. Average Employment is trending upward, and we are seeing gains in the average weekly wage. The unemployment rate is at 5.7%, which is better than April 2020 which was 12%. Civilian Labor Force for our county is at 79,000 which is an 8-year high. There was a jump in initial unemployment claims this last month, however the continuing unemployment claims continue to decrease. Work Based Learning has 129 new participants for the adult program, 15 dislocated workers, and 79 from the youth program. Connecting Colorado had a huge increase in total active job seekers. During the pandemic the WFC created a virtual call center for the Employment Services Team which utilized phone bricks so employees can answer their work phone while working from home. This has been a great resource for citizens since the Unemployment Office has been inundated with calls, and we can be a local resource to help answer questions. Energy, Construction, Healthcare and Retail continue to remain the top industries here in Mesa County.

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

- CareerLink (Diane Schwenke)
 - CareerWise has started the recruitment process for employees wanting to host an apprentice for next spring. The hope is to place 15 apprentices under the new model. YEA has 12 new entrepreneurs who continue to meet at WCCC and are moving into the mentor stage. If any of you are willing to be a mentor and commit to 7 meetings, we are still looking for a few more. KickStart continues to do well.
- WIOA Program Transition (Curtis Englehart)



Workforce Development *is* Economic Development

512 29 ½ Rd
Grand Junction, CO 81504

- WIOA has been contracted to Hilltop for many years. Hilltop has done a great job with the program, however due to federal funding and program cuts, we have made the decision to bring the program in-house. This has nothing to do with Hilltop or their performance, however we feel this is a necessary step with the new funding models. We compared allocations from PY19-PY20 received a 13% cut. The transition will take effect 1/2/2021. As we went through this process, staff who wanted a job with the County was offered a job with the County. Some staff are transitioning over and we will be hiring a few positions. We are still on track to hit the goal for work-based learning. The program is not changing, it will just be a County program instead of Hilltop.
- Workforce Stimulus Support (Curtis Englehart)
 - The Governor has a rough draft for a stimulus package which includes \$25M for Workforce Centers and has less restrictions than federal dollars. We can apply for this through a competitive process which will help us serve more people here in Mesa County. The JBC will review in January. This is a great opportunity and we are looking for this group to sign off on a support letter.
Diane motions to support, Lisa Mullen seconds. Nobody opposed.
Curtis will get the letter together and send it to the board.
- James Price with Mesa County Library will be moving. Wishing him well in his new endeavors.

9:00 AM

Adjourn

- ❖ Items in ***Bolded Italics*** require a vote
- ❖ Attachments: September WDB meeting minutes; WDB Bylaws; Workforce Center Volume Report and Economic Overview; Data Integrity and the Participation Cycle Policy