



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, January 26<sup>th</sup>: 7:30am-9:00am

### **VIRTUAL MEETING**

[meet.google.com/ijz-suhs-ryw](https://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 our new board members, County Commissioner Janet Rowland, and Family Health West's Stacey Mascarenas.

#### WFC Success Story

"CoorsTek is seeing an increase in business levels and had urgent need for 10-12 positions to be filled. We reached out to the WFC and set up an in-person hiring event. The promotion of the event was done by the WFC which included a video interview. The video had 1200 views and they did a fantastic job with it. For the job fair, 2 interview rooms were utilized while socially distanced and we completed 45 interviews. We hired some really strong candidates and some that we didn't expect. Six of the new hires started yesterday. The WFC was very efficient and helped provide some great results for us."

#### **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 November 24<sup>th</sup> , 2020 meeting minutes**
- II. **Appoint Brad McCloud to the WDB- Business Rep**

***Nina Anderson moves to approve, Diane Schwenke seconds. Nobody opposed***

7:35 – 8:10AM COVID-19 Pandemic Mesa County Update - Vaccines and possible Five Star+ Program (Jeff Kuhr)  
Mesa County had only 32 cases yesterday and if you look at our website and you can view the curve trending down again. The state looks at % positivity (6.99% currently), stable or declining hospitalizations (day 10 or 11 now) and 2 week case count (down to 1344 and need to be at 550) and that would get us to yellow level. Currently we are in level orange (open 25% except for 5-Star facilities. We moved into the GJ Convention Center yesterday for vaccinations and it appears to be going smoothly. Hoping for 2k vaccinations this week and we have the capacity to do 1200-1600/day with ability to expand. Paula Anderson is working with our volunteers to staff up which has been a great community partnership. Greg Caton with City of GJ has donated the GJ Convention Center which has been a huge help. We only received 500 vaccines this last week and with our current stock that adds up to 2k including our current stock. All of 1A group has been offered a vaccine, only 50% are taking them however we expect to see that number go up. The distribution process at the State level is not going well, the State is delivering vaccines to



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clinics/businesses that aren't even aware that they were receiving anything. It would be much more smooth if MCPH received all the vaccines and did the local distribution, as we did with H1N1 which was very successful. If we can get the 65+ age group vaccinated at 85%, sit at 25% of beds filled at hospital (currently 74% but vast majority are not COVID) that is our pathway to opening back up. The definition of an Essential Worker = "If they were out for 2 weeks, it would impact your business".

Jeff's staff will draft bullet points for a distribution solution to send to the State. Curtis will distribute to this group.

5-Star Program- approaching 700 businesses, and demand is tapering. We have been very successful with "non-compliant" businesses with just going in and talking to them.

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

WFC is open to the public 8am-2pm for walk-ins and appointments. In December 2020, 4,000 people utilized our services, which was an increase from 2019. December Job Orders were at 658 and we ended the year very strong. Employment wage statistics for 2020 Q2 average employment has dipped to 57,577 but the average weekly wage increased by \$32. The civilian labor force hit an 8-year high in 2020 at 79,880. Unemployment rate increased to 8.2%, however we always see a spike at the end of the year due to seasonal layoffs and this year we add the COVID layoffs as well. Initial UI claims steadily declined from March 2020 until Oct 2020 when we started to see slight increases. Continued claims are following the same trend. Work Based Learning through Career Development Program (WIOA has transitioned in-house and is fully staffed as of yesterday) has a total of 121 adults, 10 dislocated workers and 68 youth and are on track to hit goals in June. Connecting Colorado active job seekers has increased tremendously and as of November are at 3,191. Our virtual call center has handled 8,000 inbound and 6,000 outbound calls since established. Location quotient top 5: energy, construction, health care, transportation, and agriculture. Top 5 jobs: healthcare, government, retail, food service, construction.

How much of the unemployment claim numbers have been fraud? Curtis reached out to the State on that, and there are still no hard numbers, but we know it is significant impact. Colorado has started using "IDme" to assist with decreasing fraud.

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

- CareerLink (Diane Schwenke) CareerWise is seeking high school students for 2-year apprenticeships. There are 9 positions available currently and we are looking to increase that to 15 by March. There is a prerequisite for an internship/job shadow to be able to do the apprenticeship. Historically CareerWise wanted the brightest high school students, but we have expanded the eligibility criteria to include out-of-school youth and we are in a really great spot with this program.
- P-Tech (Brigitte Sunderman) Great news, our application was approved for students to receive an IT Associate's degree free of charge, this also includes construction starting in fall 2021.



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- WIOA Program Transition (Curtis Englehart) The transition to bring this program in-house officially happened January 2<sup>nd</sup> and we are now fully staffed. We have a training series set with the State as well as in-house. The program has slowed down for enrollments, partially due to the time of year and to allow for onboarding and training of new staff.

9:00 AM

Adjourn

- ❖ Items in ***Bolded Italics*** require a vote
- ❖ Attachments: November WDB meeting minutes; Workforce Center Volume Report and Economic Overview