



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 Agenda  
Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>: 7:30am-9:00am

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

Meeting ID

[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

WFC Success Story

"The Leitner-Poma hiring event had 10 job seekers, 5 of which received second interviews and 3 additional were selected for other opportunities. They were very excited to build a working relationship with MCWFC.

**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 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting minutes**

**II. Appoint Emily McConell – M.C. Libraries (Adult Basic Ed. Rep.) to WDB**

**III. Adult Priority of Service Policy**

Not a new policy, just an update to existing policy from USDL. We will now have to increase enrollments to 75% for those who are under employed and those on food assistance. This will be tough to do, but these are guidelines from the Federal level. Governor Polis also identified a new category for priority of service list- will be "New Americans".

***Diane Schwenke motions to approve, Janet Rowland seconds. Nobody opposed***

7:35 – 8:00AM COVID-19 Pandemic Mesa County Update and Free to Choose Resolution (Jeff Kuhr)  
MCPH has administered 46,000 doses at the convention center. 31,000 of those are first doses. We ramped up to expect 30-35K/week but the State says they can't do any better than 5500/week. 62% of our 70+ population have been vaccinated, but the state average is closer to 70%. We do have efforts coming up for homebound individuals. 49% of 60-65 age group has been vaccinated. We are officially in phase 1B4, but if someone registers from phase 2, we will email them when we have available slots. Our vaccination site is now a State site, which is a good thing because we had been seeing a lot of people from outside of Mesa County anyway. We are very close to qualifying for level green, moving to 60% indoor



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capacity and no limits for outdoor capacity. We will still be asking for large events (JUCO/Country Jam) to get approval from the MCPH.

The Free to Choose Resolution allows individuals and businesses to make their own choice on wearing masks or not. Some businesses have expressed concern with protecting their employees. This will go into effect between 4/16 and 5/1, which is dependent on the amount of available vaccines and ensuring they are widely available to everyone. The Board of Health and Commissioners voted to approve this and we will continue to monitor the situation. 5-Star program will be assessed as we go forward. The State is going to dissolve their deal by mid-April, so it is wise for us to have our own plan going forward.

8:00 – 8:20 AM P-Tech Presentation (Included in attachments) (Brigitte Sundermann)  
See slide deck in attachments.

8:20 – 8:30 AM Colorado Recovery Plan (Lee Wheeler-Berliner: CWDC)  
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e04f6d46d7ba64e2ed33479/t/6049054a25c6f0549b096ef4/1615398268061/Colorado+Stimulus+Agenda+%281%29.pdf>

This plan has 5 goals on how the state can move forward from the pandemic and developing the workforce is one of them. The bill representative is Sullivan and plans to add \$25M in state funding for workforce development. There will be 2 year grants and a new line of funding for supports in short-term training. Roughly 57% of jobs that were lost due to the pandemic have not come back, and a portion of those are likely to never come back. These state funds would not have all of the eligibility requirements as federal programs such as WIOA and will be a flexible stream of resources. We are anticipating the bill will be released in the next week. A portion of these dollars will be allocated based on 2020 unemployment rates and types of jobs that have been lost in the community. Another portion will be available through a competitive process based on a community's specific needs. Lee will be circulating a letter of support through Curtis.

Timeline of distribution – will have an answer within 5 days of the bill being signed and the 5 goals will all be in their own respective bill.

These funds would be available in the local area for 2 years, anticipating that participants will come in cycles. Disaster grants (CO Responds) can also be attached to help these individuals. Informational listening tours start on 3/28, WDB will be receiving invitations.

For questions, email: [lee.wheeler-berliner@state.co.us](mailto:lee.wheeler-berliner@state.co.us)

8:30 – 8:50 AM Workforce Center Volume Report and Economic Overview (Included in attachments) – Curtis Englehart

February Volume Report (physical and virtual) 3,739 individuals in January 2021. 515 were employed at entry, and 2732 were not employed. Job orders for January 2021 were at 716 vs 556 in Jan 2020; it's important to know that there are on average 2-3 job openings per job order. We have a really good start to the year and continue to see increasing numbers of active employers using Connecting Colorado (currently 538). Average employment for Q3 2020 was at 60,745 and the average weekly wage was at \$912 (less than state average) Jan 2020 showed our lowest unemployment of 4.1% and January 2021 at 7.9%. This time of year we usually see a spike in unemployment due to seasonal layoffs and industries such as construction and hospitality are slower in the colder months. Our labor force is now at 76,281



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which is higher than January of 2020. Initial UI claims (not UI rates) highest percentage was age group 25-34, at 27.4%. Continued claims vs initial claims has not been updated since Dec 2020 by the state due to unemployment fraud. Work Based Learning (WIOA Career Development Program) has served 152 adults, 16 dislocated and 94 youth through January 2021 and is on pace to hit our goals. All local areas are struggling getting youth into work based learning and this is something we are really working on internally. Connecting Colorado active job seekers still has a high level of participants at 3,705. The WFC developed a virtual call center due to the pandemic and have handled over 11,000 inbound and 8,200 outbound calls since Feb 2020. 2020 location quotient: Energy industry is still high at 6.8. Top 5 industries: healthcare, government (including CMU), retail, accommodation and food, followed by construction. Curtis will send out the updated version of this document, as some of the work based learning numbers were incorrect.

8:50-9:00AM

Program and Sub Committee updates:

- CareerLink (Diane Schwenke)  
We expanded the committee and are in communication with Western Colorado Contractors for the construction pathway. Young Entrepreneurs had their investor's panel last week, and for the first time ever we were able to fully fund the investment request for all 9 participants. The Saunders student will be going on to the national event for her nonprofit. There is some hesitancy for all employers in bringing new young (unvaccinated) individuals into their environment, due to the pandemic. CareerWise not going to hit the state's goal of 15, will be looking at 8-10 participants.
- ED 1<sup>st</sup> Responders (Diane Schwenke)  
The group met last week with our congressional delegation and are working on creating an infrastructure list anticipating funds coming in from the state/feds. We identified 22 projects for 2021 and made a commitment to come up with our top 2-3 priorities for funding. The BLM Headquarters is staying top of mind for everyone. There has been a commitment for the Interior Secretary to visit Grand Junction.
- Local Plan – the Mesa County Local Plan is currently being updated to incorporate new data, the changes with our WIOA program, as well as to incorporate the New American language. The Local Plan will be out for public comment via the [www.mcwfc.us](http://www.mcwfc.us) website as well as on the CWDC public comment page. If you have any suggestions, changes, or comment please send those to Curtis.

9:00 AM

Adjourn

- ❖ Items in ***Bolded Italics*** require a vote
- ❖ Attachments: January WDB meeting minutes; Adult Priority of Service Policy; P-Tech slide deck; Workforce Center Volume Report and Economic Overview