



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, May 25<sup>th</sup>: 7:30am-9:00am

### **HYBRID 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

My client, Ashley started work in mid-March with HopeWest as the Plateau Valley - CNA/Volunteer Coordinator/Administrative Assistant. I originally met Ashley at a Job Search Toolbox Workshop last year. She had started as an instructor at Intellitec shortly after we did some personalized career coaching and resume work. When the pandemic hit, she was laid off indefinitely and started back on the WIOA program to get her CNA certification because she had found a job as a personal caregiver. She loved the work and eventually made a connection with HopeWest after that patient passed away. She made a killer impression with HopeWest and was accepted for her current supervisory role despite not necessarily meeting all of the experience requirements. I made some referrals to their HR department based on her work ethic during our time with Career Coaching and after since we stayed connected on LinkedIn. It's so great to see one of my clients recovering so well and really using the guidance that we provide in Employment Services to get ahead during these difficult economic times. I received a message from the VP of HR at HopeWest about how well Ashley is doing there.

#### **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 March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 meeting minutes**
- II. Appoint Brandon Stam DDA Director (Business Rep.) to WDB**
- III. Appoint Kelly Murphy: Light House HR (Business Rep.) to WDB**

**Brigitte Sunderman motions to approve, Janet Rowland seconds. Nobody opposed**

7:35 – 7:50AM COVID-19 Pandemic Update (Jeff Kuhr: Mesa County Public Health)

Mesa County's one-week incident rate is at 181.4/100,000. Our county is second worse, comparatively speaking, to Cheyenne, WY. Mesa is at a 38% vaccination rate, with Garfield County at 46% and Weld County at 44% vaccinated. Our push needs to be vaccinations now. Some are asking why we can't put the mask mandate back in place. We are not going to ask employees to enforce this. The mask mandate is over and we need to come together as a community to get vaccinated. Last Saturday a Mesa County teenage girl died due to COVID. She was at home doing virtual school and was infected from a sibling who received COVID from an



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elementary school. Since 1/1/21, of the 297 hospitalized, 4 were fully vaccinated and of the 83 deaths, 3 were fully vaccinated. Our next approach: bringing physicians on board as they are a trusted resource for their patients and we are starting an incentive program on 6/1. There will be two \$500/week prizes for those who get vaccinated that week and there will also be a drawing for anyone who has been vaccinated since vaccinations came available. Those will be eligible for a prize equivalent to \$1/person vaccinated. That pool could be \$90k and the drawing will be 8/1. Jeff has a team working with businesses to get vaccinations or education for your staff on site. If you're interested, email [jeff.kuhr@mesacounty.us](mailto:jeff.kuhr@mesacounty.us)

7:50 – 8:00 AM Workforce Legislative Update (Lee Wheeler-Berliner: CWDC)

4 pieces of legislation: HB21-1007, HB21-1264, HB21-1010, SB21-236

HB21-1007 will establish Colorado as an independent state to operate apprenticeships, creating two councils – construction/trades, and “all other”. This was heard in Senate yesterday and headed to Senate appropriations. CWDC does not have a formal position.

HB21-1264 is a fund for upscaling workers utilizing the state stimulus package (CO Recovery Plan) that allocates \$25M to workforce development. The key metric is designed to support short-term credentials. \$20.75M will be allocated to 10 local workforce areas. The funds are available for 24 months and the target time for individuals is a 13-month period. \$3M will be awarded to non-profits who partner with workforce centers and a small 5% will be maintained at state level to support marketing and state partnerships for licenses. This can't be used for Associate's degrees. If someone has 1 semester left to achieve their Associate's, it's possible these dollars could be used, however SB 232 (Colorado Opportunities Scholarship Program) will have \$15M allocated for completion of degrees and would be a better use for that type of situation. There are no age restrictions. The bill will be heard in Senate appropriations tomorrow.

HB21-1010 Diversity in Educated Workforce will create a working group to study how we can enhance K-12 diversity with the objective to create a teaching workforce that more closely resembles the students they're teaching. Passed by House and Senate, and is heading to the Governor to be signed.

SB21-236 Provides funding for employer-based childcare grants. Creates four new grant programs to improve recruitment of childcare workers and capacity for childcare overall. Workforce participation of mothers has been greatly reduced due to the impacts on childcare. Fiscal Note: \$92M, however a large portion of this is Federal funds, with \$8.8M going to CDHS for newer initiatives.

8:00 – 8:30 AM Remote Workforce Initiative Presentation (Katherine Keegan – Office of the Future of Work)

Multi-tiered initiative to ensure Coloradans are equipped to move more people into remote work. Workers, employers and communities can take advantage of the opportunities learned through COVID and technological advances. The automation potential by industry shows the percent of tasks that can be done by technology, and this does not mean that humans will be replaced, technology will just augment labor. Food Services shows 73% of tasks can be done by technology. Educational services has less at 27%. All industries will be impacted to a certain extent and we are working to figure out how we can connect people to these remote jobs. There is a significant number of workers who lack digital skills- 45-54 age group at 29%. As we come out of the pandemic, we are seeing a shift in occupations and a shift to remote work. The future of work is hybrid, 68% of executives say a typical employee should be in the office at least 3 days a week to maintain a distinct company culture. There are currently 25,000 location-neutral jobs in Connecting Colorado and this is expected to grow. Top jobs in Colorado currently: software developer, computer occupations. We are working on bridging digital divide as most remote employers will provide the equipment necessary for the job, some even pay for internet and cell phones. Remote work courses are publicly available through CSU Global for workers and supervisors \$75 each,



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however job seekers who are eligible for WIOA can receive discounted courses. 5 state agencies are planning on using this course as a policy for their remote workforce. Mesa County is actively engaged as an emerging remote work community. We are starting to see pushback in communities with the availability of housing to support remote work and are cautioning communities on how they recruit for remote based on their infrastructure. Diane suggests a better strategy for us may be to skill-up the people we already have in the community and connect them with remote work outside of Mesa County. Katherine will share the slide deck.

8:30 – 8:45 AM Workforce Center Volume Report and Economic Overview (Included in attachments) – Curtis Englehart

April Volume Report total 3,629 and the majority of people coming in have lost their job, but a good amount are looking for a career change. Job orders are up to 1,045 which is a huge jump from last year at 388. (2-3 job openings per job order) This data is skewed due to job openings left open over the last year. The most frequent job postings are RN, retail, customer service and food service. The average weekly wage went up another \$25. April 2020 was a historic high for unemployment at 12.6% and has since gone down to 6.8%. The labor force has grown to 76,273. The state has started the \$1600 bonus and Colorado will not be opting out of the \$300 unemployment bonus. We are outpacing the nation with unemployment in construction, energy, and food service & healthcare. This is identified by who the unemployed person was laid off from. Commuting patterns for the region shows people are willing to commute – 14,000 live in 81504 but only 4500 only work in that zip code. Curtis is working on putting together more data on migration and this is really interesting data for transportation. Top posted occupations: Healthcare, sales, transportation, office & administrative, food service. Work Based Learning has 186 total adults, 24 dislocated and 113 youth. Employers have been hesitant to take on youth and we are having a hard time getting youth into the GED program. 4,203 active job seekers in Connecting Colorado. The WFC virtual call center inbound and outbound calls have gradually started to decrease since January. Location Quotient shows healthcare, government (includes SD51, CMU, WCCC) retail, food service, and construction.

8:45-9:00AM Program and Sub Committee updates:

- CareerLink (Diane Schwenke)  
YEA! Graduation is tonight at 6pm. We are still actively recruiting 11-18yo, please send information to Darcy if you know anyone interested. Careerwise has 8 apprentices and received 20 applicants for those positions.
- ED First Responders (Diane Schwenke)  
ED primary work has been submitting a regional application to the state for an Economic Roadmap to Recovery Technical Assistance grant. The state will team us up with a consultant at the state's expense for 2 years to create a plan and give us some insights for moving beyond the pandemic. We are encouraging the state and feds to look at our projects, also working with Senator Bennett & Hickenlooper to get big projects on their radar.
- P-Tech (Brigitte Sunderman)  
Summer onboarding camps start in a couple weeks. Over 100 applicants for GJHS.

9:00 AM Adjourn

❖ Items in ***Bolded Italics*** require a vote



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- ❖ Attachments: March WDB meeting minutes; Workforce Center Volume Report and Economic Overview