



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, July 27<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

7:35 AM 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 have forwarded a message from Mary Wiggington (VP of HR at HopeWest) about how well Ashley is doing there. The WFC held a micro job fair in June that was a huge success with 112 job seekers and 25 employers. Another one is coming up this Thursday July 29<sup>th</sup> with 25 different employers. Our large job fair will still happen in September, after the \$300 UI stipend is no longer in effect.

7:30-7:35AM

**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 May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting minutes**

**Brigitte Sunderman motions, Robin Brown seconds. No objections**

**II. Approval of Participant Procedural Policy**

**Nina Anderson motions, Brad McCloud seconds. No objections**

7:35 – 7:45AM

Election of WDB Chair and Vice Chair (Open discussion)

Chairs can serve one year and then a second consecutive year. Lance and Diane are both open to serving another year.

**Nina motions that both serve another year, Robin Brown seconds. No objections**



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7:45 – 7:55AM COVID-19 Update (Jeff Kuhr: Mesa County Public Health)

Yesterday there were 24 cases in, which is below the 30 per day average and hospitalizations are trending downward. Utilized capacity of the hospital is at 90% of all beds, previously at 99%. ICU beds at 70%. The goal has always been to take the pressure off of the health care system. Vaccinations are at 42% for fully vaccinated residents and participation is slightly decreasing. We still have some Alpha (UK) and California variants, but mostly still the Delta. Country Jam sequenced all known cases (38 cases) and only 4 had the Delta variant. It appears Delta is not quite as bad as we thought it was. We are hopeful that this downward trend is due to herd immunity. Our best estimation is that 80% of our residents are vaccinated or have the antibodies. We will continue to monitor our own data when it comes to reinfections. Since April 1<sup>st</sup> (vaccines were available April 3<sup>rd</sup>) of the total # of cases (4500) 88% had zero vaccinations. Of the 300+ hospitalizations, 85% had no vaccination. Of the 55 deaths 65% were no vaccinations and most were elderly. The School District's initial plan is no masks for students. Per CDC guidance, 70% of the community needs to be vaccinated for schools to not require masks. We will continue to work with SD51 and support them the best we can. We have access to the CueTest which has 20-minute results. We are trying to line up those tests for the school for any student with symptoms. Current turnaround for results is 24-72 hours with a regular test. We are really trying to leave quarantining to a minimum. The teacher vaccination rate is approaching 70%. If you send MCPH your employee's names, we can run it against the state database and give you the percentage of your employees who are vaccinated. Our push is to encourage testing if you have symptoms of any kind.

7:55 – 8:25 AM Workforce Stimulus Dollars Update and Priorities Discussion (Lee Wheeler-Berliner: CWDC)

HB21-1264 provided \$75M of stimulus funding state-wide; \$5M for adult education, \$10M CTE facilities, \$60M through CWDC. Encourage everyone to look at the 2020 Colorado Talent Pipeline Report. The \$60M is broken down to:

Upskilling and next-skilling workers (\$25M) Mesa will be allocated \$688,674.

Workforce Innovation Act (\$35M) 17.5M local boards compete out, 13.3M statewide initiatives which CWDC will decide on in September, \$4.2M evaluation, implementation and administration.

Mesa will be allocated \$580,809 for community organizations to compete for.

Timeline: CBO Grant applications will open in early August, we will announce CBO Grant awards in Sept, and in October, local areas will start to compete out for innovation funds. Local Areas will be awarded funds in November. Your local role is to support participants, enroll individuals, communicate desires and needs for statewide training, and innovate where appropriate.

Lee will send the link for survey later today for your input, Curtis will send the link to the whole board.

The legislation determined how much money went to each Workforce Center, based on UI rate, jobs lost, how they were effected by COVID during 2021 and Q1 of 2021.

Can mental health be included as eligibility for "effected by COVID"? We would like a push to get that included.

Counties will receive the first half of their allotment, then if other counties are underspent, we could have the opportunity to utilize some of those additional funds that will be redistributed. Early childhood development may be a great use of funding for this and open up more classrooms. Individuals or families who "fall through the cracks" who don't quite qualify for WIOA, could really use these funds for short-term training and we can serve a lot more people. Can we use these funds to help relocate skilled workers for Mesa County?



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8:25 – 8:40 AM Workforce Center Volume Report and Economic Overview (Included in attachments) – Curtis Englehart

8:40 AM – 8:50 AM Annual program fiscal allocation review – Curtis Englehart

June WFC volume total was at 2826, slightly decreased from 3017 in May. Job orders (2-3 openings per job order) up at 94%. We saw a jump in the average weekly wage which is currently at \$994. Unemployment rate is at 6.9%, and we always see an increase from May to June. Our labor force in June shows 76,084 which shows decreased, however this could be due to CDLE resetting their data due to fraud. Unemployment by industry shows retail trade still at the highest. Net migration 2019 data shows Garfield, Jefferson and Eagle Counties in the top 3. Mesa's top posted occupations are: healthcare, sales and transportation. Work-based learning in our Career Development Program (WIOA) hit their goals in our adult and dislocated worker programs, but did not hit the goal for the youth program, which is a trend across the nation. We led the State in work based learning, and we are very proud of that. Energy, construction, healthcare, retail, food services are in the top 5 location quotients.

8:50-9:00AM Program and Sub Committee updates:

- CareerLink (Diane Schwenke)
- ED First Responders (Robin Brown)- Fruita received a DOLA grant for community development and we are looking to identify people for the committee to help determine GJ City's infrastructure funds.
- P-Tech – Brigitte Sunderman  
Our first P-Tech student graduated. He was a 19 year old who graduated high school with an associates in machining and is going into the Marines with an upgraded rank. We held 4 P-Tech onboarding camps in last 4 weeks and 70 students are coming on to P-Tech. FMHS is looking at adding P-Tech this year and will be going through application process.

9:00 AM Adjourn

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