



Workforce Development *is* Economic Development

512 29 ½ Rd
Grand Junction, CO 81504

Mesa County Workforce Development Board - Bi-Monthly Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, September 28th: 7:30am-9:00am

IN-PERSON MEETING

Meeting ID

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
No quorum today. Welcome to Jill Calvert, new Exec Director for the Department of Human Services.

7:35 AM WFC Success Story

WFC and CMU partnered together to solve a community need and bridge the gap between CMU grads and our local workforce. Our success story is a video of the Workforce Development Liaison's collaboration with the Fruita Chamber of Commerce for a successful new hire. View it and the rest of the series here: <https://mcwfc.us/aim-higher-get-hired/>

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 July 27th, 2021 meeting minutes

Unable to vote, no quorum today

7:35 – 8:00AM Workforce Housing – Feasibility Study Results and Next Steps (Kristen Ashbeck – City of GJ) (Grand Valley Housing Needs Assessment Study presentation) The needs assessment is finished and we are now looking at a strategy plan for the City of Grand Junction. The poverty level for Mesa County is currently at 14%. Ownership income is over \$90k and renter income is \$47k. Housing stock shows 90% of units made since 1990 were single family homes. We are starting to gain some multifamily housing, but are still single-family dominant. Housing inventory continues to decrease and there is an extremely low rental vacancy rate. Home price trends continue to rise in Mesa County, but not as high as the State. For the 30% Annual Median Income ¼ are being purchased by investors and cash buyers and crowding out the lower income groups. Average rental prices for a 2 bedroom is \$861/month which means the household would need to earn \$34k/year, and over half of our renters in Mesa County earn significantly less. There is a rental gap of 2,168 units that are needed to be affordable to households earning less than \$25,000. The Housing Authority has a waiting list of 2,200. Older adults comprise 19% of the total residents in Mesa County and have the largest projected growth over the next 5 years. 15% of our population are considered disabled and the median earnings for this group is \$16k/year. Community Input- 1800 survey forms were completed and 77% of renters want to buy in the next 5 years. Top reasons they have not purchased a home: unable to come up with down payment and housing is not affordable. Housing Strategy: City of GJ is working with a consultant. Top housing needs: additional affordable rentals or rental assistance, and starter homes and family homes priced near or below \$250k.



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City of GJ developed strategies: Participate in regional collaboration, adopt a local affordable housing goal, implement land use code, encourage development of accessory dwelling units, formalize existing incentives for affordable housing, allocate city-owned land for affordable and mixed income housing, provide financial support to housing and homeless services, create dedicated revenue sources to address housing challenges. Next week City Council's proposed budget will include one position to dedicate for this issue and anticipate this will only expand over the coming years as this issue directly impacts our workforce.

8:00 – 8:15 AM Workforce Center Volume Report and Economic Overview (Included in attachments) – Curtis Englehart

August total volume was at 3200 people, which is getting back to pre-pandemic numbers. Employed at entry saw a slight uptick. Job orders (2-3 job openings per job order) already surpassed 2020 and 2019 numbers. There is still a labor shortage, but some of these job orders are being filled. UI rate dropped below 6% for the first time since last October. The State is at 5.4 percent. Labor force is trending in the right direction. Unemployment by industry shows retail, health care and food services above the national average. Net migration patterns show the majority of people coming to us from Garfield County, Jefferson, Eagle, Arapahoe and Montezuma. We are losing the majority of people to Maricopa County AZ, Weld County, Clark County NV and Delta County. Top posted occupations are office and admin support, sales, food service, healthcare and construction. Our Career Development Program (through June 2021) achieved goals in adult and dislocated worker, but did not meet the goal for the youth program. This program led the State in work-based learning this year. Location quotient shows a diversification of numbers, led by the energy industry still at 4.26.

Displaced healthcare workers- the WFC can use HB1264 funds to expand eligibility for the programs we offer. We can pay for displaced workers to be retrained in different industry.

8:40-9:00AM Program and Sub Committee updates:

- CareerLink (Diane Schwenke)
Kirstin Maska is the new Workforce Coordinator and has been a smooth transition since she came from the WFC. CareerWise is up to 8 new apprenticeship opportunities for the next cohort. We are looking at a unique opportunity of getting out-of-school youth into this program. As employers are getting more comfortable with apprenticeships, we are looking to create a one-pager to show all the opportunities for employers to work with this group.
- ED First Responders (Diane Schwenke)
City of Fruita was awarded the Recovery Roadmap from the State. We are cohesive already, but working on this as a group in October. EDA Funding to collaborate with region 10 and 11 for the concept of GJ becoming a mini freight hub. We are currently working on applying for a large grant that is available for coal-impacted communities.
- P-Tech (Brigitte Sunderman)
First graduate in May, 70 P-Tech students were on boarded this summer for the new programs and we had a record number of summer camp attendees (1538). Now looking at doing P-Tech at Fruita and Delta. WFC and GVT partnered to pay for



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free GVT bus passes for students which helped increase the summer camp attendance.

- Potential WFC name change (Curtis Englehart)

A state group is looking at re-naming the state workforce system. Locally we are looking at a possible name change because during pandemic the WFC took 24,000 phone calls into and 90% were all about unemployment which gave us the reputation that we are the unemployment office. We are the employment office. Curtis had discussions with Commissioners about changing the WFC to Mesa County Workforce Solutions with the tagline “Opportunity Works Here”, which would align with the state. There will be funds to rebrand and we are just exploring the idea and would like to potentially make the change in the next program year.

9:00 AM

Adjourn

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