



Workforce Development *is* Economic Development

512 29 ½ Rd
Grand Junction, CO 81504

Mesa County Workforce Development Board - Bi-Monthly Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, May 24th, 2022: 7:30am-9:00am

HYBRID MEETING

Meeting ID

<https://zoom.us/j/99811614719?pwd=dmRuditWR2dNWDRwZ1MxZjRnNDVwUT09>

Meeting ID: 998 1161 4719

Passcode: 431231

7:30 AM Attendance and Roll Call/ New Board Member Recognition Introductions
Welcome Alma Sekulich from Innovative Textiles!

7:35 AM WFC Success Story

The WFC was hosting a hiring event for St Mary's Hospital and Mr. A arrived, but had a few barriers. He had homeless barriers, only had access to email. Michael Smith acted as an intermediary between St Mary's and Mr. A, helping him apply and notified the employer. Two days later, Mr. A was offered a full time position at \$16/hr and started the next week.

7:30-7:35 AM **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. 3/22/22 WDB Meeting minutes' approval*
- ii. Measurable Skills Gains Policy approval*
- iii. Supportive Services Policy approval*
- iv. WIOA Work Experience Policy approval*

The policies all ran through WDB Exec Committee for approval. All are updates to current policies except for ii, which is new.

Diane Schwenke motions to approve, Nina Anderson seconds, nobody opposed.

7:35 – 7:45 AM ***One Stop Operator RFP and Contract Proposal (Lance Kramer, Diane Schwenke)***

This is a 5 year policy and we only had one respondent to the RFP which was DHS' Fiscal Operations and Quality Assurance division, which is the current provider. Pricing is the same, and this has worked out really well over the last 5 years. This is part of the WIOA legislation, it is required to competitively bid this out, and has to be separate from the WFC. They will coordinate and facilitate all mandated MOUs through WIOA. Our mandated partners include DVR, TANF, Unemployment Insurance, Housing Authority, and Job Core. They also ensure firewalls are in place so the WFC is not operating as the one stop operator (FOQA is separate division inside DHS). The price is probably the cheapest you'll find in the nation at \$10,500/yr.

Jill Calvert & Janet Rowland recuse themselves from the vote.

Diane Schwenke motions to approve, Nina Anderson seconds, nobody opposed.

7:45 – 8:00 AM Wagner Peyser Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Lee Wheeler, Curtis Englehart)

Locally this is our Employment Services which is fully funded by Wagner Peyser (Federal) which also funds the resource room, professional services and GED. USDOL released the NPRM to make all Wagner Peyser staff State



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Merit Staff, and as they would no longer be County staff, it takes the local control out of this program. State staff would be inside the WFC still and we would have functional supervision. In my opinion, this would set the WFC back 20 years and is a huge concern. The NPRM is out for 60 day public comment period and 6/22 is last day to comment. This week Curtis will be preparing some specific comments and directions and ask all of you to place your comments in the NPRM website. We can also submit a letter of support on behalf of the WDB. Lee Wheeler from the State is not a fan and it goes against the intent of the Federal legislation. The Governor has sent a letter to Secretary Walsh at USDOL. The NPRM requirement is to discuss the alternatives, one of which would allow for demonstration states (Colorado included) to continue with their current (local control) model. Representatives Crowe and Buck have proposed an amendment and understand what we are facing. Curtis met with Hickenlooper, Bennet and Boebert and all are fully supportive of what we are trying to do. Nationally at all levels they are looking to make State merit staff work as unemployment reps as needed if another pandemic occurred. It is essential for employers to weigh in on this, and we expect the rule making to occur 3 months after the public comment ends. We should simultaneously be writing to our legislators as well.

Nina- As an employer with offices in Montrose and Grand Junction, the services I receive is just night and day, Mesa County is so much more responsive and easier to work with.

If the NPRM passes, funding for this program would more than likely be held up at the state instead of funding unique positions here that benefit our county; such as the CMU/WFC shared position, SD51 collaboration for Future of Work.

8:00 – 8:20 AM Legislative Wrap Up (Lee Wheeler – CWDC)

SB 140 Expansion of Experiential Learning Opportunities: Provides funding to businesses to expand apprenticeships. The money will be sent to qualified intermediaries in the fall of 2022 and programs are to be set up by 2023. The goal is to fill gaps in apprenticeship programs and also expand digital equity for future of work and digital literacy.

SB 165 Colorado Career Advisory Training Program will run through Department of Education to engage individuals in discussing their futures and ensure there are resources for counselors and teachers.

HB 1215 Expanding Extended High School Programs gives opportunities for high school enrollment and increase secondary to post-secondary to the workforce. This ended in a task force which will be convened to examine how students can get connected to employment.

HB 1310 529 Account Apprenticeship Expenses – changes 529 savings accounts to utilize dollars in apprenticeship programs.

HB 1350 Regional Talent Development Initiative Grant Program- \$90M (ARPA dollars) in a new grant program to promote collaboratives across the state. Funds will be available in 2023, and will create an opportunity for entities to come together and put together partnerships across regions. This is a direct result of 1330 task force.

8:20 – 8:30 AM WFC Volume Report and Economic Overview (Included in attachments) – Curtis Englehart

Total numbers have stayed relatively flat from April 2021 – April 2022. Job orders have slightly leveled off, but that would be due to multiple job orders per job opening. Headway has been made to fill open positions. Active employers using Connecting Colorado is up to 693. Sales, office and admin support and transportation were the top positions in April, not healthcare which has historically been the most common. Work based learning is at 131 adults, which is on pace to meet the goal of 145. Youth is at 67 and there is also a pay stipend for youth to complete their GED. RUN Grant (HB1264) provides 3 year funding to serve 145 people, and we received the smallest allocation in the state, but have already served 101 in the last 9 months. If other areas are underspent, we will take it on and have some great ideas. These funds are very flexible if you were affected by COVID. Workforce Center held 16 hiring events and job fairs and 70 workshops. The shared CMU/WFC job fair was a success and



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employers received quantity and quality. Employment wage statistics for Q3 2021 average employment increase 3,357 people. Average weekly wage increased \$50 which is a huge gain and shows local employers have made big adjustments. April 2021 UI Rate 6.8% and April 2022 was at 3.6%. Unemployment by industry shows we're doing better in agriculture, manufacturing, transportation and IT. Location Quotient shows how diversified the local economy is and our top 5 are energy, construction, health care, food service and retail.

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

- CareerLink (Diane Schwenke)
Continues to meet and had a presentation last month on WFC services, as it was time for a refresh on all that the WFC has to offer. Saunders Scholar will be in national competition and you can vote. CareerWise is continuing to solicit apprenticeship opportunities which are gradually starting to build up. WF Coordinator position with WFC, Chamber and SD51.
- ED First Responders (Diane Schwenke)
Applied for and received Roadmap Recovery Grant. All ED partners are incredibly frustrated with the process as a whole, they are scheduled to come out and meet with the group one on one in June. We have a real opportunity to become a freight mini hub and expand broadband across the whole county.
- P-Tech – Brigitte Sundermann
Currently have 183 students currently in programs and off 13 associate options and continue to grow. Here were 3 graduates this year, anticipate 25-30 graduates a year going forward. 2 of the graduates are staying local and one is going into the military.

9:00 AM Adjourn

- ❖ Items in ***Bolded Italics*** require a vote
- ❖ Attachments: 3/22 Meeting Minutes; OSO Proposal; Measurable Skills Gains Policy; Supportive Services Policy; WIOA Work Experience Policy ; Workforce Center Volume Report and Economic Overview