



CAPITAL AREA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 27, 2007

The Capital Area Workforce Development Board met in regular session Thursday, April 27, 2007 at 8:30 a.m. at Johnston Community College, Smithfield, North Carolina. Members present were Chairman Bob Barham, Barrie Davis, Robert Davis (for Dr. Donald Reichard), Kenny Gibbs, JoAnne Honeycutt (for Dr. Anthony Parker), Norma Owens, David Rockefeller (for Dr. Del Burns), Nelson Rose, Michele Tavernise, Marie Watson, and Durwood Woodall. Staff: Regina Crooms, Massaline Thomas, Joan Lindley Jane Sterner, and Victoria Weston. Guests: Gene Norton, Employment Security Commission Raleigh Office; Nicole Kennedy, Employment Security Commission/LMI; Lisa Arnette, Employment Security Commission Raleigh Office; Reginna Ford, Employment Security Commission/LMI; Jan Oakley, Johnston County Industries; Carol Collins, Community Partnerships Incorporated; Ray Eibel, EDSI; Dana Martinez, Community Partnerships Incorporated; Becky Long, Employment Security Commission Cary Office.

Chairman Barham called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to Johnston County. Robert Davis welcomed everyone to the Johnston Community College campus on behalf of Dr. Reichard.

Chairman Barham stated that the draft minutes of the February 22, 2007 meeting were mailed to each member. There being no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written.

Chairman Barham called on Durwood Woodall, JobLink Committee Chairman, to present the committee report. Mr. Woodall received the requirements for Level III chartering status and made a recommendation for the JobLink Career Center at Raleigh Employment Security Center to receive Level III status. The Committee recommendation was approved by unanimous vote. Mr. Woodall also announced that the chartering criteria have been revised by the State thanks to a letter submitted by Capital Area to the Workforce Commission. The revision will take effect January 1, 2008. Mr. Woodall thanked the Commission for listening to their suggestion.

Moving to the next item on the agenda, Chairman Barham stated that the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Adult services contracts run from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> each year, and the contracts require a 60-day notice of continuation or notice of discontinuation of funding. The Executive Committee of the Board was convened to discuss the three WIA service contracts and the JobLink Operator contract. Following discussion, the Executive

Committee made the following recommendations to the Board for the WIA Adult/Dislocated Worker contracts:

1. Recommend extending the current WIA contracts with Johnston County Job Training Office and Wake County Human Services for a third year beginning July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008. Motion Carried.
2. Recommend extending the current WIA contract with Telamon Corporation as the JobLink Operator at Clayton Corners JobLink Career Center for an additional year beginning July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008. Motion Carried.
3. Recommend conditional extension of the current WIA contract with Employment Security Commission, Cary Local Office for a 3-month probationary period beginning July 1, 2007 and ending September 30, 2007. Motion Carried
4. Recommend that the Board direct Capital Area staff to negotiate PY 2007 WIA funding awards to the above contractors based on the Capital Area WIA allocation/available funds. Negotiations will include required out-stationing of WIA Case Management staff to multiple Capital Area JobLink Career Centers, including Clayton Corners, Raleigh ESC, Southern Regional Center, and Eastern Regional Center in order to make the best use of limited WIA resources. Motion Carried.

Chairman Barham gave the Chairman's Report addressing the DOL WIRED Grant that Capital Area had discussed at the last Board meeting. He noted that after much research, Capital Area would not be applying for this grant. Ms. Crooms explained the process that took place to come to this decision. She also indicated a lot of information had been collected and that Capital Area will apply for Round 4 of the Wired Grant when is released.

Chairman Barham, Linda Horton and Regina Crooms attended the National Association of Workforce Boards Conference in Washington, DC. Chairman Barham stated that after attending several of these conferences, this one was more informative. A lot of emphasis was put on business services, self-funding and self-sustaining. Ms. Crooms stated that this year WIA reauthorization is finally expected to pass Congress. Chairman Barham stated there is greater emphasis on technical training, mainly industry based training and vocational education. Ms. Crooms shared that Local Areas are looking at restructuring ourselves so that we are run more like a business in terms of revenue generation. Chairman Barham stated that their trip to Capitol Hill to meet with the Representatives was more productive this year. Barrie Davis asked if there was any discussion about charge for service and Chairman Barham said that there was a lot of discussion. Ms. Crooms stated that she has requested training from the Commission on fee-for-service activities.

Chairman Barham announced a very good turnout at the Statewide Youth Summit held in High Point. The youth came from all over the state. Chairman Barham thanked the staff for a job well done.

Chairman Barham attended the JobLink Career Fair at the McKimmon Center. Approximately 550 job seekers and 51 employers attended the event. The mobile

JobLink unit was on hand and they received over 60 applications. Mr. Woodall mentioned the wonderful job done by staff on the business directory. Marie Watson asked how many people were hired? Ms. Crooms said they are in the process of reviewing the survey and she will let the Board know the outcomes. Chairman Barham said that he and Ms. Crooms went to each booth and thanked the employers. Capital Area also had a booth that was managed by Ms. Crooms and Brenda Wilkerson. Chairman Barham thanked Jane and the staff.

Moving on to other business, Chairman Barham announced that Capital Area staff is working on the Program Year 2007 WIA plan modification. Ms. Crooms noted that since WIA has not yet been reauthorized by Congress the state has requested we prepare a modification of the current plan. This is modification #2. The plan is due to DET on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Crooms stated that she would send the Board an executive summary of the modification. Chairman Barham made a motion to authorize the staff to submit the PY 2007 WIA Plan. The motion was made and second by Michele Tavernise. Motion approved.

Chairman Barham announced that this month's Board member spotlight is Kenny Gibbs. Mr. Gibbs began by sharing that he was born in Fayetteville and he is a "military brat". He played football and ran track in high school. Family of four, two sisters and one brother. Recruited to attend East Carolina University as a quarterback. Mr. Gibbs stated that he is a product of the CETA program, first as a participant and then worked as a counselor. First job out of school was a JTPA Program Director, working for Region Q. Mr. Gibbs stated that he served individuals with disabilities. After applying four times, he finally got a job with Vocational Rehabilitation in Dunn in a correctional facility. Married to Stephanie and has three children Chante 23, Kenny Jr. 11 and Sierra 10. Mr. Gibbs stated that he was the first manager to start a statewide pilot project for the Independent Living Program as well as the Vocational Rehab program. Drove an Ice-Cream truck for a couple of years. Still works part-time as a consultant for Sears. Mr. Gibbs and his wife love working in their yard and they pride themselves on growing roses. Very active in his church. President of North Carolina Rehabilitation Services. Chairman Barham thanked Mr. Gibbs.

Chairman Barham asked Reginna Ford our Labor market representative, to give the Board an update. Ms. Ford explained the North Carolina Occupational Projections 2004-2014 and the "Workforce In Depth" customized summary. Chairman Barham asked if unemployment was up or down? Ms. Ford stated down. Mr. Gibbs asked how do they capture the unemployment? Gene Norton stated that they use a very complicated formula and also use a survey to capture this information. Chairman Barham thanked Ms. Ford for this update. Michele Tavernise mentioned that when the Board applies for grant they should not mention the unemployment rate but use population inquiries instead.

Chairman Barham opened the floor for announcements:

1. Jan Oakley, Employment Specialist for Johnston County Industries, Yes I Can Program announced their upcoming Young Adult Job Fair to be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Johnston Community College Auditorium.

2. Robert Davis announced Adult Job Fair on May 16<sup>th</sup> to be held at Johnston Community College Auditorium.

Chairman Barham called on Victoria Weston, Offender Specialist for Capital Area “Going Home Initiative Program”, to give the Board and update on the offender population. Ms. Weston informed the Board that in our local area she serves between 150-200 former offenders per month. Ms. Weston stated that 60% of the total population that comes through our area JobLink’s has some sort of criminal record. The Going Home Initiative will end June 30<sup>th</sup> and there is concern about service for this population once the program ends. Ms. Weston informed the Board that employers are reluctant to hire people with criminal backgrounds. Marie Watson asked Ms. Weston if she was aware of the re-entry grant? Ms. Weston stated, “yes” and that you had to be faith based to apply for this particular grant. Ms. Watson also acknowledged that her agency has a hard time placing offenders in employment. Ms. Crooms explained further to the Board that there is a critical need to continue this role for offenders in our area. She discussed the impact of not having this position continued. Chairman Barham made a motion to have Capital Area staff to petition the Commission for appropriate funds to continue this program. Durwood Woodall second this motion. All were in favor.

Chairman Barham announced that Capital Area would host the June State and Local meeting and that Board members are welcome to attend. The meeting will be held on June 6<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Brownstone in Raleigh.

Chairman Barham asked if there were any more announcements. Robert Davis mentioned that the community college system has an agreement in place with other colleges in other countries and that a college from Thailand has been here for several weeks visiting and gathering information and sharing ideals. Mr. Davis stated that he loved North Carolina food. Chairman Barham also mentioned the delegation from Ireland that visited the Capital Area JobLink Career Center in Johnston County.

Chairman Barham informed the Board that at the next meeting in June it would be time to elect officers for the Board. Chairman Barham asked the nominating committee to prepare ballots.

Chairman Barham thanked everyone for coming and announced the next meeting is scheduled for June 28<sup>th</sup> in Raleigh. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.