



CAPITAL AREA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
April 24, 2008

The Capital Area Workforce Development Board met in regular session on Thursday, April 24, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. at Johnston Community College, Smithfield, North Carolina. Members present: Robert Barham, Dick Hoffmann, Susan Jackson, Linda Lemar, Earl Marett, Gerald Mitchell, Robert Davis for Dr. Donald Reichard, David Rockefeller for Dr. Del Burns, Nelson Rose, Vicki Shore, Michele Tavernise, Marie Watson and Durwood Woodall. Staff: Regina Crooms, Jeremy Boyd, Lisa Ramsey, Jane Sterner, Victoria Weston, and Brenda Wilkerson. Guests: Lisa Arnette, Employment Security Commission Region IV; Wayne Beverly, Employment Security Commission Region IV Manager; Carmen Carroll, Capital Area JobLink at Swinburne; Carol Collins, Community Partnerships Incorporated; Becky Long, Capital Area JobLink at Cary Employment Security Commission; Gene Norton, Capital Area JobLink at Raleigh Employment Security Commission; Jan Oakley, Johnston County Industries, Yes I Can Program; Nancy Stancil, Capital Area JobLink at Johnston Community College; and Charles Vaughan, North Carolina Department of Labor.

Chairman Barham called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He thanked Mr. Robert Davis on behalf of Dr. Reichard for hosting the meeting at the beautiful Johnston County Community College campus. At this time, two new Board members, Dick Hoffmann, Vice President of Business Development for Spring CM and Linda Lemar, Vice President, Human Resources and Community Relations for The Sunrock Group, were introduced. Mr. Hoffmann and Ms. Lemar received their Capital Area Workforce Development Board pins and notebooks. Chairman Barham and the Board congratulated Mr. Hoffmann and Ms. Lemar on their recent appointments to Capital Area Workforce Development Board.

Chairman Barham proceeded and asked if there were any corrections to the draft minutes of February 28, 2008. The minutes were approved as written.

At this time, Victoria Weston, Program Coordinator and Jeremy Boyd, Case Manager provided an update of the YouthBuild Program. Ms. Weston explained that the YouthBuild program targets high school dropouts and other at-risk populations, ages 17-24 years of age in Wake and Johnston Counties. Participants are enrolled in a GED class and receive construction skills training in carpentry, piping, plumbing, electrical wiring and HVAC trades. They work on obtaining their GED one half of the day and receive the construction skills training the remaining portion of the day.

Currently there are twelve (12) participants in the program with a goal of serving an additional (30) thirty participants in the next session that begins August 2008. An information session for interested youth is scheduled for June 2008.

Ms. Weston and Mr. Boyd are seeking additional funding sources to offset some of the costs related to the program. They are working with the City of Raleigh to try and secure a Community Block Grant to obtain tools for the project.

Ms. Crooms added that the YouthBuild Program budget is very tight, and they are in need of transportation as well. A van is needed to transport the youth from the educational site to the construction site. The program provides a stipend of \$25/day to the youth while receiving their GED and classroom construction skills training. Once they move to the construction site, the participants will receive \$7.15/hr.

The YouthBuild Program is located at 3501 Capital Blvd, Suite 155, Raleigh, NC, 27604. You may contact Ms. Weston at (919) 790-3227 or Mr. Boyd at (919) 790-3226 for additional information.

Chairman Barham then introduced Mr. Charles Vaughan, Assistant Bureau Chief, with the North Carolina Department of Labor. Mr. Vaughan discussed the Apprenticeship Program and how Capital Area Workforce Development Board can become a strong partner in these efforts.

The Registered Apprenticeship Program is a national training system that combines paid on-the-job and related technical instruction in a skilled occupation. It enables employers to develop and apply industry standards to training programs that can increase productivity and improve the quality of the workforce.

When the program is registered by the NC Department of Labor, it is also registered with the US Department of Labor. Once apprentices complete their training, they receive journeyman certificates that are nationally recognized and portable anywhere in the United States.

The Registered Apprenticeship Program also aligns with and advances the goals of the workforce investment system by providing “learn and earn” opportunities, youth career ladders and growth, and options for dislocated workers transitioning from declining industries.

Mr. Vaughan expressed that he is very excited about partnering with YouthBuild to aid in placement of the youth upon program completion. He has already secured two (2) electrical contractors and one (1) wall installer who is interested in offering apprenticeship opportunities to the YouthBuild participants. Chairman Barham thanked Mr. Vaughan for his enlightening presentation.

Moving on to other business, Chairman Barham provided a handout of the Board Strategic Goals and Board Structure that were reviewed and approved at the Capital Area Workforce Development Board Retreat on Thursday, April 17, 2008. He noted that the revised 2008-2013 Strategic Goals includes a pictorial display of the Board’s strategic priorities and places a strong focus on “regional collaborative engagement”. Capital Area Workforce Development Board currently has strong collaborative partnerships with several local Boards including Kerr-Tarr, Mid-Carolina and Durham.

In regards to the revised Board Committee Structure, the following committees were established: Industry Sectors - Economic Development, Human Resource Development and Advisory Committees. The Advisory Committees consists of the following committees: Executive,

Strategic Alliance, Accountability, JobLink, Youth Council & Public Affairs. Chairman Barham encouraged each Board member to consider their area of interest and become involved in serving on a committee.

Moving onto other business, Chairman Barham advised the Board that the Local Area Transition Plan Modification #3 for Program Year 2008 was successfully submitted to the Division of Workforce Development on Monday, April 21, 2008. Since we are still without Workforce Investment Act reauthorization, the only requirement for Local Areas was to answer twenty-one (21) questions with regard to Local Area Data and program achievements. A full copy of the plan modification is available for review.

Mr. Tavernise asked if any information was received at the National Association of Workforce Boards conference in regards to the future of the Workforce Investment Act. Ms. Crooms replied that a lot of different approaches are being discussed regarding the future of training programs including a voucher system, apprenticeship and direct training.

Mr. Woodall concluded that the White House is not intently focused on making decisions at this time. Board members surmised that this approach towards WIA reauthorization is due to the fact that it is an election year.

The next agenda item was the WIA Adult Contract Recommendations. Chairman Barham reminded the Board that the Adult services contracts run from July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008. Our contracts indicate a 60-day notice of continuation or notice of discontinuation of services. Therefore, we must have our vote during this meeting to give proper notice.

The Executive Committee of the Board was called together last week to discuss next year's WIA Services and JobLink Operator contracts. In the Board mailing, members received recommendations from the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee recommends a one-year contract with our current WIA Adult Service Providers as outlined in the handout. There is also an operator contract that we are requesting a 6-month contract beginning July 1, 2008.

Chairman Barham opened the floor to receive a motion to accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee. Mr. Gerald Mitchell made a motion to accept; Mr. Durwood Woodall seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Board Spotlight was the next item on the agenda, and Chairman Barham called upon Ms. Vicki Shore to give her presentation. Ms. Shore grew up in Johnston County in the Princeton area. She graduated from Princeton High School, one of the smallest high schools in the state at that time. Ms. Shore noted that it was quite an adjustment for this small town girl to venture to Raleigh and attend North Carolina State University in Raleigh for her undergraduate studies after living on a tobacco farm in Johnston County.

Graduating in 1975, the economy was poor, and Ms. Shore found that securing employment was difficult. She applied for and was approved to participate in the CETA program that placed her at Johnston Counties Industries (JCI). This private not for profit organization provides vocational training, personal enrichment, job placement services and integrated employment services for

persons with disabilities and other barriers to employment in Johnston, Harnett and other surrounding counties.

Ms. Shore's first position at JCI was as an evaluator doing job placement. As a credit to her abilities in this area, the first person she placed into employment is still on the job today after nearly thirty-two (32) years.

During her impressive tenure at JCI, Ms. Shore has had the opportunity to work at various positions and learn many skills including woodworking, cookie baking and gym set construction. She has also driven trucks, operated a forklift and put widgets together.

Recently, Johnston County Industries closed on purchasing the Eaton Manufacturing facility and will be moving the operations to that location.

Married to Mark, a business banker with BB&T, Ms. Shore and her husband have one (1) daughter, Cameron, that now attends North Carolina State University after spending her freshman year at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In her spare time, Ms. Shore enjoys collecting pottery, particularly the North Carolina face jugs, as well as traveling and gardening. Chairman Barham thanked Ms. Shore for her delightful presentation.

In the Chair's Report, Chairman Barham announced that on April 17, 2008, we received information regarding the rescission affecting this year's WIA funding. Dislocated worker funds were reduced 20% and youth funds were reduced 13%. Adult funding remained unaffected.

Staff is working diligently to lessen the impact of this loss of funding. Other local areas are being contacted to see if their unused funds can be diverted to Capital Area. Also the State holds a reserve amount of money as long as we have spent 80% in obligations.

Under other business, Jane Sterner briefed the Board on the JobLink Access Point status. The JobLink Committee of the Board approved five (5) Access Points in Wake County. These Access Points are similar to "mini JobLink Centers" and will provide basic core and referral services to customers in their neighborhood or surrounding communities.

A mass JobLink Access Point Grand Opening is scheduled for Thursday, June 26, 2008 at 11:00 am immediately following the June Board meeting. Chairman Barham asked Board members to volunteer to be at these sites for the Grand Opening ribbon cutting ceremony. Susan Jackson, Gerald Mitchell, Marie Watson and Chairman Barham volunteered to assist in the Grand Opening festivities. Other Board members will be contacted to determine their interest and availability. Chairman Barham thanked the Board for their willingness to assist in this new Capital Area endeavor.

Board members received the Workforce In-Depth Custom Region Summary and the Labor Market Information Update provided by the North Carolina Employment Security Commission, Labor Market Information Division. Chairman Barham called upon Wayne Beverly, Employment Security Commission Region IV Manager for comments.

Mr. Beverly reported that the North Carolina employment rate is increasing; however, the economy in the Triangle region is fairing much better than our eastern or western North Carolina counterparts. Nevertheless, the North Carolina unemployment rate is currently higher than the national average.

Unemployment insurance claims are on the rise, and the ESC UI Call Center that services the online claims is receiving up to 30,000 calls per day. Also, North Carolina is #1 in the nation regarding NAFTA/Trade petitions filed.

Additional announcements and reminders included:

- State of the Region (RTRP) – May 22, 2008
Ms. Crooms announced if any additional board members are interested in attending to please contact her. We have two (2) remaining slots available.
- Regional Career Fair – June 4, 2008
Information and registration form was provided.
- Johnston County JobLink Job Fair at Johnston Community College – May 21, 2008

Chairman Barham thanked everyone for attending and reminded the Nominating Committee of the Board that the 2008-2009 elections are scheduled for the next Board meeting on Thursday, June 26, 2008 at 8:30 am in Wake County. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.