



CAPITAL AREA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
June 26, 2008

The Capital Area Workforce Development Board met in regular session on Thursday, June 26, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. at Restoration CDC, Inc./New Bethel Baptist Church, Rolesville, North Carolina. Members present: Robert Barham, Barrie Davis, Kenny Gibbs, Dick Hoffmann, Linda Horton, JoAnne Honeycutt, Susan Jackson, P.R. Latta, Linda Lemar, Gerald Mitchell, Pam Harrell for Dr. Donald Reichard, Nelson Rose, Vicki Shore, Michele Tavernise, Marie Watson and Durwood Woodall. Staff: Regina Crooms, Nikki Marshall and Lisa Ramsey. Guests: Chris Droessler, Wake County Public School System; Johnnie Darden, Community Kingdom Building; Regina Z. Ford, Labor Market Information, Employment Security Commission; Lenessa E. Hawkins, Restoration CDC, Inc.; Denny Jenkins, Wake County Human Services; Jacqueline McMillian, Workforce Development Unit, Employment Security Commission; Becky Long, Capital Area JobLink at Cary Employment Security Commission; Dana Martinez, YES Program, Community Partnerships, Inc.; Jan Oakley, Yes I Can Program, Johnston County Industries; Zaida Partin, Capital Area JobLink at Clayton Corners; John Quintero, North Carolina Justice Center; Tamme Reese, Division of Workforce Development, North Carolina Department of Commerce; Nancy Stancil, Capital Area JobLink at Johnston Community College; Laurie Stickney, Community Partnerships, Inc.; and Jean D. Wooten, Division of Workforce Development, North Carolina Department of Commerce.

Chairman Barham called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He thanked Restoration CDC, Inc. for allowing Capital Area to utilize their facility for the Board meeting. Chairman Barham proceeded and asked if there were any corrections to the draft minutes of April 24, 2008. The minutes were approved as written.

The first item on the agenda was "Making Ends Meet on Low Wages", and Chairman Barham called upon John Quintero with the North Carolina Justice Center to provide a report on our Workforce Development area and the 2008 North Carolina Living Income Standard (LIS).

Mr. Quintero began by saying that the North Carolina Justice Center works with public policy and advocacy for working families. Recently a study was completed regarding the low wages and the Living Income Standard for North Carolina families. The study asked four (4) questions:

- What is the Living Income Standard (LIS)?
- Who falls below the LIS?
- Why do families fall below the LIS?
- What can be done?

The LIS is an estimate of how much income families with children need in order to pay market prices for a bundle of basic goods and services. The LIS focuses on four types of families with children: two-, three-, four-, and five-person families and uses public data to generate

conservative estimates for the cost of food, housing, childcare, health care, transportation, other necessities and taxes.

The study looked at the 100 counties, 14 metro areas, 24 workforce boards and 7 economic development regions in North Carolina. In our local area, Wake County was ranked the most expensive in terms of the Living Income Standard, and Johnston County came in 10th in the state. The annual LIS Income for a family of four (4) in Wake County is \$51,856, while Johnston County is at \$44,965.

Of the four (4) family types studied, 37% fall below the Living Income Standard; female, African-American, Hispanic and immigrant persons are disproportionately apt to fall below the LIS while children account for 42% of the total persons. It was also noted that 61% of the adults in families below the LIS work, and 60% of those working adults are employed full-time.

A disconnect between work and wages was determined as the main cause for families falling below the LIS. The study showed that 24% of working adults earn less than \$9.12/hour, and low wage jobs are less likely to offer benefits and mobility. A variety of reasons were cited for this disconnect including shifts in industrial/occupational mix, changes in firm practices, weakening of labor market institutions and mismatch between supply and demand of skilled workers.

Strategies to improve the Living Income Standard include advancing public policies and designing systems and investments to foster economic growth and security. Strengthening work support programs is also a powerful way of helping families meet short-term needs. Public policies can mold the labor market by improving the quality of existing and future jobs and expanding the supply of skilled workers.

Chairman Barham thanked Mr. Quintero for his informative report.

The next item on the agenda was the PY 2008 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Funds recommendations, and Chairman Barham called upon Mr. Chris Droessler, Youth Council Chair, for his presentation.

Mr. Droessler provided an overview of WIA Youth Services and reminded the Board that the WIA youth funds are awarded under a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) at least every three years. WIA youth contracts are reviewed annually for renewal consideration for the second and third year, and the next RFP process is scheduled for Spring 2009.

At the May 2008 Youth Council meeting, Council members reviewed the contracts and made the following recommendations:

1. Extend the current contract with Community Partnerships, Inc. for a third year beginning August 1, 2008 and ending July 31, 2009 to serve youth in Wake County. Chairman Barham opened the floor to receive a motion to accept the recommendation of the Youth Council. Mr. Gerald Mitchell made a motion to accept; Mr. Nelson Rose seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. Extend the current contract with Johnston County Industries for a third year beginning August 1, 2008 and ending July 31, 2009 to serve youth in Johnston County. Chairman

Barham opened the floor to receive a motion to accept the recommendation of the Youth Council. Ms. Marie Watson made a motion to accept; Ms. JoAnne Honeycutt seconded the motion. Motion carried. It was noted that Mr. Durwood Woodall and Ms. Vickie Shore abstained from the vote.

3. Extend the current contract with Telamon Corporation for a third year beginning August 1, 2008 and ending July 31, 2009 to service youth in Wake County. Chairman Barham opened the floor to receive a motion to accept the recommendation of the Youth Council. Ms. Marie Watson made a motion to accept; Mr. Dick Hoffmann seconded the motion. Motion carried.
4. Direct Capital Area staff to explore options within the next ninety (90) days for local initiatives to support/enhance educational attainments and other required youth outcomes. Chairman Barham opened the floor to receive a motion to accept the recommendation of the Youth Council. Mr. Kenny Gibbs made a motion to accept; Mr. Gerald Mitchell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Barham concluded by giving sincere thanks to the Youth Council, Nikki Marshall, Youth Council Coordinator and Joan Lindley for their staff support in this effort.

Moving onto other business, Chairman Barham announced that the Nomination Committee sent a letter of recommendation to Board members for the slate of officers for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The period for this slate of officers will officially begin effective July 1, 2008. The nominations were as follows:

Susan Jackson – Chair
Bruce Clarke – Vice Chair
Marie Watson – Secretary

At this time, Chairman Barham called to receive additional nominations; none were presented. Chairman Barham opened the floor to receive a motion to accept the recommendation of the Nomination Committee. Mr. Michele Tavernise made a motion to accept; Mr. Barrie Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried. Chairman Barham thanked the committee for their work.

In the Chair's report, Chairman Barham presented an overview of his last four years as Chair to Capital Area Workforce Development Board. Elected as Chair during the same time that Ms. Regina Crooms became Executive Director to Capital Area, Chairman Barham revealed that it has been a genuine pleasure and high honor to serve as Chair to the Board.

He commended Capital Area staff for their support and efforts as the Board has strived for excellence and continuous improvement of services, often being considered a model Board for the state.

During Chairman Barham's tenure, the Board has piloted new programs and initiatives including the opening of additional JobLink Career Centers, the Business and Technology Center, Information Sites and SavvYouth Centers. Capital Area Workforce Development Board has also gained 501C3 status and added a Business Services Coordinator. Local Boards throughout the state have often sought out advise, counsel and leadership from Capital Area.

Ms. Regina Crooms continued with a Tribute to the Chair by recalling the extraordinary support extended by Chairman Barham during the past four years. She called upon Ms. Susan Jackson, Vice-Chair, to proclaim a Resolution to Chairman Barham. Ms. Marie Watson, Secretary concluded the tribute by presenting a beautiful plaque to Chairman Barham in appreciation for his leadership, dedication and commitment to Capital Area Workforce Development Board.

Chairman Barham thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve in this position.

Under other business and announcements, Chairman Barham recalled that at the Capital Area Board Retreat in April 2008, the Board began a very good discussion regarding area business needs and sector strategies. As not to lose momentum, staff is organizing a series of forums to begin discussions with key leaders and many of our area employers to aid in fostering awareness around these very important issues.

Chairman Barham called upon Regina Crooms to provide some information on the forums. Ms. Crooms announced that in conjunction with the Research Triangle Regional Partnership (RTRP), Capital Area is holding three (3) forums to broaden the focus on matters that the local workforce development boards share regionally. These forums will involve all thirteen (13) counties in RTRP collectively.

The first forum focuses on the health care sector and is scheduled for Thursday, August 14, 2008. Subsequent dates for construction trades and biotechnology forums are scheduled for August 18, 2008 & August 20, 2008. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Capital Area office. Chairman Barham thanked Ms. Crooms and staff for coordinating these forums.

Chairman Barham then asked Board members to draw their attention to the Capital Area Labor Market Information update and the Workforce In-Depth Custom Region Summary provided by Ms. Regina Z. Ford, North Carolina Employment Security Commission Labor Market Representative. Ms. Ford commented that the unemployment rates for April 2008 remained unchanged from the previous month, and the May 2008 rates will be announced within a few days. Chairman Barham thanked Ms. Ford for this information.

Additional announcements included:

Health care Regional Summit – August 14, 2008
Project NewBuild Orientation – July 2, 2008

Our next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 28, 2008 at 10:00 am at the Howell Woods Center in Four Oaks, North Carolina. Please note time change to accommodate travel time. Dr. Don Reichard has graciously agreed to host this meeting.

Chairman Barham thanked everyone for attending and reminded Board members to go to their designated NC Share Network Access Point Site immediately following the meeting to celebrate the opening of our newest JobLink Community Sites.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.