



CAPITAL AREA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
October 25, 2007

The Capital Area Workforce Development Board met in regular session on Thursday, October 25, 2007 at 8:30 a.m. at Wake Technical Community College, Western Wake Campus at Millpond Village, Cary, North Carolina. Members present: Robert Barham, Barrie Davis, Kenny Gibbs, Susan Jackson, Gerald Mitchell, Norma Owen, Dr. Donald Reichard, Nelson Rose, Michele Tavernise, David Rockefeller, and P.R. Latta. Staff: Regina Crooms, Alfreda Barnett, Nikki Marshall, Jane Sterner and Lisa Ramsey. Guests: Becky Long, Capital Area JobLink at Cary Employment Security Commission; Lisa Arnette, Employment Security Commission Raleigh Office; Nancy Stancil, Capital Area JobLink at Johnston Community College; Jackie McMillian, Workforce Development Unit, Employment Security Commission Central Office; Gene Norton, Capital Area JobLink at Raleigh Employment Security Commission; Denny Jenkins, Wake County Human Services; Carol Collins, Community Partnerships Incorporated; Dana Martinez, Community Partnerships Incorporated; Chris Droessler, Wake County Public School System; and Denise Tawwab, NC Connected, Inc.

Gerald Mitchell, Vice President, Wake Technical Community College, offered remarks on behalf of the college and welcomed everyone to the facility. He reminded meeting attendees that Wake Technical Community College offers both degree and continuing education programs. The Western Wake Campus serves approximately 800-900 students daily and is open from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm. Mr. Mitchell invited everyone to take a tour after the meeting.

Chairman Barham called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He asked if there were any corrections to the draft minutes of August 23, 2007. The minutes were approved as written.

Chairman Barham called upon Chris Droessler, Youth Council Chair, to provide an update on the status of one of the WIA youth contractors placed on probationary status. Mr. Droessler reported that Haven House was placed on probationary status from August 1, 2007 to November 30, 2007. After discussions with Haven House, they have decided not to pursue the contract beyond the probationary period. Since this is a special circumstance, and in the best interest of the youth participants, the Division of Employment & Training is not requiring Capital Area to do a Request for Proposal. Ms. Crooms added that it is Capital Area's intent for a current WIA youth contractor to assume the Haven House caseload; thus, eliminating the need for an RFP.

Mr. Droessler also announced that the addition of the SAVVYouth Center at Capital Area JobLink at Raleigh ESC is complete. The Grand Opening for this center will be held on Wednesday, November 14, 2007 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am and everyone is invited to attend.

Chairman Barham thanked staff and the Capital Area Youth Council for their efforts towards the youth endeavors in Wake and Johnston Counties.

In reviewing Capital Area Workforce Development Board’s Strategic Goals, Chairman Barham called attention to Goal 3: To expand community engagement in regional workforce development efforts and support economic development initiatives. He continued to say that as a result of the focus to expand workforce development efforts in this area, the JobLink Committee approved an additional JobLink Youth Information Site in Benson, North Carolina called “Not Just Another Community Center”. Jane Sterner was called to give a report on behalf of Durwood Woodall, JobLink Committee Chair.

Ms. Sterner announced that on August 8th, the JobLink Committee received a request for JobLink Youth Information Site status by an agency in Benson, North Carolina. The request is supported by the Capital Area Youth Council and was reviewed by the JobLink Committee in September. Capital Area staff visited the facility on several occasions and has been in contact with the agency director, Robert Pearson. Based on the information collected, the site was approved for JobLink Youth Information Site status.

Not Just Another Community Center, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing high quality services to children, youth and families in Johnston County. Plans are to provide this agency with computer equipment, furniture and books to expand their services relating to employment resources and information for the youth in the community.

In reviewing the next agenda item, Chairman Barham recalled that the purpose of the North Carolina Incumbent Workforce Development Program is to provide funding to North Carolina businesses to offer educational and skills training for their current workforce. Chairman Barham called upon Gerald Mitchell, Strategic Alliance Committee Chair, to provide an update.

Mr. Mitchell thanked Strategic Alliance Committee members Linda Horton, Nelson Rose, Alfreda Barnett and Regina Crooms for serving on this committee and announced the revised guidelines and application for the North Carolina Incumbent Workforce Development Program under the Workforce Investment Act.

During this round of funding, applications had to be submitted to Capital Area by September 28, 2007. The Strategic Alliance Committee reviewed seven applications that were submitted to Capital Area, one of which was from Johnston County. Committee recommendations for funding were made to the Division of Workforce Development. The grant announcement for this first round will be October 31, 2007.

Mr. Mitchell continued by announcing the remaining rounds of funding as listed below:

Submission to Commission
January 31, 2008

Grant Announcement
February 29, 2008

May 30, 2008

June 30, 2008

Chairman Barham announced that the Board Member Spotlight for this meeting is Nelson Rose. Mr. Rose grew up in Bentonville, North Carolina, which is approximately 50 miles east of Raleigh. Living on a farm and being one of five siblings, Mr. Rose assumed much labor-intensive responsibility at a young age. Later, in high school, he worked at the Bentonville Museum and milked cows twice a day on the farm.

During his college years, Mr. Rose completed his undergraduate work at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, and then went on to serve in the US Army as an Infantry Sergeant. After his stint in the Army, Mr. Rose became self-employed in agriculture. Realizing fairly quickly that the good years in agriculture did not offset the bad, Mr. Rose began his career with the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina.

Mr. Rose has held numerous positions with ESC including Rural Manpower Representative, Veterans Representative, Manager of the Dunn office, and his current role as Manager of the Smithfield ESC office.

Aside from his position with ESC, Mr. Rose is actively involved with family, church activities, sports and community service. Married to his wife Ann for 33 years, they have two grown children, Eric and Benjamin. Additionally, Mr. Rose has served as a Deacon at Mill Creek Christian Church, Cub Scout Leader, PTA President and basketball coach. His passion and adventurous spirit for sports includes ventures in snow and water skiing, skydiving, motorcycle riding and paragliding.

Enjoying life long learning, Mr. Rose pursued the Certified Public Manager Program through the Office of State Personnel and was awarded the Certified Public Manager designation. He is currently in his 28th year of service with the Employment Security Commission. Chairman Barham thanked Mr. Rose for this wonderful spotlight.

Moving on to other business, Chairman Barham reported that Capital Area received three (3) grant awards since the last meeting. A \$55,000 grant was received for the Allied Health Regional Partnership, a \$220,000 Disability Navigator regional grant was received to provide disability awareness and services in the local JobLink Centers, and a \$550,000 YouthBuild grant was awarded to aid youth in the construction trades arena.

Ms. Crooms commented that Capital Area was the only recipient of the YouthBuild grant in North Carolina and commended Capital Area staff Alfreda Barnett, Jane Sterner, Joan Lindley, Brenda, Wilkerson, Nikki Marshall and Victoria Weston for their efforts toward achieving this grant.

Chairman Barham acknowledged that he and several board members attended the recent North Carolina Workforce Development Partnership Conference in Greensboro, North Carolina along with many Capital Area staff members. Chairman Barham noted it was the best conference he has attended.

Chairman Barham continued by commenting on relevant workshops including Washington Update by Bob Knight, and Developing an Entrepreneurial Workforce presented by Haywood Community College.

In the Washington Update, Mr. Knight stated that there was nothing new to report in Washington, DC pending the upcoming 2008 elections. Funding levels will remain the same as no single party wants to make cuts at this time. Additionally, there is talk among Congress regarding the downsizing of Workforce Development Boards across the country.

An overview by Chairman Barham on the Developing an Entrepreneurial Workforce workshop provided information regarding how communities can “build back” after falling victim to layoffs, downsizing and closings. One example cited was Pillowtex in Kannapolis, North Carolina. Norma Owen added that Biotech and Allied Health initiatives are a wonderful opportunity to meet the challenges that some of these communities face. Chairman Barham concluded that Kannapolis will have tremendous growth and is turning into a huge research center.

Michele Tavernise commented on a workshop conducted by John Metcalf that hammered in on 501C3 status and looking into future. He indicated that boards across the nation are looking into the capacity to deal with the changes that are ahead. Mr. Tavernise concluded that the Capital Area board should be exploring more fundraising and grant writing opportunities.

Chairman Barham added that he and Denny Jenkins attended the Johnston County Workforce Development Center: A Partnership that Works presentation by Johnston Community College and Talecris. He commented that Joy Callahan and Donna Steele did an excellent presentation on the work that is accomplished at the Workforce Development Center as a result of this partnership.

Regina Crooms then provided an overview of the workshop Elkamet – A Bedtime Story. This workshop provided information on the decision-making process that a German company undertook prior to relocating to Boone, North Carolina. Information included feedback on the studies that took place prior to making a decision on a location, coupled with the challenges the company faced after the relocation.

Chairman Barham acknowledged the efforts of Gene Norton at Capital Area JobLink at Raleigh ESC for achieving Level III chartering status and receiving recognition during the JobLink Celebration at the North Carolina Workforce Development Partnership Conference.

A final comment by Nelson Rose commended the Open Roads, Open Minds presentation by Steve Uzzell, saying that it was one of the best presentations ever by telling a motivational story through photos.

Chairman Barham opened the floor to other business. Among the announcements, Chairman Barham extended congratulations to Susan Jackson on her recent promotion to Vice President of WakeMed.

Barrie Davis indicated his concern about the general public’s lack of knowledge regarding the efforts and initiatives of Capital Area Workforce Development Board. Mr. Davis recently invited Regina Crooms to give a presentation about Capital Area to the Zebulon Rotary Club and commented on the excellent presentation she provided.

Becky Long announced that Kellogg will be holding a Job Fair on November 10, 2007 from 9:00 am to Noon at the Herbert C. Young Community Center in Cary, North Carolina. Initially the Job Fair was to target Flextronic workers; however, it will now be open to the general public.

Other announcements included Kenny Gibbs advising the board that Vocational Rehabilitation is pursuing an AmeriCorps grant. Governor Easley announced that the grant will be over \$2.1 million in North Carolina. Initially, there was some difficulty in getting a state agency to be able to match funds; however, VR will be the sponsoring agency for the grant. A meeting is scheduled for October 31, 2007, and VR will have until March 2008 to complete the grant application. Capital Area and VR will work closely together to administer the AmeriCorps program.

Susan Jackson announced that in a recent meeting with the State Community College Board for Nursing, the Board of Nursing is pushing towards requiring all nursing staff in North Carolina to have a Master's degree before teaching at the community college level. Ms. Jackson indicated that this type of action could potentially cripple the nursing programs in the community colleges, as the majority of nurses do not currently have Master's degrees to provide clinical instruction.

Ms. Jackson went on to say that there is absolutely no current research showing that a Master's or Ph.D. level nurse is a better instructor. When asked if there needed to be a letter drafted on behalf of Capital Area Workforce Development Board, Dr. Reichard responded that we should wait until the next round of decision-making occurs.

Additional information provided by Ms. Jackson included an update of the Early College and Health Sciences program. A collaborative effort of Wake Technical Community College, WakeMed Health and Hospitals and Wake County Public School System, this program is designed to produce graduates for the world of work. It has received the "School of Distinction" status, and 100% of 9th graders are taking at least one (1) college level course.

Regina Crooms advised the board of the reorganization that is occurring at the state level and within Capital Area. The Workforce Commission and the Division of Employment and Training are now known as the Division of Workforce Development.

Reorganization within Capital Area includes two (2) staff members, Joan Lindley and Massaline Thomas reducing their hours to part-time status, and Lisa Ramsey is now job sharing between Capital Area and the JobLink at Raleigh ESC.

Chairman Barham thanked everyone for coming and announced the next meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2007 in Wake County. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.