



Lower Chattahoochee Workforce Development Board Quarterly Meeting

September 15, 2022
Columbus Consolidated Government
420 Tenth Street
Columbus, Georgia 31902

Type of meeting: WDB QUARTERLY MEETING

Agenda topics

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| I. Welcome | Chester Randolph, Chair |
| a. Approval of Minutes
(June 23, 2022) | |
| II Approval of Local & Regional Plans | Feleshia Marshall, WIOA Asst. Director |
| III. Approval of ETPL Application | Lisa Lane, WIOA Staff |
| IV. Financial Report | Feleshia Marshall, WIOA Asst. Director |
| V. Old Business | |
| VI. Next Meeting & Adjournment | |



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Type of meeting:

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Board Members in attendance:

Chester Randolph, C. Randolph & Associates
Georgia Beard-White, Rolling Hills Food
Tony Calloway, Calloway & Associates, Inc.
Travis Chambers, Elite Ventures Leasing & MGT.
Jonathan Evans, Housing Authority of Cols. GA
April Hopson, Columbus Technical College
Barbara Jackson, Piedmont Hospital
Rick Jones, CCG/ Economic Development
Carvel Lewis, Lewis Mortuary II
Jamie Loyd, Columbus Technical College
Gwen Ruff, Columbus Water Works
Wanda Rutledge, Kinetic Credit Union
Dexter Smith, Communication Workers of USA, Local 3212
Frederick Stoller, Job Corps.
Wendy Timmons, Sixty-Two Graphic Studio
Eddie Watson, Clay Hill Hunting
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County Board of Commissioners

WIOA Staff

Howard Pendleton
Feleshia Marshall
Aveana Jackson
Lisa Lane

Guest

Mac Moye, Stewart Co. Mgr.
Janie Reid, IN THE DOOR
Nianthia Spellers, Brookstone Surgical Center
Joseph Williams, Stewart Co. LEO

Agenda Discussion

I. Welcome

Chester Randolph, LCWDB Chair

The following is a summary of the discussion as it pertains to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 and the responsibilities conferred upon the local workforce area, which comprises the eight-counties of Chattahoochee, Clay, Harris, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Stewart and Talbot, and the cities and municipalities contained therein. These minutes are open for public viewing and made available upon request.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chester Randolph. He thanked the members and guests present for their attendance. The Chair recognized Ms. Wendy Timmons and Ms. Gwen Ruff for graciously agreeing to become Chairpersons for the Membership Committee (Ms. Timmons replacing Ms. Elsie Farley) and the Budget and Finance Committee (Ms. Ruff replacing Judge John Martin).

The Chair noted that of the confirmed attendees for today's meeting only 17 had signed in. We'll wait a few moments to allow for the other members to arrive (we must have 18 members for a quorum). During the wait the Director and WIOA Staff discovered that Mr. Brown, Ms. Varnum and Mr. Workman had had sudden unexpected events that had kept them from attending. (They were noted, and their absences were recorded as excused).

The Director informed members that Ms. Ashley Becker, One-Stop Operator had accepted a position with the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and the contracted service provider (IN THE DOOR, LLC) had filled her vacancy. He introduced Ms. Janie Reid as the new One-Stop Operator for our local area. Ms. Reid thanked the director and told members a little about herself.

The Director noted we won't likely have a quorum for this meeting. To convene the Executive Committee to act on the Board's behalf, a formal vote should be taken for the record. The Chair agreed and stated the items on today's agenda would be discussed but voting would be tabled.

The Chair asked if there was any discussion regarding the June 23, 2022, minutes that had been emailed to everyone in preparation of the meeting and enclosed as part of agenda packet (A copy is attached to original minutes as permanent record). There was no discussion.

The Chair requested a motion to have the Executive Committee meet at the end of this meeting to act on the Board behalf in lieu of having a quorum for the Board meeting.

Action Taken:

Carvel Lewis so moved and Tony Calloway properly second, approval was unanimously granted by the board members present to convene the Executive Committee to conduct business on the Board's behalf immediately following the board meeting.

II. Approval of the Local & Regional Plans

Feleshia Marshall, WIOA Asst. Director

The Assistant Director noted that Ms. Aveana Jackson had taken the lead on updating the plans and would present the summary of changes for both. Ms. Jackson gave a brief overview and discussion on the summary of changes on the Local & Regional Plans (Copies are attached to original minutes as permanent record).

The summary of changes on the local plan were as follows:

a. Changes in the MOU for One-Stop Partner, including changes to the infrastructure funding agreement (IFA)

Location in the Local Plan: One-Stop Delivery System

Summary: No Changes

b. Changes in Board structure, including a change in Board chairperson, adding members or removing members

Location in the Local Plan: Local Workforce Development Board

Summary: Pages 63-65. Removed and added board members.

c. Changes in the strategies used to meet local performance goals, particularly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

Location in the Local Plan: Facilitating Access to services

Summary: Pages 83-84. Described changes in service-delivery model to overcome new obstacles created by COVID-19 pandemic. We leveraged online learning, the WorkSource Portal, partnerships, NDWG, and virtual fairs and events.

d. Significant changes in the labor market and general economic conditions or local economic conditions, particularly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

Location in the Local Plan: Labor Market Data, etc. updates

Summary: Throughout Plan; pages 6-29, Updated data and chart to the most recent available. The updates include new data about the region's population and workforce participation, the top industries, top specialized skills, and top job postings.

e. Award of a contract to a new competitively selected One-Stop Operator or new service provider

Location in the Local Plan: Current One-Stop Operator / Awarding Sub-Grants and Contracts

Summary: Page 58. Denoted In The Door is also a service provider as of July 1, 2022. / No Changes

f. Any change to facility's operating name, street address, mailing address or telephone number (i.e., the contact information provided to the public)

Location in the Local Plan: One Stop & Affiliate Sites & Services

Summary: No changes.

- g. **Change in Board staff support (i.e., change in organization or entity providing the staffing, not individual staff members)**

Location in the Local Plan: N/A

Summary: N/A

- h. **Changes to any of the policies in the required attachments**

Location in the Local Plan: N/A

Summary: N/A

- i. **Any other change defined locally as a substantial deviation from the Local Plan, including changes in local criteria, service providers, or local standards for service coordination**

Location in the Local Plan: N/A

Summary: N/A

The summary of changes on the regional plan for Area 14 were as follows:

- a. **Changes in the MOU for One-Stop Partner, including changes to the infrastructure funding agreement (IFA)**

Location in the Regional Plan (Area 14): One-Stop Delivery System

Summary: No Changes

- b. **Changes in Board structure, including a change in Board chairperson, adding members or removing members**

Location in the Regional Plan (Area 14): Attachment #1

Summary: Added new members and removed old members.

- c. **Changes in the strategies used to meet local performance goals, particularly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic**

Location in the Regional Plan (Area 14): Change in the strategies used to meet local performance goals, particularly as a result of COVID-19 pandemic

Summary: Described changes in service-delivery model to overcome new obstacles created by COVID-19 pandemic. We leveraged online learning, the WorkSource Portal, partnerships, NDWG, and virtual fairs and events.

- d. **Significant changes in the labor market and general economic conditions or local economic conditions, particularly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic**

Location in the Regional Plan (Area 14): Labor Market Data, etc. updates

Summary: Updated data and chart to the most recent available. The updates include new data about the region's population and workforce participation, the top industries, top specialized skills, and top job postings.

- e. **Award of a contract to a new competitively selected One-Stop Operator or new service provider**

Location in the Regional Plan (Area 14): Current One-Stop Operator / Awarding Sub-Grants and Contracts

Summary: No changes. / No changes.

- f. **Any change to facility's operating name, street address, mailing address or telephone number (i.e., the contact information provided to the public)**

Location in the Regional Plan (Area 14): One Stop & Affiliate Sites & Services

Summary: No Changes

- g. **Change in Board staff support (i.e., change in organization or entity providing the staffing, not individual staff members)**

Location in the Regional Plan (Area 14): N/A

Summary: N/A

- h. **Changes to any of the policies in the required attachments**

Location in the Regional Plan (Area 14): N/A

Summary: N/A

- i. **Any other change defined locally as a substantial deviation from the Local Plan, including changes in local criteria, service providers, or local standards for service coordination**

Location in the Regional Plan (Area 14): N/A

Summary: No Changes.

The Chair thanked Ms. Jackson for a job well done. He asked if there were any questions or any further discussion. There being no further discussion, the Chair noted again the vote would be tabled.

Action Taken:

No action taken

III. Approval of ETPL Requests

Lisa Lane, WIOA Staff

The WIOA Assistant Director noted that Ms. Lane was our Eligible Training Provider Listing (ETPL) representative, and she would be presenting the ETPL Application received.

Ms. Lane noted that there had been two ETPL Applications received. However only one of the applications was completed correctly. The second application had omitted pages and some of the pages hadn't been completed at all. We have reached out to the applicant and are working with them. We hope to be able to present their submission at the next board meeting.

Ms. Lane gave a brief overview and discussion of the ETPL Application. The information was as follows:

ETPL APPLICATION:

PROPOSED PROVIDER: SOUTHEAST LINEMAN TRAINING CENTER

LOCATION: 9481 Highway 11, Trenton, GA 30752

PROPOSED PROGRAM OF STUDY:

ELECTRICAL LINeworker PROGRAM

TRAINING LENGTH: 15 weeks; 500 curriculum hours (4 days & 32 hours per week)

COSTS OF PROGRAM: Based on local policy, program costs exceed certificate and short-term training by \$13,995.00 and postsecondary or long-term (over a two-year period) training program by \$8,995.00. Taking into consideration the location of the training (Trenton, GA) round trip from Columbus to the school and back would be over 480 miles and almost 8 hours of driving time (at best) to attend class for 15 weeks. It is our opinion, the costs associated with this program of study are cost-prohibitive with gas prices close to \$5.00 per gallon and the school being over 240 miles away.

The Chair asked if there were any questions or discussion. During discussion, inquiries were made about available lineman jobs in our local area (Area -14). Mr. Smith and Mr. Loyd both expressed concerns that those positions were not readily available in our area and individuals might have to relocate in order to find employment. Other concerns regarding the commute were voiced. Inquiries were made regarding student housing while in training. Would our participants have a place to stay while in training? Members agreed it would be extremely tough to support a training facility located so far away. Members expressed concerns over the costs of training as well. Members felt that participants would be set up to fail with the costs associated with the program.

Recommendation:

Tabled until the Executive Committee meeting.

Action Taken:

No action required.

IV. Financial Report Feleshia Marshall, WIOA Asst. Director

A report of the WIOA Local Area Grant Summary broken down by youth/adult/dislocated worker/NEG dislocated worker funds was provided to Board members for discussion. (A copy is attached to original minutes as permanent record). Mr. Pendleton provided a brief overview and discussion of awards and expenditures and discussed the challenges our Local Area were still facing with the changes due to the pandemic. During discussion members voiced their concerns over the lack of people still not wanting to return to work.

The Chair asked if there were any other questions or discussion. There being no further discussion, the Chair asked if there were any other announcements. No discussion followed.

Action Taken:

No action required.

V. Old Business

No discussion followed.

Action Taken:

No action required.

VI. Next Meeting & Adjournment

The Chair noted that the next board meeting was scheduled for December 15, 2022, at 11:30 AM. The Chair asked that everyone be mindful of that date and hoped everyone would be able to attend that meeting. The Chair thanked everyone for their time. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes Reviewed By: Howard T. Pendleton

Approval Date: 12/21/2023

