

Workforce Center Oversight Committee

Roanoke Valley Workforce Center
1351 Hershberger Road, Roanoke, VA
Friday, June 17, 2011

Minutes

I. Call to Order, Roll call/Introductions

In the absence of Chair Flippen, **Ms. Vest** called the meeting to order at 10:10am.

Members Present:

Jane Conlin
Tersea Hammond
Paul Paradzinski
Joseph Brinley

Members Absent:

Wayne Flippen
Joe Brinley
Bobby Myers
Naomi Powers

Staff Present:

Doloris Vest, President
Suzanne Luzier, Program Coordinator

Guests:

Clay Stein, Goodwill
Mary Ann Gilmer, Goodwill

II. Approval of Minutes

Paradzinski made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 29, 2011 meeting, **Ms. Conlin** seconded the motion. The **motion passed** on a voice vote.

III. Staff/Operator Report

1. Grants: Ms. Vest reported

- a. **FRESH** (Free Resources for Employment, Security and Hope) - The board received a \$7,500-grant from Allstate to provide job readiness assistance and CareerScope assessments to victims of domestic violence. There will be workshops held at 3 different domestic violence shelters, on a quarterly basis for a total of 12 sessions. There is money left in the regional incentive grant to provide 3 computers to the 3 sites where the workshops will be held.
- b. **Virginia Workforce Grants** – Received two grants from the Virginia Workforce Council: \$75,000 Career Pathways Grant in partnership with the New River Mt. Rogers Workforce Investment Board, and \$10,000 local performance incentive.
- c. **Moving On** (commercial drivers' licensing) – The board's application for next year's funding was submitted in December and the application is still in process. The current program is complete.
- d. **CREATES** (green-energy jobs training) - Program specialist Vincent Randall is working with employers to place program completers.
- e. **HITE** (healthcare information technology) Currently enrolling for the program, and has already had one person hired.
- f. **Covington Farmers' Market** – The market building structure is almost complete, with minor touches to be finalized.

g. SHARE (remote workforce locations) – Training materials are ready and finalized, with the training session scheduled for June 30.

h. Proposals:

i. Virginia Tech – The board is working with Virginia Tech and other partners on a grant proposal to provide intensive career counseling to Trade Adjustment Act participants. Award announcements will be made this summer.

ii. Homeless Veterans Grant – Ms. Vest is working with a number of partners to prepare a grant proposal for working with homeless veterans to address barriers to employment.

2. WIA Programs: Ms. Gilmer reported

a. Dislocated Worker – The current focus remains on placements and exiting participants from the program. There were a number of exits in the month of May, with a large number of exits expected in June. Have noticed with TRADE participants, many have completed training, but now deciding to retire.

b. Adult – Lack of first-quarter funding will preclude training expenditures until at least October. Only \$50,000 is available for the first quarter, but \$275,000 available for the remaining three quarters. Expenditures cannot be made until actual funds are available.

c. Youth:

i. In-School – Participants are currently in Washington, D.C for a leadership experience. Approximately 50 youth will participate in the Summer Work Program including workforce center orientation, college tours, and work readiness classes.

ii. Out of School – Participants are in work experience and the program is focused on successful exit to jobs or school. The greatest barrier to employment for this group is recent legal offenses.

The committee also discussed programs for ex-offenders. While resources are shrinking, the WIA programs are finding success with internships and work experience to demonstrate participant abilities and commitment. Other options include self-employment, entrepreneurship and GED attainment.

Ms. Vest reported Rapid Response funding obligation was received; she received an oral StarTech (Martinsville) employees will not qualify for Trade Act Adjustment assistance and can enroll in but can be assisted through the Dislocated Worker Program. Ms. Vest has received an oral approval for an extension on Rapid Response funding through December 31, 2011. **Mr. Stein** inquired about the carryover for the Dislocated Worker Program. In response, Ms. Vest explained there will not be any carryover for the Dislocated Worker Program due to having to exhaust the funds prior to receiving approval for the Rapid Response funding. There is estimated to be \$570,000 available for the Dislocated Worker Program next year.

3. Center Reports: Ms. Gilmer reported

a. Customer Survey Results - There have been 424 responses received from the customer survey evaluations. Responses are overall positive, with any negative response looked into individually.

b. Traffic – Traffic remains consistent. Unemployment-related visits have decreased; Resource Room visits are increasing. Visits are decreasing due to benefits being exhausted, and some small businesses are laying off too. **Ms. Conlin** explained the visits at Social Services are decreasing, but the case loads remain high. She explained TANF runs for 60 months lifetime, but participants can't continue beyond 24 months unless they are participating in a government approved program. School is not approved, unless it is associated directly to an employer.

IV. Old Business

1. Center Awareness Campaign – This topic will be discussed at a later time due to Ms. Moore's absence.

V. New Business

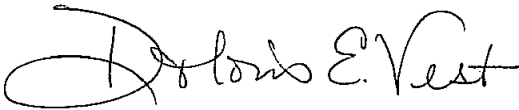
None at this time

VI. Announcements

- A. The board has a **Facebook** page where job postings, events, meeting notices, etc. will be posted there.
- B. Oversight Committee: 10:00a.m., Friday, August 19, 2011, Roanoke Valley Workforce Center.

VII. Adjourn

Ms. Vest adjourned the meeting at 11:00a.m.



President

June 28, 2011

Date