

Board of Directors

Roanoke Higher Education Center, Roanoke, VA
Friday, February 2, 2007

Minutes

I. Call to Order

Board Chair **Wayne Flippen** called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Sherry Dean called the roll.

Members present: **Wayne Flippen**, John C. Nordt; **Paul Paradzinski**, Craig County; **Bruce Johannessen**, Virginia Employment Commission, Roanoke; **Richard Teaff**, Dabney S. Lancaster Community College; **Joyce Kessinger**, Boxley Materials Company; **Carroll Gentry**, Virginia Western Community College; **Tim Tobin**, Alleghany Regional Hospital; **Jane Conlin**, Roanoke City Department of Human & Social Services; **Roger Johnson**; Roanoke County Schools

Members absent: **Walter L. Harper**, Harper's Plumbing Co; **Robert Glenn**, The Issues Management Group; **Kathy Hodges**, Director, Franklin County Workforce Development Consortium; **Bill Jones**, HomeTown Bank; **Beth Doughty**, Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce; **Barbara Winstead**, Five Star Chef Service; **Lew Bishop**, National College of Business & Technology

Staff present: **Doloris Vest**, president; **Sherry Dean**, accountant

Visitors present: **Joseph Brinley**, IBEW; **Beverly Amburgery**, GIV; **Melanie Younger**, Workforce System Coordinator; **Cathy Holcom**, Virginia Employment Commission, Covington; **Caroll Gent**, ?

A quorum was present.

III. Approval of Consent Agenda

Mr. Tobin moved to accept the consent agenda from the December 1, 2006 meeting. Mr. Paradzinski seconded. The motion was passed on a voice vote.

IV. Committee Reports

1. **Mr. Paradzinski** reported the first meeting of the **Youth Forum** was held concurrently with the January Youth Council meeting. Area III Youth Council already operates in line with the state's concept with for Regional Youth Forums. The Youth Council will solicit membership from Juvenile Justice and other interested organizations.
2. **Mr. Paradzinski** reported on recent meetings of **Roanoke City VOYCE** an organization developed to address issues within the city's youth population. The event included small discussion groups which developed ideas such as having teen centers to teach responsibility, bus ID cards for youth to attend events, street festival for youth which would include DJ's, art and hands on training programs featuring career opportunities.
3. **Ms. Vest** reported for **Ms. Hodges** from the **Training Provider Committee**. **The Training Provider Committee recommends approval for two new training providers: Fast Track Health, a CNA training program and Virginia Health Careers. The providers were accepted on a voice vote.**

4. **Mr. Joe Brinley**, who has been nominated for board membership, reported on the employment training program with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and National Electrical Contractors (NEC). These two unions provide a joint electrical apprenticeship program sponsored by area electrical contractors. The five-year apprenticeship includes three years of school/apprenticeship training and two years of journeyman employment. Those enrolled in this program are paid to attend class and receive 8,000 hours of on-the-job training. After completion of the program, a state license can be obtained. Apprentice hourly wages are currently at \$8.88 per hour plus benefits and journeyman wages are currently at \$18.90 per hour plus benefits. The local training office at 6306 Peters Creek Road serves southwest Virginia and parts of West Virginia.

V. Staff Report

Ms. Vest reported on the following:

1. **Federal Rule Changes:** The Department of Labor is considering a change in interpretation on several items in the Workforce Investment Act. She does not expect any to have extreme affect on Area III. Among the changes are A few of the no free-standing employee service offices, timing of core, intensive and training services can be concurrent, smaller board membership, and reinforcement of local boards' role in determining use of funds.
2. **Local Funding:** Staff has gathered information on requesting local funds from each of the eight Area III jurisdictions. While localities fund the regional economic development partnership, they do not current provide funding for workforce development. This is the beginning of the process to consider what other funding may be available for workforce programs.

VI. Unfinished Business

1. **Incentive Grant:** Ms. Vest presented a proposed budget approved by the executive committee for use of incentive grant funds. Mr. Gentry, Mr. Tobin and Mr. Teaff expressed the desire that some portion of the funds expand summer youth programs which have seen the greatest reduction in funds in recent years. Mr. Johannessen supported use of funds for the upcoming *Other Ways to Win* event. He noted that while sponsorships and in-kind donations will fund much of the cost of, the event firmly supports the board's core mission. Mr. Flippen recommended approving \$10,000 for program and \$10,000 for marketing at this time and holding the other \$30,000 until the next meeting for approval. **Mr Tobin moved to accept approving \$10,000 for program and \$10,000 for marketing Mr. Gentry seconded. The motion was approved on a roll call vote. Yes:** Flippen, Kessinger, Tobin, Paradzinski, Conlin, Teaff, Gentry, and Johnson. **No:** none
2. **Board Composition:** Joe Brinley, IBEW (Union Representation), Melody Stovall, RRHA (HUD funding recipient), and Wanda Moore, business owner Project Hope (Covington business community) have tentatively agreed to serve on the board to fulfill current vacancies. These individuals will be presented to the CLEO, for approval, at their next meeting.
3. **Expiring Terms of Board Members:** Mr. Gentry noted that several board members terms would be expiring soon and he asked that Ms. Vest send a letter on behalf of the board requesting that these individuals serve another.
4. **Other Ways To Win:** Mr. Johannessen reported on the April 17 event:
 - Dr. Gray will speak at a lunch for guidance counselors and other educators at Roanoke Higher Education Center
 - Dr. Gray's evening for students and parents begins at 7 p.m. followed by a career opportunities open house afterward.
 - Virginia Western is donating auditorium space for the evening event
 - Roanoke Times and Channel 7 are providing advertising
 - Local supporters to date include Carilion, Goodwill, National Business College, Roanoke City Schools, Express Personnel

Mr. Teaff cautioned that the event not send the message that there is not a need for college education. Mr. Johnson noted that the high school philosophy is to prepare students for college and workforce. He added a lot of changes need to be made, in the public school system, to attain this goal.

VII. New Business

1. **Governor's Workforce Development Plan:** Ms. Vest reported the new strategic plan focuses on a more coherent workforce system and will consider a reorganization of local areas. Some areas in eastern Virginia appear targeted for consolidation. Regarding one proposal that would combine areas II, III and VII, Ms. Vest noted each area covers a large geographic area and has focused on different efforts based on local needs. Previous discussions about merging with Area II were not fruitful. The board asked that the information be brought to the attention of the CLEO at its next meeting.
2. **PY2007 Workforce Center Charters:** Ms. Vest work with the Program Committee and Workforce Oversight Committee to review current center and program operations and make recommendations concerning annual center chartering and the PY2007 providers.
3. **Dislocated Worker Program:** Mr. Johannessen reported the VEC has had difficulty getting individuals into the dislocated worker program due to the low unemployment rate and no major layoffs recently. The unemployment rate is currently 3.2 percent. Most individuals are unemployed less than four weeks. **Ms. Holcomb**, Covington One-Stop Center Manager, reported that the unemployment rate for Botetourt County is 2.1 percent or 374 people and for Alleghaney County is 4.3 percent or 320 people.
4. **CTE Diploma Requirement:** Ms. Vest reported that Delegate Dave Nutter has a bill before the General Assembly to change current requirements for a standard high school diploma to include two years of technical education. **Mr. Johnson** does not believe it will be a problem for schools to fund as most students in Roanoke County currently take two years of technical education but not in consistent areas. **Ms. Conlin** suggested the board send a letter to Delegate Nutter to let him know that the board supports his concept and philosophy and if the bill doesn't pass possibly the board can work with him in his future efforts. Ms. Vest agreed to send a letter on behalf of the board.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Doloris E. Vest

Doloris Vest, president

Date