

# New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Area Consortium Board

## INFORMATIONAL MINUTES

September 21, 2022

### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Biggs called to order the regular meeting of the NRMR Workforce Development Area Consortium Board at 10:04 am on September 21, 2022 at the Wytheville Meeting Center.

### MOMENT OF REFLECTION

Chair Biggs lead the Board in the pledge of allegiance and a moment of reflection.

### ROLL CALL

Ms. Suthers conducted a roll call. The following persons were present and online. A quorum was not present for those Board members in attendance, nor the Executive Committee.

#### Board Members In Person

Montgomery County – Mary Biggs, Chair  
Floyd County - Joe Turman  
Grayson County – Michael Hash  
Pulaski County – Laura Walters  
Washington County – Charlie Hargis  
Galax City – Mike Larowe

#### Guests Online

Beth Carico, People Incorporated

#### Guests

Gwen Johnson, Goodwill  
Leo Molina, Jr. - Goodwill  
Christina Tyler – People Inc.

#### Staff

Marty Holliday  
Beverly Suthers  
Jenny Bolte  
Kimber Simmons

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Biggs opened the floor to public comment. Hearing none, she proceeded with the next item on the agenda.

### REVIEW/APPROVAL OF FINAL PY22 BUDGET and PY22 CONTRACT MODIFICATIONS

Ms. Holliday reviewed the PY22 Final Budget stating a true budget cannot be made until carryover numbers are known. Due to COVID19 carryover numbers are now higher than in the past. Youth funds are available in their entirety by July 2022, but only around 11% of Dislocated Worker and Adult funds are available by that date. The remainder come in by the first of November. This means that contract funding to the Program Operators needs to be modified. The Workforce Development Board has approved the Contract Modifications in their August meeting. Ms. Holiday stated the Executive Committee would meet in the future to vote on all items.

### WDB ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT APPOINTMENT

Ms. Holiday reviewed the three nominations to fill the vacant Economic Development position on the Workforce Development Board stating there are benefits for all three nominations. A brief discussion followed.

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD UPDATE

Mr. Miller, WD Board Chair, informed the Board that Goodwill Industries of the Valleys would not be pursuing a renewal of their contract as Program Operator for PY23. In the December meeting two RFPs will be presented; 1) One Program Operator for all Funding for the entire region, and 2) One Program Operator for Adult, one for Youth, and one for the Dislocated Worker/One-Stop Operator for the region.

Next Mr. Miller and Ms. Holliday discussed the possibility of implementing a Non-Profit Arm for the Board. This came about from discussions during the June Strategic Plan Retreat. Becoming a non-profit will allow the Board to pursue foundational grant opportunities. Currently the Board is limited to pursue Federal Grant opportunities only. No additional staff would be needed. The Executive Committee would become a Board for the Non-profit so it would be connected to both the Board and the Workforce Development Board. This opportunity would be discussed further at the Joint Board Meeting in December. Hopefully there would be an official vote the first of 2023. A brief discussion followed.

#### **POLICY AND BENEFIT CHANGE**

Ms. Holiday reviewed the Short-Term Disability section of the Employee Handbook (page 30). She stated that Short-Term disability is full pay to an employee who has been vetted by an Insurance Company. The Insurance company decides if the request is reasonable and required. But, it does NOT pay for the disability. The employees pay would still use grant funds. Thankfully, Kimber Simmons has continued serving people with disabilities giving the Board Ticket to Work funds. Those funds have been used to pay for a staff's short-term disability but those funds are quickly depleting. Ms. Holiday asked the Board to remove the Short-term disability as a benefit to staff due to the fact there is no way to pay those costs. She asked for input from the Board so that the Executive Committee could vote on this matter. A brief discussion followed.

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Ms. Tyler provided the One-Stop Operator report and People Inc's program updates. Mr. Molina provided Goodwill's program updates. Ms. Simmons provided her Business Services report. Ms. Bolte provided Board Grant updates

#### **CONSORTIUM BOARD MEMBERS TIME**

Mr. Larrowe asked about the status of the follow-up plan from the Strategic Plan Retreat in June. Ms. Holiday informed Mr. Larrowe that would be a discussion at the Joint Board Meeting in December and as a part of the Strategic Plan update with the State. A brief discussion followed

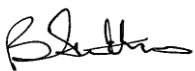
#### **NEXT MEETING**

Chair Biggs reviewed the travel reimbursement and meeting schedule. The next meeting would be the Joint Board Meeting on December 7, 2022 at 10 am at the Wytheville Meeting Center.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Suthers,  
Workforce Operations Coordinator