



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
220 French Landing Drive
Nashville, TN 37243-1002
(615) 741-1031

State Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes
Nashville, TN
Friday, March 19, 2010
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Board Members Present:

Jerry Anderton
J. M. Barnes
Kristee Bell
Craig Butler
Guy Derryberry
John Greeter
Wallace Grills
Ed Groves
Patricia James
John Majors
Iloff McMahan
Gary Miller
Brad Parish
Deborah Reed
Elaine Sanford
Nichole Saulsberry-Scarboro
Yolanda Shields
Charles Story
Sandra Woods

Staff Present:

Susan Cowden
Dan Holton
Sterling Van Der Spuy
Don Ingram

Susie Bourque
Christy Montgomery
Michael Edwards
Sharon Johnson

Board Members Absent:

Thelma Dunlap
David Hayes
James Kerley
Matthew Kisber
Deidre Malone
Ellen Thornton
Richard Montgomery
Kenny Smith

Board Members Present by Proxy:

Gina Lodge (Andrea Cooper)
James Neeley (Bob Henningsen)
Tim Webb (Ralph Barnett)
Kay Nixon (Wallace Grills)
Andy Berke (Mike Stevens)

Linda Sampson
Tyrone Parker
Melinda Williams
Regina King
Pat Bleecker
Joe Fults
Vicki Crosier

Welcome:

Chairman Wallace Grills called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the March 2010 meeting.

Introduction of New Member:

Dr. Nichole Saulsberry-Scarboro was introduced to the board. She is from Memphis and has been appointed for a two-year term representing education. She will serve on the Continuous Improvement committee.

Roll Call/Conflict of Interest Statement:

Linda Sampson conducted the roll call and established the presence of a quorum. Ms. Sampson notified the board members that the Conflict of Interest, Acknowledgement/Disclosure, and Code of Ethics forms were on site for review and updates.

Approval of Minutes:

Iliff McMahan made the motion to approve the December 4, 2009 minutes and Ed Groves seconded the motion. **Motion Passed.**

Opening Remarks:

Deputy Commissioner Bob Henningsen welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed appreciation for good attendance and participation from board members. He elaborated on the broad range of services provided to Tennesseans by the divisions that make up the Department of Labor & Workforce Development: Adult Education, Workforce Development, Workers' Compensation, Employment Security, TOSHA, and Workplace Regulations and Compliance. Workforce Development offers a wide range of training programs including retraining opportunities for workers who have lost their jobs to professional job applicants seeking a career change. Employment Security administers the state unemployment insurance program for workers who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own. The division oversees the state's Career Centers and is also the state's official source for employment research and statistics. Workplace Regulations and Compliance encompasses Boilers, Elevators, and Amusement Devices, Mine Safety, and Labor Standards.

Workforce Development Updates:

Administrator Susan Cowden presented updates on Workforce Development. She announced that the Governor has proclaimed this week as Workforce Development Week in conjunction with the Southeastern Employment and Training Association (SETA) Conference in Chattanooga. She showed a powerful visual aid explaining how quickly the unemployment rate has progressed since 2007 until present day.

Administrator Cowden provided the 2009 version of Workforce Investment Pays in Tennessee for board members to see the economic impact that WIA has made in Tennessee, including number of individuals served as well as employers utilizing the Career Center system.

Administrator Cowden provided information on available funds and expenditures in 2009 in areas of WIA Youth, Adults and Dislocated Workers combined and further explained how the ARRA expenditures have occurred. Tennessee has done what was asked by spending the ARRA funds quickly and presents a positive picture for the state.

Washington Update:

Former Director of the National Association of Workforce Boards, Robert Knight, presented information from Washington. He is currently serving as the Managing Director of Arbor Workforce Institute in Washington, D.C. and he reported on the status of the Jobs Bill and WIA funding. He suggested the following key WIA issues:

- State and Locals: Finding the right balance
Economic Regions –WIRED by a New Name
One Stop Infrastructure: Who Pays
Performance
- Re-energize Workforce Boards
Membership and Rules
Real Strategic Planning
Accountability and Power of the Purse
- Realistic Performance Goals: Poor, Unemployed, Long-term Unemployed, UI
Recipients, Working Poor, Universal Service
- How Much for Training
- Training for What and By Whom
- Sectorial Strategies/Economic Development

History & Status of Economic Conditions:

Research Associate Professor from the University of Memphis, Jeff Wallace, presented information pertaining to the rate of unemployment in Tennessee from 1999 to 2009 and number of claims for each of the local areas.

Local Area Incentive Awards:

Program Manager Dan Holton announced the local area incentive awards for ten (10) of the thirteen (13) local areas. The state board previously approved a set-aside amount of \$300,000 to be distributed through the Incentive policy to LWIAs. In addition, the board was requested to approve \$200,000 more in funding for a total set-aside amount \$500,000 if the State receives an Incentive award from USDOL. Mr. Holton requested that the board approve both award proposals. John Greeter made the motion to approve the recommended amounts and Jerry Anderton seconded the motion. **Motion Passed.**

Labor Market Information Improvement Grant:

Martha Wettemann with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development presented information pertaining to the recent energy grant received for Labor Market Information. She identified five areas for most potential in Tennessee:

- Green building, including retrofitting
- Biofuels
- Wind energy and components
- Solar energy and components
- Geothermal energy

The five goals of the Labor Market Improvement Grant are:

- Conduct a comprehensive Tennessee green jobs survey
- Do a supplemental survey with a portion of these firms
- Conduct impact studies on the six groundbreaking green industry investments
- Enhanced Labor Exchange
- Using transferable skills analysis with auto-related workers

Bioworks Grant:

Steven J. Bares presented information pertaining to the Bioworks Foundation organized to lead the transformation of Memphis into an international center-of-excellence for bioscience business, education, discovery and entrepreneurship. The Southern Energy Training Consortium (SETC) received one of the 25 Energy Training Partnership Grant Awards announced by USDOL Secretary Hilda L. Solis on January 7, 2010, in the amount of \$2,931,103 to run from 01/15/2010 through 01/14/2012. The Green Jobs Training Award will be used to leverage existing curricula and expertise coupled with input from employer partners to produce new or modified training for:

- Solar installation
- Agricultural production for biomass crops
- Sustainable design and construction
- Renewable energy training
- Chemical processing
- Plant process operations
-

Collectively by the end of the two year grant period SETC partners will:

- Enroll at least 395 trainees
- Complete training for at least 314
- Grant degrees or certificates to at least 179
- Place at least 247 in employment

The operating partners are:

- Dyersburg State Community College
- Jackson State Community College
- Mid-South Community College
- Southwest Tennessee Community College
- Northwest Tennessee Workforce Board

- Southwest Human Resource Agency
- Workforce Investment Network
- Workforce Investment Board of Eastern Arkansas
- NECA
- Seedco

Adult Education:

Manager of GED Testing Services Susan Doughty presented information about the GED process and how the Division of Adult Education functions under the Department of Labor. She provided the history of GED testing and explained the different parts of the actual test along with statistics on credentials awarded.

Update on General Motors:

LWIA 10 Executive Director Jan McKeel provided employment and training update on GM Spring Hill Manufacturing. She provided information including the downside as well as the upside and explained the four phases of development scheduled for the Northfield Facility. The community is already reaping the following benefits:

- City of Columbia kept their AAA+ Moody's rating because of proactive planning associated with the Northfield facility potentially saving the city millions.
- Update, on demand skills already being delivered.
- Morale booster!

Committee Reports: All committees met at 3:00 PM on Thursday, March 18, 2010 in conference rooms at the 220 French Landing facility.

Operations Committee

Operations Chairman John Greeter reported that due to the lack of a quorum for the Operations Committee and the crucial nature of the business at hand, the Operations and policy Committees met jointly. The committee members received a review of the state contracts in preparation of the May State Workforce Board meeting concerning Statewide and Rapid Response funding. The following organizations presented their program descriptions and budget proposals for the 2010 – 2011 fiscal year:

- AFL/CIO
- JTG
- University of Memphis

Strategic Planning Committee

Strategic Planning Chairman J. M. Barnes reported the following activity:

1. Reviewed the elements received and elements missing from the LWIA Plan submissions. Although some deadlines were missed, all data is expected prior to the next meeting.

2. All LWIAs should note that if any element is still missing at the time of the planning committee meeting, their plan will not be approved.
3. Reviewed the agenda for the planning committee, samples of the information that will be provided, and an explanation of data provided.
4. Discussed a caveat to be stated at the beginning of the planning committee regarding the procurement of Youth program elements. Some areas are currently not in compliance with proper procedure. The statement will read prior to plan presentations: "Although the LWIA annual plan may be approved during this process it is the expectation of the committee and staff that the LWIA remain in compliance with the law. Staff will follow up with the LWIAs in question on a quarterly basis to assist with corrective action in order for resolution to be completed before next year's planning committee."

Policy Committee

Policy Committee Chairman Jerry Anderton reported that Susan Cowden made a presentation on the Eligible Training Provider and Review of Governor's Policy and Procedures change. The members also discussed attendance at the board meetings and examined ways and means to make attending a more positive experience, hopefully resulting in increased attendance at the committee meetings as well as the full board meetings.

Continuous Improvement Committee

Continuous Improvement Chairman Iliff McMahan reported that Dr. Jeff Wallace with the University of Memphis provided information on the growth in unemployment. They discussed the incentive awards expected. They discussed the upcoming data validation and asked the staff to continue to improve the process.

Closing Remarks:

Chairman Grills expressed appreciation for the local directors who attend committee meetings. Special recognition was given to the entire Workforce Development staff for their assistance to the board members.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned with Chairman Grills reminding everyone to mark their calendars for future meeting dates.

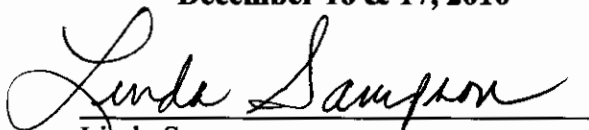
Future Dates:

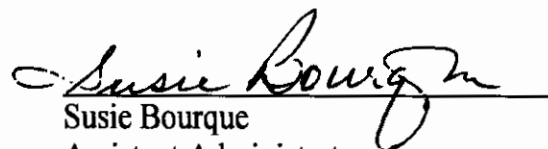
March 25 & 26, 2010 (Planning Committee – All members invited)

May 20 & 21, 2010

September 16 & 17, 2010 (Executive Committee) Location TBA

December 16 & 17, 2010


Linda Sampson
WIA Board Coordinator


Susie Bourque
Assistant Administrator