

NWPA JOB CONNECT BOARD MEETING

William J. Douglass, Jr. Corporate Conference Center, 764 Bessemer Street, Meadville, PA 16335
Friday, April 12, 2019
8:30 am

ATTENDANCE

Robert Cardamone ☎
Tyrone Clark
Dr. William Clark
Monica Daquilante ☎
Jim Decker
Jody Dixon ☎
Brittany Eisenman
Dr. Ray Feroz
Jill Foys
Eric Henry
Jack Hewitt
Rich Krankota
Dr. Lisa Miller
Frank Staszko
Bradley Tisdale ☎
Caryl Unsel

ABSENT

Mike Chevalier
Steven Davis
Terra Gaines
Dave Henderson
Dr. Aldo Jackson
Erin Sekerak
Gary Shaw

PFP STAFF

Janet Anderson
Deb O'Neil
Erin Shaffer
Ramon Rodriguez

GUESTS

Commissioner Wayne Brosius, Clarion County
Commissioner John Amato, Crawford County
County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper, Erie Cty
Commissioner Robert Snyder, Forest County
Commissioner Chip Abramovic, Venango County
Commissioner Ben Kafferlin, Warren County
Diona Brick, County of Venango
Deb Lutz, Steel Valley Authority
Lance Hummer, Keystone CEC
Beverly Rapp, PA L&I BWPO, Rapid Response
Wil White, Solicitor ☎
Sara Dodeci, PA CareerLink®/Title I ☎
Ben Wilson, GECAC/WIF ☎
Jeanna Noel, PA Dept L&I, BWDA
Nancy Sabol, St. Benedict Education Ctr/EARN
Ashley Franklin, Senator Toomey's Office
Anne Leonard, IU5 Title II
Silvana Lavor, GECAC/WIF
Latrisha Mitchell-Payne, PA CL®/Operator ☎

WELCOME/ROLL CALL/VISITOR RECOGNITION

Mr. Decker called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Roll call was taken. It was noted there was a quorum. Visitors introduced themselves.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda portion of the meeting included the following:

- a. Approval of February 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes
- b. Approval of Revised Individual Training Account Policy

MOTION

It was moved by Dr. Clark and seconded by Ms. Unsel to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. All were in favor. Motion passed and carried.

FISCAL REPORT

Ms. Brick referred to her provided report, which included a narrative on the first page. She noted that 38% of funding has been expended on training to date. There is a regular Youth Program update call every Monday morning to discuss progress. At this time, Ms. Brick noted that some youth funding may need to be sent back at the end of the program year, but at least 75% of spent youth funding must be expended on out-of-school youth and 20% on work experience. Additionally, Ms. Brick noted that the Workforce Innovation Fund Grant will be closed in September. Currently, there is no remaining Rapid Response funding; however, a NOO has been received notifying the area that another \$181k will be forthcoming.

MOTION

It was **moved** by Dr. Feroz and **seconded** by Dr. Clark to approve the Fiscal Report as presented. All were in favor. **Motion passed and carried.**

UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS ACTION ITEMS

1. Board staff will send the Youth Eligibility presentation to board members. Complete.
2. Board staff will send the most updated version of the NWPA Job Connect staff report to board members to ensure that they are notified of proposed changes to the EARN program. Complete.
3. Board staff will send the Value Stream Analysis Process Executive Summary report to board members. Complete.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Mr. Decker explained that Ms. Terra Gaines was part of a large layoff at Agility Marketing and due to her lack of qualifying employment in the local area, the CLEOs will consider removing her from the board at their meeting today. Mr. Steven Davis, CEO of Clarion Hospital, has recently been appointed to the board, but was unable to make it to today's meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Mr. Decker noted that with the approval of Ms. Laura Hyde's resignation, there is a vacancy on the Executive Committee for a representative from Crawford County. Ms. Unseld has volunteered to serve on the committee as Secretary for the remainder of the program year.

MOTION

It was **moved** by Mr. Staszko and **seconded** by Dr. Clark to approve Ms. Unseld's appointment to the Executive Committee as Secretary for the remainder of the program year. All were in favor. **Motion passed and carried.**

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS

Mr. Decker reminded board members that annual Statement of Financial Interests are due to board staff by May 1.

APPROVAL OF THE SLATE OF OFFICERS

Dr. Miller presented the Slate of Officers, which was developed by the Nominations Committee. Each board member on the slate was contacted by board staff to confirm their willingness to participate:

Officer Position	Current	Proposed
Chair	Jim Decker	Jim Decker (Warren)
1 st Vice Chair	Tyrone Clark	Tyrone Clark (Erie)
2 nd Vice Chair	Jill Foys	Monica Daquilante (Forest)
Treasurer	Dr. Ray Feroz	Dr. Ray Feroz (Venango)
Secretary	Laura Hyde	Caryl Unseld (Crawford)
County Representative	Bob Cardamone	Brittany Eisenman (Clarion)

MOTION

It was **moved** by Dr. Clark and **seconded** by Ms. Foys to approve the Slate of Officers as presented. All were in favor. **Motion passed and carried.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL OVERVIEW

Mr. Clark gave a short presentation on the NWPA Job Connect Communications Protocol, which outlines effective communication throughout the local public workforce system in Northwest Pennsylvania. The next steps noted implementation of the protocol as a living document.

****ACTION****

- **The Communications Protocol will be sent to the Operator for dissemination to the partners. It will also be sent to board members.**

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION – EARN PROGRAM

Ms. Anderson stated that the EARN program has been funded through the local workforce boards for years and contracted through a competitive RFP process. A press release from the Governor on January 25 referred to an overhaul of workforce programs. To compensate for the upset, the state will provide a combined \$12M to be shared across local boards. It is believed the local area share of the funding will be calculated based on RSA budgets; however, many EARN contractors do not contribute directly through the RSA budgets. The estimated impact on the local board staff admin budget is expected to be about \$142k. EARN’s current annual budget is about \$2.208M, including performance funds.

Ms. Nancy Sabol, Executive Director of the St. Benedict Education Center, who provides EARN services in the Northwest Workforce Development Area noted that no communication on the details of the overhaul have been shared by Harrisburg. A portion of the EARN contract is based on performance, most notably finding employment for participants within 180 days. However, the Department of Human Services (DHS), which oversees EARN, was dissatisfied with the outcomes of the measures set forth in the program. Many participants hired within 180 days do not retain employment or remain underemployed without a family-sustaining wage.

Going forward, the DHS Secretary wants to address participant challenges before focusing on employment. It is anticipated that the local workforce system will need to absorb approximately 400-500 new clients, resulting in increased staff needs and infrastructure costs. Currently, EARN in the Northwest sees approximately 600 clients with 20-40 cases per staff worker. The local PA CareerLink® system is estimated to lose about \$10k annually, but the estimated total impact is expected to be at about \$527k. Ms. Sabol noted that some believe that the decision to RFP EARN services at the state level is a final decision with no chance for an alternative solution.

Ms. Anderson asked the board for their desired next steps. It was suggested that local legislators should be made aware of the local impact of the overhaul and EARN restructure. However, not many facts are

known at this point, and the implementation date is not definitive. Board members were curious about how the state intends to use EARN program administrative funding.

****ACTION****

- **Board staff will work with EARN to compile known information on the EARN changes, the associated workforce services overhaul, and their impact to the local system. The information should also include data on how EARN funding is currently funneled to the local area and how it is used. Collectively, this information may be used to increase awareness with local legislators.**
- **Develop a “task force” of board members to meet with regional legislators.**

OTHER BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF REVISED WIOA ELIGIBILITY POLICY

Ms. O’Neil noted that the Revised WIOA Eligibility Policy is presented outside of the consent agenda because the revision was identified to be necessary following the board committees during March and therefore was not able to be reviewed by the appropriate committees prior to coming before the Executive Committee. The board was asked to approve the Revised WIOA Eligibility Policy as presented.

MOTION

It was moved by Dr. Clark and seconded by Ms. Eisenman to approve the Revised WIOA Eligibility Policy as presented. All were in favor. Motion passed and carried.

RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTE TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE TO THE MERGER AS STATED IN THE LETTER

The Solicitor recalled the short notice of the merger involving a parent company of ResCare Workforce Services. An Executive Committee meeting was called to consider approval of the merger. All board members were invited to the meeting. At the meeting, a member of the Executive Committee asked for clarification on a relationship of funding from KKR funds and there was inaccuracy regarding BrightSpring’s response on the issue. It was later clarified to the Solicitor that KKR American Funds funded Walgreens to purchase BrightSpring, which is the parent company of ResCare Workforce Services, leaving KKR American Funds five times removed from ResCare Workforce Services. No turnover in staff or management is planned for ResCare Workforce Services or BrightSpring as a result of the merger.

MOTION

It was moved by Dr. Clark and seconded by Ms. Unsel to approve the ratification of the Executive Committee vote to acknowledge and agree to the merger as stated in the letter. All were in favor. Motion passed and carried.

COMMENTS

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no board member comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

It was **moved** by Dr. Miller and **seconded** by Dr. Clark to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. **Motion passed and carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 am.

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

- 1. The Communications Protocol will be sent to the Operator for dissemination to the partners. It will also be sent to board members.**
- 2. Board staff will work with EARN to compile known information on the EARN changes, the associated workforce services overhaul, and their impact to the local system. The information should also include data on how EARN funding is currently funneled to the local area and how it is used. Collectively, this information may be used to increase awareness with local legislators.**
- 3. Develop a “task force” of board members to meet with regional legislators.**

Respectfully submitted,
Jacqueline Hamilton
NWPA Job Connect