

NWPA JOB CONNECT BOARD MEETING

William J. Douglass, Jr. Corporate Conference Center, 764 Bessemer Street, Meadville, PA 16335
Friday, October 11, 2019
8:31 am

ATTENDANCE

Tyrone Clark
Monica Daquilante
Jim Decker
Jody Dixon ☎
Brittany Eisenman
Larry Fannie
Dr. Ray Feroz
Jill Foys ☎
Dave Henderson ☎
Eric Henry ☎
Jack Hewitt
Dr. Aldo Jackson
Rich Krankota
Dr. Lisa Miller
Erin Sekerak
Gary Shaw
Bradley Tisdale ☎

ABSENT

Mike Chevalier
Dr. William Clark
Steven Davis
Caryl Unseld

PPF STAFF

Janet Anderson
Deb O'Neil
Erin Shaffer
Jackie Hamilton

WELCOME/ROLL CALL/VISITOR RECOGNITION

Mr. Decker called the meeting to order at 8:31 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 June 14, 2019 Meeting Minutes
- b. Approval of September 27, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes
- c. Approval of Amended Bylaws
- d. Approval to Amend Friday Hours at PA CareerLink® Comprehensive Sites to be Consistent with Monday through Thursday Hours

GUESTS

Commissioner Wayne Brosius, Clarion County
Commissioner John Amato, Crawford County
Commissioner Robert Snyder, Forest County
Commissioner Chip Abramovic, Venango Cty ☎
Commissioner Ben Kafferlin, Warren County
Diona Brick, County of Venango
Wil White, Solicitor ☎
Carm Camillo, PA CareerLink®/Title I
Bridget Wolf, ResCare
Benjamin Wilson, PA CareerLink®/Operator
Ray Vanderford, Cmty Workforce Advancements
Michael Lawrence, Cmty Workforce Advancements
Erin Wells, PA Governor's Action Team
Allen Norton, PA Chamber
Elizabeth Wilson, IU5/Adult Ed
Nancy Sabol, St. Benedict Education Ctr/EARN
Anita McCoy, GECAC
John Pileggi, PA L&I BWPO, Rapid Response
Carleen Orlando, PSU Behrend
Ryan Parker, PSU Behrend
Silvana Rabat-Lavor, GECAC
Georgia Del Freo, GECAC ☎
Teresa Swoger, GECAC ☎
Sheila Sterrett, Office of Senator Toomey ☎

MOTION

It was **moved** by Mr. Clark and **seconded** by Dr. Jackson 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 the next meeting's report will include the full first quarter.

MOTION

It was **moved** by Dr. Feroz and **seconded** by Mr. Shaw 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 craft a procedural standard representing the board's role in addressing large layoffs.** Ms. Anderson shared that Mr. John Pileggi and Mr. Steve Wolf noted the presentation from the previous meeting was approved as a general guideline.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Mr. Decker noted that cards for Mr. Cardamone and Ms. Unsel were being passed around. Mr. Cardamone's appointment expired at the end of June and the CLEOs are expected to vote to accept Ms. Unsel's resignation at their meeting today. The state has asked that Mr. Larry Fannie be the Wagner-Peyser representative on the board starting this meeting, and he was appointed on Wednesday.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION – 5 BROAD GOALS OVERVIEW

Ms. Anderson noted that board staff attended a listening session for the state combined plan, which encompasses five broad goals. A document of the goals was included in the packet, and Workforce Development Discussion in 2020 will be centered around these goals.

STATE APPRENTICESHIP EXPANSION REPORT

Ms. Anderson invited Mr. Vanderford and Mr. Lawrence (Community Workforce Advancements) to speak about the State Apprenticeship Expansion grant report. The intent of the grant was to reach out to several populations in the six-county area and gauge their impression on apprenticeships. Meetings and surveys were conducted to gather the information. Overall, there appears to be a lack of understanding of apprenticeship information, but impressions were not negative. There is some confusion of terminology, relating apprenticeships to internships and work-based learning, and there is a strong opinion that apprenticeships are only offered in the construction industry. Mr. Vanderford and Mr. Lawrence noted several recommendations:

- Disseminate better apprenticeship knowledge to staff and partners to better sell opportunities to clients
- Promote a full range of work-based learning opportunities which is well suited to the current low unemployment/full employment economy
- Equip K-12 schools with apprenticeship information for parents and students
- Craft a message from the board about the impact of apprenticeships
- Work with complementary efforts such as the Ambassador Network through Thomas P. Miller & Associates

Ms. Anderson added that apprenticeships are part of each of the five broad goals in the state's combined plan. Mr. Decker asked about attendance at an upcoming apprenticeship summit, and Ms. Anderson noted she will be attending and will provide a report for the next board meeting.

****ACTION****

- **Board staff will provide reports from the Apprenticeship Summit and the State Apprenticeship Expansion grant at the next board meeting.**

OTHER BUSINESS

EARN UPDATE

Ms. Anderson noted that two weeks prior, she attended a Department of Human Services meeting with Ms. Sabol of EARN where the Department discussed ways to eliminate the RFP process and keep oversight with the local boards. The program is still expected to undergo a redesign. Ms. Anderson noted that it appears the state is realizing they need more local input before moving forward. Mr. Fannie noted that the Department of Labor & Industry wanted local conversations early in the process.

GRANT UPDATE

Ms. Anderson gave a short overview of grants:

- The SLIP final report is due at the end of September. Board staff is working on final reimbursement documentation.
- State Apprenticeship Expansion concludes at the end of September, the final report will be made available to the board or posted on the website.
- WIF concludes at the end of September. Though not all funds were expended and progress remains difficult to track, the local impact has been significant. Ms. Anderson noted that at a recent meeting at the Housing Authority in Erie, there was a picture of 10 women educated through the WIF grant's medical records program through PSU Behrend. The Housing Authority was very proud of these women for their accomplishments and hopes it is duplicated in PA CareerLink®.
- Board staff is working on a Youth Reentry grant proposal with local partners
- Northwest is a partner in the OhPenn WORC grant award of \$2.5 million. This is only one award of ten in the country.

OTHER

Ms. Anderson recalled a recent conversation with Mr. Steve Wolf at PWDA where she suggested a proactive approach to the Polk Center closing, including collecting an inventory of traits of the affected workers. A small committee will be convened to discuss this effort which aims to determine how to reemploy affected workers in a short time frame and address reskilling needs prior to the end of their current employment. Dr. Feroz noted that the disparity between wages in the area and those currently being earned by Polk Center workers is going to be difficult to address, and there are efforts to petition the state to consider reducing staff through attrition to avoid closing the facility, which may contribute to the trauma of the patients being served there.

Ms. Anderson noted that at a recent committee meeting, Dr. Clark informed board staff that the previous site of PA CareerLink® - Warren County was still being visited by people looking for the unemployment office and/or career services. To address this, the property owner reached out to board staff to ask for help. Board staff sent a flyer of Unemployment Compensation information and PA CareerLink® mobile service delivery information to be posted at the site and shared among current tenants to help inform the public.

COMMENTS

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no board member comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Anita McCoy from GECAC Work Ready shared that she also believed that the WIF program made a significant impact on the local area.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 am.

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Board staff will provide reports from the Apprenticeship Summit and the State Apprenticeship Expansion grant at the next board meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,
Jacqueline Hamilton
NWPA Job Connect