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Region 1 Local Elected Officials Board of Directors Meeting

Zoom Conference Meeting

Beckley, West Virginia

Wednesday, February 23, 2022 @ 1:00PM

Attending by ZOOM

Bill Archer, Mercer County Commission
Bob Cheralo, Webster County Commission
John Rebinski, Pocahontas County Commission
Robert Rappold, Mayor, City of Beckley
Charles Saunders, Summers County Commission
John Breneman, Fayette County Commission
Tammy Tincher, Greenbrier County Commission

Not Attending

Craig Chapman, Nicholas County Commission
Cody Estep, McDowell County Commission
Kevin Galford, Monroe County Commission
Ron Martin, Mayor, City of Bluefield
Jason Mullins, Wyoming County Commission
Linda Epling, Raleigh County Commission

Guests

Robin Morgan, R1WDB
Betty Bennett, R1WDB
Ethan Fox, R1WDB

Welcome – Robin Morgan

Robin welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. Robin welcomed new LEO member, John Rebinski, Pocahontas Commissioner.

Call to Order – Bill Archer

Bill called the meeting to order@1:00pm

Approval of Minutes – Bill Archer

Bill asked those present to look over the minutes from the Board Meeting, December 1, 2021. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

B. Bennett 2.23.22

Motion to Approve: Robert Rappold

Second: John Breneman

The minutes from the board meeting held on December 1, 2021 were approved.

Funding / Fiscal Report – Ethan Fox

Board Meeting Summary Review

Ethan reviewed the most recent Fiscal and Grants summary. A copy was included in each packet. Ethan noted that the EE (Empowered Employment) program will be changing to Transitional Jobs.

Budgets PY 21 and FY22

Ethan reviewed the PY21 and FY22 Budgets that were included in the packet.

State Compliance and Audit Review – Robin A. Morgan

Robin reviewed Final Report for the 2021 Enhanced Desk Monitoring Review and the written response to the few findings and concerns (in packets). The review examines the compliance to WIOA, state and federal laws and regulations. Robin thanked Ethan and the staff for the work involved during the audit. Robin stated it was a good audit that identified a few necessary changes which will help us in future reporting.

WIOA Local Governance Review – Robin A. Morgan

Robin reviewed the WIOA Program Monitoring Report for Local Governance, Board Membership, and Program Policies that ensures that all provisions under WIOA are being met. This was a clean audit. Robin thanked Barb Dawes who collects and organizes documentation for the audit, and the entire staff for their participation in preparing for this audit.

Program Updates – Robin A. Morgan

Connections Program/One Stop

Since July 2021, the Connections Youth Program has enrolled 68 IS (In School) and 115 OS (Out of School) participants in the program. During the pandemic food boxes were given to 179 youth participants in need.

WIOA Activity and ITA Report

Robin reviewed the WIOA Activity Report and ITA Report (included in packet). Since July 1, 2021, 127 ITA's have been written and we are currently working with 26 training providers.

OJT Report

Robin explained that 25 On-the-Job Training (OJT) contracts have been developed since July 2021, which is a record.

Empowered Employment

Empowered Employment has enrolled 35 participants since July 2021. As Ethan mentioned, the state announced that Empowered Employment will be changing to Transitional Jobs. Revised policies will be presented to the board at that time.

Rapid Response

No activity to report.

Success Stories

Robin asked board members to review the success stories. The stories show the difference that WIOA programs are making in the lives of others.

Other Business

One-Stop Memorandum of Understanding and Infrastructure Agreement (MOU/IFA) Termination/ Renewal

Robin explained the first One-Stop Partner MOU/IFA (2018-2021) expired on December 31, 2021. The purpose of the MOU/IFA is for all required and additional partners to contribute to the One-Stop operations per DOL and WIOA regulations. Region 1 received technical assistance from WorkForce WV and the DOL as the preparation of the new agreement. The 2022 MOU/IFA was sent to one-stop partners in January 2022. The DOL is using Regions 1 and 7 as examples to develop what hopefully will be an acceptable model.

Staffing

Robin stated we currently have two openings; Business Services Representative and Fiscal and Grants Assistant. Robin asked board members to share the information and make recommendations.

American Job Centers

Robin was notified by WorkForce WV earlier this year that the governor and legislature talked about closing some of the smaller WorkForce Employment Services offices (Job Service/Unemployment), and merge staff into larger offices. We were informed that the Employment Services office located in the McDowell American Job Center (AJC) was due to merge with the Mercer County AJC effective March 11, 2022. A second notification was received from WorkForce WV indicating the closures were put on hold. We will update as more information becomes available.

Final Recommendations by Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force & SB 582 (Pending)

Robin explained that at the last meeting, Scott Adkins, Acting Commissioner for WorkForce WV spoke to the board about rumors and concerns that had surfaced about the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force. Last Friday the Final Recommendation to the Governor by the Blue Ribbon Task Force was released which was much as expected. We were also notified that SB 582 was pending in legislature which would develop a WV Workforce Resiliency Office. The bill has more specific information regarding the recommendations by the Blue Ribbon Task Force. No further updates on the status of SB 582 at this time.

Public Comment

Bill commented that he loved reading the success stories and he reiterated the importance of the Workforce Development Boards stating they are necessary to help our people in this state get past obstacles which they face.

No Other Public Comment at this time.

Bill asked for a motion to adjourn if no further comments.

Motion to Adjourn – Robert Rappold

Meeting is adjourned at 1:49pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Betty Bennett Date 5.19.22

Approved by: Bill Arce Date 5.19.22