

Vermilion County Workforce Innovation Board – Workforce Solutions Committee
Minutes of the Meeting held on November 10, 2020 at 3:00pm via zoom

Present: Willie Christian III Lindsay Light Jonathan Jett Chuck Jones
Brian Hensgen Melissa Hill Darrius Tyler Janice Coleman Joe Stelzer
Alison Ciulini

The meeting was called to order at 3:03pm. Melissa Hill introduced herself to the committee.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by JJ, seconded by Chuck. No opposed, motion carried.

Motion to approve last meeting's minutes was made by JJ, seconded by Brian. No opposed, motion carried.

There were no audience comments heard.

Motion to approve Melissa Hill as the new chairman of the Workforce Solutions Committee was made by Brian, seconded by JJ. No opposed, motion carried.

Discussion Items:

JJ stated the apprenticeship grant was going well, and they have new people from IBEW, etc. He has meetings with a couple of different companies coming up in the near future. We are on track to spend this funding and should obtain more in the future. He also updated the committee on incumbent worker training, stating it's been going well. They have \$70,000 remaining to use through June, 2021. There could be some additional funding available as well, if needed, in admin funds.

Job Fair Expo Ideas – JJ got an email today from Dr. Nacco and Tinisha Shade with the discussion of using the village mall to do expos or job fairs. He invited anyone interested in helping with the job expo/fair to let him know. The committee currently consists of JJ, Nick Catlett, & Kellie McBride. He stated the drive-thru job fair went very well.

Youth RFP – VCW will be putting out another request for proposals for the upcoming program year. It should come out in January/February to the bidders list. The deadline to submit is March/April.

Member Discussion/Comments:

Chuck – He stated he did get an update from Land of Lincoln re: sealing and expungement. They have suspended enrollment at this time. There will be no referrals until January for now. Janice questioned the status of a past case, and Chuck stated she would need to reach out to the Circuit Clerk's Office or Land of Lincoln. He also mentioned they've seen a lot of people in the office with fraudulently filed unemployment claims. IDES is asking people to file a fraud report online on the IDES website. This is happening all over the country, and the FBI is involved.

Brian spoke in reference to job fair ideas, stating it is still in infancy stages. He stated they do want to make sure they partner with Nick Chatterton and the schools, Vermilion Advantage, DACC Career Center, Vet Center, etc. He stated we want to make sure all community workforce development people are involved. The goal is to create a pipeline for future workforce. Ideas being tossed around include it being whole day, two days, have

high schools come in in the morning, or have everything spread out in the mall with different focuses in different wings of the mall. Hopefully it will turn into an annual event. DACC staff met with Tinisha and Nick and the recommendation was made to continue conversation with VA and College Express to see what they can do to get a skills USA chapter going. Mike Rowe from Dirty Jobs is a spokesperson. It's a concept of designing competitions and trainings for in-school and out-of-school youth where they compete. Brian stated he would love to get a chapter off the ground, funded through the clusters. He stated a goal is to create strong partnerships without confusion in our area. We previously had Kim who had her own youth services, but we want to eliminate separation of workforce development for youth and adults. Brian hopes to announce something with new programming after COVID. Other things he's working on include a rather large manufacturing grant. The Governor announced \$15 million to go towards high tech manufacturing. DACC is involved in discussions and plans on putting together proposals for that funding, with the proposals due in January. The Housing Authority is asking for letters of support for a grant to give case management services to residents. It will help the residents become self-sufficient and move out of the housing authority program.

Brian stated that Tinisha expressed interest in joining this committee, but he suggested waiting until things settled with a new CEO at Vermilion Advantage before we approach someone to join the committee.

JJ stated that at one point this committee took the transportation issue with employees/employers within the county. Fedex is having a hiring event and there have been conversations about having a shuttle bus for this event. Janice questioned public transportation being free right now, and Willie confirmed the bus was currently free. Chuck stated if Fedex sees success with that, that it might bring other companies into doing the same thing.

Melissa suggested following up on the transportation issue and to follow up with Fedex's status at the next meeting.

Janice stated she enjoyed the video Brian sent in a previous email. Brian gave a synopsis of the video she was referring to.

Next meeting will be scheduled in January, unless we need to meet sooner. We will stay updated on the job expo, etc.

Motion to adjourn was made by JJ, seconded by Janice. No opposed, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:36pm.

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