East Tennessee Local Workforce Board Meeting

Tuesday 12 March 2024

ETHRA office

Knoxville, Tennessee

Present

Pete Barille

Jessica Belitz

O. Wayne Fullington

Rebecca Harmon

Cindy Holt

Chris Honeycutt

Chris O’Keefe

Thomas Payne

Tim Richmer

Rob Rule

Tracey Sharp

Julie Simpson

Janet Wilburn

Aileen Beeler (virtual)

Wendy Noe (virtual)

Gary Human (virtual)

Jennifer Pace (virtual)

Angie Respess (virtual)

Absent

Sam Alexander

Joe Daugherty

Chris Griffey

Sean Hensley

Mark Palmer

Mike Raiford

Billy Worsham

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Director E.L. Morton. He welcomed everyone and introduced our two new Board members, Tracey Sharp from England Furniture in Claiborne County and Chris Honeycutt from Pyro Shows in Campbell County. They each did a brief Bio. Janet Wilburn was also introduced in person to the Board.

Roll was called and Chairwoman Simpson asked for an approval of the 15 December 2023 Board meeting. The approval of the minutes as printed was put up for, and the motion to accept was made by Chris O’Keefe, seconded by Cindy Holt. Motion passed.

Allan Newton, presented the workforce update for Sevier County. He spoke of the labor and housing crisis in Sevier County and the abundance of jobs and revenue. Sevier County pays 4.5 billion dollars in tax revenue to the state. He said that Fed Ex has a large new facility in Sevier County and that UPS is coming in as well. There will also be a new theme park built in Sevier. He noted that the top three issues Sevier County faces are qualified job candidates, attendance, and commuting distance. Tourism has the fastest growing wages and is 76% seasonal. He talked about the exit 408 project and speculated that it would not be completed until 2032. He talked about the redevelopment of the Smokey’s stadium and Sports Illustrated complex.

The housing crisis from the fires is ongoing. To date 3,138 new residences have been built with 99.3% occupancy. Only 36% of the houses are affordable within a range of 50,000 to 75,000 dollars. He talked about Southern Hospitality Internship, Wilderness, and Dollywood all building new dorm style residence halls for workers.

Kathi Hollander presented the financials. Director Morton explained that we always work under two cycles of money each year with the Adult, Dislocated, and Youth Programs. Chairwoman Simpson asked Kathi if there could be another column added to the spread sheet for the number of students and difference year to year. Kathi said that paid work experience and transportation uses a lot of the youth funding. Victor Oakley talked about the fluidity of the youth money, that it is split 50% in school and 50% out of school, but it can vary 25%. The minimum participant cost rate is 40%.

Janice Cole asked the Board members to please sign the conflict of interest form and send back by the May 14, 2024 Board meeting. The Board book needs an update to page 16.

Jennifer Eppley up dated the Board about Key Performance Indicators. The adult program needs 166, Youth 39, and out of school youth need 11. The Knoxville AJC goes to TCAT Knoxville four days a week. She talked about the need for pipeline development to build jobs. She also gave reports on activities.

Tamera Parsons is completing Board professional development. The three phases approach is being used to onboard new members. The Baldridge curriculum is being used as the guide for professional development.

Chairwoman Simpson called for a Vice Chair of the youth committee nomination. Tim Richmer the former Vice Chair moved into the Chair position and left a vacancy. O. Wayne Fullington was nominated for the Vice Chair position. The nomination was made by Tim Richmer and seconded by Jessica Belitz. Motion passed. O. Wayne Fullington is the new Vice Chair of the Youth Committee.

Angie Salamy virtually shared that the TOSS (Training, Oversight, and Strategic Support) unit is trying to change the way that the State approaches our business clients. They fear that they are being worn out by being approached from all angles. They are implementing the Seven Pillars of Success approach to offer services to our Tennessee employers.

Director Morton announced that our Local Service Delivery Plan was complete, and for the next ten days it would be open for comment. Please review and send comments directly to him. He said that the plan was a “living plan” and it could change to support our footprint throughout its duration. He asked that each Board member do a 100 to 200 word introduction of themselves for an upcoming newsletter.

The next scheduled Board meeting will be 14 May 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Chairwoman Simpson asked that the meeting be held at the Knoxville AJC and that the Board be given a tour of the facility.

The Men of Valor will be asked to present during the meeting. Jefferson County will be asked to speak at the September Board meeting.

The motion for adjournment was made by Tim Richmer and seconded by Jessica Belitz. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.