East Tennessee Local Workforce Board Meeting

Tuesday 11 September 2023

ETHRA office

Knoxville, Tennessee

Present

Pete Barile

Aileen Beeler

Jessica Belitz

Joe Daugherty

O. Wayne Fullington

Chris Griffey

Sean Hensley

Gary Human

Jennifer Pace

Thomas Payne

Angie Respess

Tim Richmer

Rob Rule

Julie Simpson

Billy Worsham

Absent

Sam Alexander

Brad Hale

Cindy Holt

Windy Noe

Mark Palmer

Mike Raiford

Grant Rosenberg

J.J. Walker

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by E.L. Morton welcoming everyone to the meeting. He welcomed three new Board members, Jennifer Pace, O. Wayne Fullington, and Aileen Beeler.

Ms. Julie Simpson, Board Chair, called for the approval of the 9 May 2023 Board meeting minutes. The approval of minutes was motioned by Ms. Jessica Belitz and seconded by Mr. Sean Hensley with one correction of the minute. Mr. Rob Rule was to be added to the members roster as present.

Mayor Bill Brittan of Hamblen county spoke about union workforce development. In Hamblen county there is a lack of available workers. There is a collaboration with TCAT and Walters State to provide training to help local employers. They are developing pipelines for school aged youth to become workers along with county justice involved individuals.

Workforce Director Morton talked about tourism and attractions in Hamblen county to help bring working aged people into the area.

Tamera Parsons, from UTCIS, addressed the need for professional Board development, beginning with new member orientation. Interests, needs, best practices, policy, and procedure along with Board certification would be items on the training agenda. There should also be a survey tool to access the work that the Board is doing.

Ms. Kathi Hollander presented the financials to the Board in the new larger format. She made the request to the state to move Dislocated Worker funds into Adult. Mr. Joe Daugherty asked for a ballpark figure for state wide funding activities. Ms. Julie Simson requested clarification on Summer Youth Work Experience for 2023-2024.

Director Morton announced that all State and Federal metrics are being met. The Key Performance Indicators (KPI) are also being et in the East Region. The Program Accountability Review (PAR) was discussed by Director Morton. He explained that there were no findings and no recommendations last year. The unallowable costs that were found by PAR, Justice Involved training in Claiborne County, and the Cleaning contract in Morgan County will be paid by ETHRA and not taken from program funding. He further explained why the disallowed costs occurred. Chairwoman Simpson asked that the PAR letter, and response be uploaded to the shared drive for full Board access.

Dr. Jerry Leger announced his retirement from East Tennessee State University in October 2023. Director Morton thanked Dr. Leger for 50 years of service. Ms. Amy Edwards will take Dr. Leger’s position. Ms. Edwards praised the American Job Center staff for a job well done.

The announcement was made due to current levels of funding the support services for clients will be suspended until the end of September 2023. The goal is an even flow of money for services in a 12- month period. There was 1.4 million dollars spent in transportation alone. Mr. Tim Richmer asked how many participants ETSU suspended services on. Ms. Jessica Belitz asked about child care, car repairs and housing funding suspensions. Chairwoman Simpson was very concerned about ETSU suspending services. Mr. Joe Daugherty asked how long supportive services stopped after clients began working. The answer was about 90 days after employment. Chairwoman Simpson asked for a cash flow update from ETSU by 1 October 2023.

Ms. Jennifer Eppley presented the East Region AJC report, all partner meetings, KPI, and all other important metrics. She updated the Board on Mobile AJC activities as well as Veteran Services activities.

Ms. Angie Respess announced that she had hired three new counselors for Vocational Rehabilitation.

The new dates and times for up coming Board meetings were scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday in the months of 12 December 2023, 12 March 2024, 14 May 2024, and 10 September 2024.

The motion for acceptance of the new meeting times and dates was made by Mr. Sean Hensley and seconded by Ms. Jessica Belitz. Motion passed. The new dates and times are set as shown above.

Chairwoman Simpson asked that her action items of, survey kickoff, audit report response, and cash flow report be forth coming.

Motion was made for adjournment of meeting by Mr. Sean Hensley and seconded by Ms. Jessica Belitz. Motion passed, meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.