

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE HAMPTON ROADS WORKFORCE COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 18, 2021**

A meeting of the Executive Committee, Board of Directors of the Hampton Roads Workforce Council (HRWC) was convened in the Boykin Room, Brooks Crossing Innovation and Opportunity Center, 550 - 30th Street, Newport News, at 9:00 a.m. on August 18, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Dr. John Olson, Chair with a quorum present. See Attachment 1 for a list of attendees.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Olson directed the attention of the Executive Committee members to the Consent Agenda. He asked if there were any item(s) that members would like removed; none were requested.

I. MEETING MINUTES

Joint Executive Committee of the Hampton Roads Workforce Council and the Greater Peninsula Workforce Board minutes for May 27, 2021.

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by the Honorable Tina Vick and seconded by the Honorable Buddy Green. The motion was approved.

MEETING AGENDA

HAMPTON ROADS WORKFORCE COUNCIL PRESENTATION

Mr. Shawn Avery, President and CEO presented a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the Council's programs. He reviewed each program and reported statistics both pre and post COVID, where applicable for the five Virginia Career Works Centers, NextGen Program, Career Access Network, Veterans Employment Centers, Network2Work, Talent Development Division, and the Hampton Roads Workforce Foundation.

Mr. Avery thanked our regional workforce investors. He recognized Ms. Jesse Goodrich from Riverside Health System as the latest investor that has committed \$125,000 each year for the next five years.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance and Strategy Committee: Dr. Olson recognized Committee Chair, Dr. Johnny Garcia. Dr. Garcia stated that the Finance and Strategy Committee was once known as the Finance and Audit Committee. Dr. Garcia stated that the budget cycle runs from July 1 to June 30.

Dr. Garcia reported on the Council's resources and expenditures. He discussed the available resources including carryover. He stated that prior to the merger, available resources were over \$8 million and with the resources from the Greater Peninsula Workforce Consortium (GPWC), resources total approximately \$14 million. Previously approved budget was \$13,808,016. The Consortium has transferred over \$1.1 million over to Council as of June 30, 2021. Dr. Garcia stated that there are no action items.

B. Business and Workforce Services Committee (BWSC) – Dr. Olson stated that Mr. Bill Coley would report in the absence of Chair, Dr. Larry Dotolo. Mr. Coley said that the BWSC oversees the Adult

and Dislocated Workers resources, One-Stop Systems Virginia Career Works Centers, considers training providers and makes recommendations to the Executive Committee and Board. The newly configured BWSC would be meeting on September 23, 2021.

Mr. Coley stated that the State based WIOA rules requires that every four years that comprehensive centers and affiliate centers must be certified the State Board. The State Board for Workforce development has been given full certification for the Hampton Comprehensive Center, Norfolk Comprehensive Center and for the affiliate center at Camp Community College (formerly Paul D. Camp). He noted that we are still moving forward with our Portsmouth affiliate and our Suffolk Workforce Center affiliate sites.

Mr. Coley reported that HRWC has a number of ongoing grants:

The Financial Opportunity Center Grant program purpose is to provide staff to deliver financial coaching services to workforce participants in order to support long term financial well-being. There are counselors located at Brooks Crossing in Newport News and Norfolk Comprehensive Center. They work with people in the occupation skills training program that will yield an hourly wage at least \$15 an hour, assist with a financial plan to help them to establish credit to increase their credit scores and put together a budget. The program started off slowly due to COVID. The program allows for 140 participants a year but so far less than 140 have accumulated. He reported that the grant is on target to successfully reach the two-year goal of 180.

Other grants included \$1.5 from the State to provide either a \$1,500.00 or \$3,000 funding assistance to eligible individuals who needed occupational skills training due to COVID-19. If a Virginian was affected by COVID-19 and lost their job and received unemployment insurance on and after August 20, working part-time making less than \$15 per hour they were eligible for the grant. Of the 1.5M grant, \$800,000 has been obligated. This grant was region wide.

Virginia Beach Relief Grant - to facilitate access to workforce training for Virginia Beach residents affected by COVID-19. Virginia Beach gave HRWC approximately \$2M to assist Virginia Beach residents who lost their jobs or their hours were reduced due to COVID-19 to place them in occupational skills training. The funding assisted 330 residents.

Hampton Roads Veterans Employment Center Update – the Center opened in 2018 as a component of the Virginia Career Works and looking to replicate a center on the Peninsula at 611 Thimble Shoals Boulevard in Newport News in the next couple of months.

Business Services Update – Business Services has done several hiring events and job fairs for employers and industries, participated in regional/partner activities and made grant referrals to employers which is referred to as qualifying referrals.

Mr. Coley reported that the total new Basic Career Services Customer activity during the period was 996 individual customers.

C. Youth Services Committee – Dr. Olson recognized Committee Chair, Mr. Kevin Will. Mr. Will reported that HRWC had its first regional WIOA program in conjunction with Communities in School.

This is the first region-wide youth contract. He also reported that 235 additional internships were being developed in both Norfolk and Portsmouth.

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Avery stated that the first staff retreat was held a couple of weeks ago and the next one was scheduled for August 26. The focus on the staff retreat is to work on the organization's values. The second retreat focus will be on equity inclusion and building diversity. HRWC is working with Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities to develop these efforts.

Mr. Avery stated that the Board retreat will be held September 15 to discuss the strategic plan for HRWC organization. Dr. Olson re-iterated that everyone should attend the retreat. The retreat will be held at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. Cathy Lewis and Don Martin (SIR) will facilitate.

New Board member orientations will be held August 23, virtually, August 24 in person at the Peninsula office and August 25 in person at the Norfolk office. The August 25th session was canceled due to low interest.

Mr. Avery reported status on grants, including GO Virginia grants; also working with the General Assembly on two major projects a \$30M asked per talent and business development for offshore wind - \$15M is to provide small businesses that looking to be a part of the offshore wind space and \$15M is going to be used for workforce development.

Mr. Avery stated that we have a proposal called Hampton Roads Strong which centers around increasing the pipeline in the Virginia Ship Repair Association's pre-hire program.

Mr. Avery stated that he has begun making presentations with City Councils and community groups.

III. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to be considered.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Olson requested if there was any new business to be brought before the committee, there being none, he continued with announcements.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Dr. Olson announced that the next meeting would be a Board Retreat of full board meeting at 9:00 a.m. on September 15, 2021, at the Hampton Convention Center. The 2021 Workforce Innovation Awards would be held September 30, 2021, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Decker Half Moone Center.

Vice Chair, Mark Johnson invited comments from the Chief Local Elected Officials (LEOs) in attendance.

Supervisor John McGlennon from James City County expressed that they are looking hire more people for their hospitality industry.

Mayor Shannon Glover from Portsmouth expressed that he was glad to attend an in-person meeting.

Council Man Linwood Johnson expressed that in City of Franklin were working on malware and in Southampton County working on transportation issues in especially in rural areas.

Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray from City of Hampton expressed that is good to bring resources and community leaders especially faith communities to deal with violence that going on. He expressed that they have expanded their Office of Youth and Young Adults with opportunities with additional staff members and resources for on the groundwork. Mr. Gray expressed that he was glad to be a part of the merger, he thinks its going to be great for the region. He expressed his appreciation for all the hard work that went into making the merger happen.

Councilman Don Goldberg from City of Suffolk expressed that he has been a part of the organization in different roles. He said that each time he comes to a meeting whether in person or virtually he is totally impressed with work, effort, and commitment to increase our workforce development. Mr. Goldberg expressed that he worked in economic development over the years, and for the Council to be able to get companies to come into our region's workforce service program is very vital.

Councilwoman Tina Vick from Newport News welcomed everyone to Newport News. She expressed that she had served on the Board since 2008 when she won her first seat. Ms. Vick stated that the Board had been through some challenges but has succeeded.

Councilman Buddy Green expressed that he is honored to be a part of the organization and the great work the organization accomplishes.

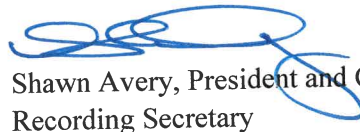
Vice Chair Sheila Noll expressed she is very happy and honored to be a part of a Board that makes a big difference in the area's communities.

Supervisor Joel Acree from Isle of Wight County expressed that being new to the organization it is very exciting, energizing and he forward to serving.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There being no public comments, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Shawn Avery, President and CEO
Recording Secretary

Attachments

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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AUGUST 18, 2021**

ATTENDANCE RECORD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Terry Banez	Greater Williamsburg Business Council
William W. Crow	Virginia Ship Repair Association
Dr. Johnny Garcia	SimIS, Incorporated
Jesse Goodrich	Riverside Health System
Kasia Grzelkowski	VersAbility Resources, Incorporated
Dudley Harris	Bay Electric Company. Incorporated
Mark Johnson	Truist Bank
Delceno Miles	The Miles Agency
Dr. John Olson	ECPI University
Kevin Will	Boys and Girls Club of Southeast Virginia

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Taylor Adams	City of Virginia Beach
Vonya Alleyne	Cox Communications Virginia
Rhonda Bunn	Canon Virginia, Incorporated
Dr. Larry Dotolo	Virginia Tidewater Consortium for Higher Education
Robert McKenna	Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
Bryan Stephens	Hampton Roads Chamber
Guenter Weissenseel	IMS Gear Virginia Incorporated

Chief Local Elected Officials (CLEO's) REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT (Nonvoting)

The Honorable Joel Acree	Isle of Wight County
The Honorable Shannon Glover	City of Portsmouth
The Honorable Don Goldberg	City of Suffolk
The Honorable James Gray	City of Hampton
The Honorable Herbert Green, Jr.	City of Poquoson
The Honorable Linwood Johnson	City of Franklin
The Honorable John McGlennon	James City County
The Honorable Sheila Noll	York County
The Honorable Tina Vick	City of Newport News

Chief Local Elected Officials REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT (Nonvoting)

The Honorable Christopher Cornwell	Southampton County
The Honorable Robert M. "Bobby" Dyer	City of Virginia Beach
The Honorable Mamie Johnson	City of Norfolk
The Honorable Ted Maslin	City of Williamsburg
The Honorable J. J. Orth	Gloucester County
The Honorable Rick West	City of Chesapeake

HAMPTON ROADS WORKFORCE COUNCIL STAFF

Shawn Avery	President and CEO
Rita Bond	Office Manager, Peninsula
Gary Butler	Chief Administration Officer
Wanda Boulden-White	Director, Virginia Career Works, Career Services
Christina Brooks	Senior Director, Youth Services and Special Projects
William Coley	Operations Officer
Loretta Earl	Office Manager, Southside
Cathy Ellis	Director, Executive Support
Amanda Green	Director, Youth Programs
Katherine Henderson	Senior Director, Administration and Special Projects
Alexandra Howe	Director, Grants and Corporate Stewardship
Whitney Lester	Senior Director of Talent Development
Robert Schuller	Director, Information Technology