

Virginia Career Works Northern Region

Thursday, December 1, 2022

Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting

Summary Notes

Members Present:

Robert Bartolotta	Fatimah Ogungbade	Karen Smaw
Michael Becketts	Derwin Overton	Zuzana Steen
Anthony Cancelosi	Bruce Patterson	Joseph Terry
Louis Cernak	Leanne Rerko	William Trumbull
Joseph Diaz	Christopher Rieley	Hector Velez
Edward Dupass	Todd Rowley	Lisa Whetzel
George Harben	Roopal Saran	Joan Wise
Debora Harvey	Cindy Shao	
Roxana Mejia	Mary Ann Shurtz	

Executive Director: David Hunn

Staff: Sabrina Miller, Seema Jain, Nancy Nguyen, Sheila Jones, Karla Quiroz, Deborah Shaffer, Rebecca Bennett, Ann Hyslop, Wossenu Weldekiros, and Eliza Chappell

Observers: Lisa Tatum, Tatiana Nuth, Desiree Roberts, Diane McBride, Trang Montgomery, Lisa Vivian, Greg Vaughn, William Browning, Kimberly Carr, Shelly Rodriguez, John Garrison, Nick Clemente, Jennifer Williamson, Susan Orehowsky, Dortha Brown, Kayla May, Linda Siam, Jamie Hudson, Sandra Zacarias, Kate O’Sullivan, Audrey Mickahail, Jill Kaneff, Deidria Bolden, and John Bottimore

The meeting commenced at **8:32 a.m.**

Board Member Roll Call: Sabrina Miller conducted roll call and a quorum was met.

Approval of September 1, 2022 Summary Notes: Ed Trumbull modified the Summary Notes to reflect that ICF International is a for-profit consulting firm, not a non-profit organization. With that modification, a motion was made by George Harben to approve the Board Summary notes from September 1, 2022 and was seconded by Christopher Rieley. The Summary Notes were approved unanimously by the full Board of Directors, with no abstentions.

Chairman’s Report:

Mr. William Trumbull, the Chairman of the Virginia Career Works Northern Region Board of Directors, welcomed the Board to the meeting.

Mr. Trumbull noted since the last Board Meeting, Governor Youngkin and Virginia Labor Secretary Slater have been much more public in providing details of their plans to make major changes to the alignment of the State’s workforce development programs and services during the

upcoming General Assembly session in 2023. VCWN is starting to receive more information now and will share parts of the proposals that the Governor will likely put forward in his upcoming Budget.

Mr. Trumbull noted that earlier in the week, he traveled to Roanoke and was part of a presentation with Labor Secretary Slater and Deloitte Consulting to local workforce board chairs and directors. Secretary Slater discussed the reasons for this agency consolidation proposal, including efficiencies, easier public access to services, increasing the State's Labor Market Participation Rate, among other factors. He noted that no one would lose their job in this consolidation and that there would be more State investments in technology for the workforce system.

Mr. Trumbull then asked for Committee Report Updates, as follows:

The *SkillSource* Group, Inc. (SSG) Board of Directors: George Harben reported for the SSG Board of Directors. Since the Virginia Career Works Northern Board meeting in September 2022, the SSG Board of Directors and its Executive Committee have met and acted on the following items:

Reviewed and approved the FY 2022 Uniform Guidance and Audited Financial Statements for The *SkillSource* Group, Inc. and submitted to State and Federal authorities. This year's Audit was clear, with no findings or recommendations, a trend going on for more than 12 years. George Harben offered thanks and great credit to Seema Jain, Nancy Nguyen, and Deborah Shaffer of the SSG staff, for overseeing this entire audit process this year.

The *SkillSource* Group has added several new Board of Director members, including Steve Deal of Salesforce, Cris Daniluk of Rythmic Technologies, and Jim Thomas, a human resources consultant and long-time jobs search presenter at our American Job Centers. All three members are bringing their interest and guidance to the Board.

The *SkillSource* Group Board has accepted new contract funding awards, including \$168K from the Governor Workforce Innovation Initiative to serve Afghan refugees and their families for the next 17 months.

Lastly, funding for the security guards at the American Job Centers in Woodbridge and Alexandria will end in December 2022. SSG staff have been working with all Partner organizations to continue this funding for the remainder of FY 2023, through June, but one agency, the Virginia Employment Commission, refuses to continue funding support. *SkillSource* has raised this issue to the Labor Secretary's Office for resolution. Ironically, VEC employees at both Centers have been verbally and physically threatened by Center customers and the Alexandria Center was vandalized with broken windows and doors this past summer. The SSG Board believes that continued security guards are essential in the short term.

Youth Committee: Leanne Rerko reported for the Youth Committee.

- The Youth Committee last met on November 13, 2022.
- As of August 31, 2022, the Northern Virginia WIOA Youth Program was at 86 enrollments, and currently at 100% Out of School Youth enrollments. The program is focused on how to increase caseloads for FY 2023.
- The Committee reviewed the outcomes of the summer Educating Youth through Employment program, which added a new partnership with the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services. The Youth Program still offered the Summer Leadership Academy for 40 youth sponsored by County agencies and provided virtual training in the form of four webinars and one career panel.
- The Committee reviewed the new WIOA Youth funding allocations and discussed strategies for how to spend the increased funding for FY 2023.
- The Committee also reviewed and approved the new VCWN Work Experience Policy, that increased the work experience stipend rate.
- Lastly, the Committee reviewed the full PY 2021 performance report; the Northern Virginia WIOA Youth program exceeded all of the five performance measures.

Introduction of New VCW Northern Board of Director Members:

David Hunn introduced new board member, Michael Hain, Director of Human Resources, Salamander Resort and Spa.

Necessary Board Actions Aligned with Approved 2021 – 2024 Strategic Priorities

Become a Thought Leader for Workforce Development

Review of Proposed Reorganization of Virginia Workforce Agencies and Programs

David Hunn reviewed Secretary of Labor, Bryan Slater’s Workforce Development Optimization Initiative presentation. In this presentation, Secretary Slater outlined the current state of Workforce Development, and identified the issues and plans for the new organizational structure. It was proposed that a Task Force should be formed to review the Secretary of Labor’s plan, and make recommendations. A motion to approve the proposed Task Force to discuss the proposed reorganization of Virginia Workforce Agencies and Programs was made by Debora Harvey and seconded by Robert Bartolotta. The motion was unanimously approved by the full Board of Directors, with no abstentions.

Update on Northern Virginia Regional Labor Market Conditions

Jill Kaneff from the Northern Virginia Regional Commission gave a presentation on the current Northern Virginia Labor Market conditions.

Expand Talent Pipeline of Youth and Adults for Business

Update on Northern Virginia Regional Labor Market Conditions

Tatiana Nuth from the Fairfax County Department of Family Services gave a presentation on the New Virginia Policy on the Workforce Referral Portal. Ms. Nuth reviewed past and present portal usage, highlights and challenges, and ideas to implement the new Portal Policy as a “next step” in the WIOA enrollment process.

Expand Strategic Partnerships Across Northern Virginia to Accomplish Our Goals

Introduction of Opportunity@Work – A Jobseeker Mentoring Initiative

Audrey Mickahail gave an overview of Opportunity@Work, a national enterprise whose mission is to rewire the U.S. labor market so that all individuals Skilled Through Alternative Routes (STARs) can work, learn, and earn to their full potential. Opportunity@Work connects leading businesses looking for talent to STARs with the skills to do the job but do not have a 4-year degree.

Northern Virginia One Stop Operator Update on Caseload and Service Strategy for FY 2023

Tatiana Nuth from the Fairfax County Department of Family Services, the One-Stop Operator for the Virginia Career Works Northern Region, gave a presentation reporting on the Training caseloads for FY 2023 during the period of July 2022 through October 2022.

Board Business Items

Program Management Reports

David Hunn provided an overview of the Center Program Management report, which highlighted service and performance data for FY 2023 from July 1, 2022, through October 31, 2022.

Executive Director Items

David Hunn provided an overview on FY 2023 (through October 2022) WIOA Training expenditures, by vendor and OJT Commitments. He also reviewed the communication with workforce partners around funding for Security Guards at two VCW Northern American Centers, new Virginia Career Works Northern Employer Outreach through the Washington Business Journal, the VCW - Loudoun Workforce Resource Center earning a Champion of Disability Employment Award, a new Governor’s Workforce Services Investments in Innovation Grant Funding Award, and an update on the VCW Northern Region’s WIOA 40% Training Expenditures

for PY 2022. Finally, he reviewed the *SkillSource* Group Summary of Grants and Contracts Award Matrix.

Adjournment

With all Board activities completed, Chairman William Trumbull sought a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made and seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.