

**Virginia Career Works Northern Region**

**Thursday, March 3, 2022**

**Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting**

**Summary Notes**

**Members Present:**

Robert Bartolotta	Roxana Mejia	Olivia Shultz
Michael Becketts	Donna Motsek	Karen Smaw
Glenda Blake	Fatimah Ogungbade	Zuzana Steen
Anthony Cancelosi	Derwin Overton	Paul Steiner
Louis Cernak	Steven Partridge	Joseph Terry
Julie Coons	Bruce Patterson	William Threlkeld
Edward Dupass	Leanne Rerko	Hector Velez
George Harben	Christopher Rieley	Michele Weatherly
Debra Harvey	Todd Rowley	Lisa Whetzel
Mohamed Hussein	Roopal Saran	

**Executive Director:** David Hunn

**Staff:** Ann Hyslop, Seema Jain, Sabrina Walker, Nancy Nguyen, Sheila Jones, Laura Snell, Eliza Chappell, Karla Quiroz, Deborah Shaffer, Claudia Barrios, and Rebecca Bennett

**Observers:** Lisa Tatum, Dai Nguyen, Tatiana Nuth, Jamie Hudson, Desiree Roberts, Linda Siam, Diane McBride, Trang Montgomery, Lisa Vivian, Greg Vaughn, William Browning, Myra Mobley, Kim Carr, Shelly Rodriguez, Attia Mahmood, Dortha Brown Susan Orehowsky, Ellen Volo and Jill Kaneff

The meeting commenced at 8:30 a.m. as a virtual meeting through Zoom software.

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

**Approval of December 2, 2021, Summary Notes:** A motion was made by Roopal Saran to approve the Board Summary notes from December 2, 2021 and was seconded by Joseph Terry. The Summary Notes were approved unanimously by the full Board of Directors, with no abstentions.

**Introduction of New VCW Northern Board of Director Members:**

Christopher Rieley introduced two new board members, Glenda Blake, Vice President of Programs of Northern Virginia Family Service and Derwin Overton, Executive Director of Opportunities Alternative and Resources of Northern Virginia (O.A.R)

**Chairman's Report:**

Christopher Rieley, the Chairman of the Virginia Career Works Northern Region Board of Directors, welcomed the Board to the meeting. Rieley introduced two experts in different data disciplines to share some important data research on issues impacting our regional workforce

services. Ms. Ellen Volo, the Fairfax County Government Opioid Coordinator, who will present important data on the impact of the opioid epidemic on our local region. We read so much about the national impact of opioid misuse, yet we have a considerable challenge here in our area. In addition, in a continued effort to chart our region and labor market's recovery from the COVID Pandemic, I have invited Ms. Jill Kaneff, a Senior Regional Demographer and GIS Analyst with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission to present her data to the Board of Directors. Jill's data shows how our local labor market is recovering so well, with some areas of great concern.

Rieley noted that our Northern Virginia labor market is recovering from the Pandemic – the Virginia Employment Commission is reporting that the region's December 2021 Unemployment Rate was 2.3%, a vast improvement from the 10%+ rate in April 2020. Our staff and Centers are meeting with employers seeking assistance in finding new workers to bring onboard. Our Centers are now open to the public, with appointments and walk-in availability. Governor Youngkin and his new Labor Secretary Brian Slater have focused their efforts on improvements at the Virginia Employment Commission and all VEC employees are now working with customers at the American Job Centers throughout the State. I am glad to hear that more jobseekers are beginning to return to our Centers seeking services.

The VCWN Board will be covering a variety of topics today, including my formation of a 2022 – 2024 Nominating Committee, to identify any Board Members interested and willing to serve as an Officer of this Board of Directors, including Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Parliamentarian. All five Officer positions will serve concurrently on the *SkillSource* Group Board of Directors as well. In addition to this Nominating Committee creation, we will also have a further update to and ratification of our FY 2022 Revised Budget, the final outcomes of the Northern Virginia Return to Earn Initiative (where we are a leader in employer engagement and funding commitments), the Virginia LinkedIn Learning effort and our ongoing workforce activities.

Mr. Rieley then asked for Committee Report Updates, as follows

**Quality Assurance Committee:** Donna Motsek reported for the Quality Assurance Committee.

- The Quality Assurance Committee last met on December 15, 2021.
- At this last meeting, the Committee approved expanded course offerings from three (3) current training providers and a price increase for one (1) current training provider program.
- The Committee also approved the removal of 4 Training Providers that were unresponsive during Area #11's Annual Renewal Process
- Lastly, the Committee was briefed on training obligations by each Eligible Training Provider, which are included in today's Board Package materials.
- Board staff are currently reviewing one new training provider program and three existing programs that are proposing rate increases.
- The Committee reviewed Area #11 PY 2020 File Monitoring Results.

**Youth Committee:** Leanne Rerko reported for the Youth Committee.

- The Youth Committee last met on December 7, 2021.
- With substantial new WIOA Youth Program funding, the Northern Virginia Youth Program caseloads continue to grow – as of February 2022, the Program has enrolled over 130 young adults, all out of school enrollees. The Northern Virginia Youth Program is the third largest WIOA Youth Program in Virginia.
- Of these Youth Program enrollees, at least 80% are Basic Skills Deficient, over 50% have a documented disability, 25% have been involved in the criminal justice system, 35% are parents or are pregnant and others have challenges with English, are homeless or are in foster care.
- The Youth Committee continues to see progress with Youth Adult participants earning credentials in health care, information technology, retail services and administrative supports.
- The SkillSource Group, Inc. and the WIOA One Stop Operator are currently implementing the first WIOA Youth Pay for Performance Project in Virginia (and the United States). To date, twenty-four young adults involved in foster care, or the criminal justice system are enrolled in the program, with many earning credentials in progress. Board staff are currently finalizing all contract documents with State and Local officials, which is expected to be completed by April 2022. This Project is expected to last up to seven (7) years.

**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 December 2021, the SSG Board of Directors and its Executive Committee have met and acted on the following items:

- Approved new grant funding from the Prince William County Department of Economic Development for the ELEVATE Initiative, serving jobseekers and employers within Prince William County. This American Rescue Act funding of \$1.4 million will be available through October 2024.
- Approved new and continued grant funding from the Virginia Community College System to provide continued support for four (4) Community Outreach Workers with the Fairfax County Public Health Department for ongoing outreach to Fairfax County neighborhoods, highlighting the need for COVID vaccinations. The new funding totals \$151,900 and will continue through August 2022.
- The SkillSource Group, Inc. Board approved a Revised FY 2022 Budget at its February 2022 meeting. This Revised Budget will be presented to the Virginia Career Works Northern Board later in this meeting for ratification.
- The SSG Board also reviewed our region’s progress on the Virginia Return to Earn Initiative, the LinkedIn Learning License effort and the State’s WIOA 40% Training Expenditure requirement – all of these items will be discussed with this Board of Directors later this morning.
- The SkillSource Group Board of Directors will next meet on April 7, 2022 by Zoom technology.

Chairman Rieley then announced the formation of the VCW Northern Board Nominating Committee for 2022-2024 Slate of Officers. He invited interested Board Members to contact him

or David Hunn directly to volunteer to serve on the Nominating Committee. The Committee will meet virtually over the next two months to present a slate of new Board Officers for the period July 2022 – June 2024.

### **Necessary Board Actions Aligned with Approved 2021 – 2024 Strategic Priorities**

#### **Become a Thought Leader for Workforce Development**

##### **Overview of Regional Impact of Opioid Epidemic on Northern Virginia Jobseekers**

The Board heard from Ellen Volo, the Opioid Coordinator of Fairfax County Government. Ms. Volo shared a presentation about the Opioid Epidemic and Fairfax County's Efforts Underway to Address It.

##### **Overview of Northern Virginia Economic Recovery from COVID Pandemic**

The Board also heard from Jill Kaneff, Senior Regional Demographer/Demographics Program Manager of Northern Virginia Regional Commission. Ms. Kaneff shared a presentation of Northern Virginia's Economic Recovery from COVID-19 Pandemic.

#### **Expand Talent Pipeline of Youth and Adults for Business**

##### **Ratification of Revised FY 2022 Budget for The *SkillSource* Group, Inc., and the Virginia Career Works Northern Region**

David Hunn reported the **FY 2022 SkillSource budget reflects over \$10.3 million in revenues and \$10.28 million in expenses, with an Increase in Net Assets of \$54,657.**

The updated FY 2022 budget incorporates a revised presentation of the 40% Training Expenditure Calculation from the Fiscal Year basis to the Program Year basis, incorporating changes as a result of *VWL 14-17 Change 2*, which modifies the denominator of the 40% Training Expenditure formula to be the total Adult and Dislocated Workers funds less 10% of the funding designated for Administration, and *VWL 14-17 Change 3*, which allows for the inclusion of case managers' time spent on training in the training formula. PY 2021 is expected to achieve a 49.67% training rate when the program concludes in 2023.

Changes to the personnel and fringe budget assumptions include:

##### **The *SkillSource* Group, Inc.**

- Miscellaneous adjustments in staff time allocation among jobs.

Other budget changes include:

- Added funding for Year 1 of the new CAREER Dislocated Worker National Emergency Grant (\$55,320). Total grant funding is \$108,000 for two years, from 9/13/2021 to 9/12/2023.

- Added funding for Year 1 of the new Prince William County ELEVATE program (\$506,386). The full funding is \$1.4 million for the period from 3/1/2022 to 10/31/2024.
- Added funding for the new Summer Earn and Learn (SEAL) Youth Employment program, funded by the Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (\$103,525).
- Added funding for the new Covid-19 Community Health Workers State Discretionary Dislocated Worker grant, to continue four (4) Community Health Worker positions with the Fairfax County Health Department (\$151,900).
- Addition of \$10,000 in Incumbent Worker Training.
- Revised GO Virginia budget to include additional funding for staff development.

A motion was made by Roopal Saran and seconded to approve the revised FY 2022 *SkillSource* Budget. The motion was unanimously approved by the full Board of Directors, with no abstentions.

### **New American Rescue Act Workforce Training Contract with Prince William County**

David Hunn shared Prince William County has committed American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to help residents get back to work. Our workforce grants enable jobseekers to get valuable FREE training and certifications from a network of education partners to land the job they want. The job portal enables businesses to find the talent they need. He also shared the homepages for this new contract with the Board of Directors.

### **Expand Strategic Partnerships Across Northern Virginia to Accomplish Our Goals**

#### **Results of Governor’s Return to Earn Initiative for Northern Virginia Employers**

Laura Snell reported on the results of the Return to Earn initiative.

#### **As of February 14, 2022:**

Numbers of Employers Expressing Interest– 153  
 Number of Employee Agreements Issued – 125  
 Number of Employer Agreements Executed - 100  
 # Jobseekers/Employees Impacted – 677  
 Grant Funding Obligated - \$85,800  
 Grant Funding Processed - \$210,000  
 Number of Workers Hired – 421

Laura Snell noted that these totals may increase through March 2022.

#### **Northern Virginia One Stop Operator Update on Caseload and Service Strategy for FY 2022**

Tatiana Nuth from 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

FY 2022 during the period of July 2021 through January 2022. Tatiana also gave a brief update on what is ahead.

## **Board Business Items**

### ***Executive Director Items***

David Hunn provided an overview on FY 2022 (through January 2022) WIOA Training expenditures, by vendor and OJT Commitments. He also reviewed the 2021 Quarter 4 State of The Workforce Report, the Northern Virginia LinkedIn Learning License Initiative and, he reviewed the Status of Virginia WIOA 40% Training Expenditure Requirement. Finally, he reviewed the *SkillSource* Group Summary of Grants and Contracts Award Matrix

### **Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.