

Virginia Career Works Northern Region

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting

Summary Notes

Members Present Virtually:

Shekera Alvarado
Swati Aneja
Robert Bartolotta
Michael Becketts
Stacey Dessecker
Karen Drenkard
Joseph Diaz
George Harben

Debora Harvey
Debby Hopkins
Susan Orehowsky
Steven Partridge
Leanne Rerko
Christopher Rieley
Todd Rowley
Roopal Saran

Daisy Saulls
Karen Smaw
Theo Stamatis
Zuzana Steen
Paul Steiner
William Trumbull
Rachel Wooden

Executive Director: David Hunn

Staff: Seema Jain, Sabrina Miller, Haimanot Andualem, Eliza Chappell, Lisa Shapiro, Rebecca Bennett, Mariam Chaat, Virginia Judd, Deborah Dubin, Angela Harris, Suzanne Boudreaux, Ann Hyslop, Sheila Jones, Jannette Sequeira, Karla Quiroz, Lauren Parker, Anna Briceno, Ahsan Ijaz, and Joseph Riccardelli

Observers: Lisa Tatum, Diane McBride, Jamie Hudson, Linda Siam, Eileen Rakshys, Michael Bozeth, Toi Tanton, Trang Montgomery, Tatiana Nuth, Andrew Everett, Greg Vaughn, Lindsay Washington, Robin Baker, Sandra Zacarias, Nancy Evanko, Shelly Rodriguez, Jennifer Van Buren, Rae Nguyen, Kimberly Carr, Dai Nguyen, Erick Avila, Gary Parks

The meeting commenced at **8:31 a.m.**

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

Approval of June 5, 2025 Summary Notes: A motion was made by George Harben to approve the Board Summary notes from June 5, 2025 and was seconded by Robert Bartolotta. The Summary notes were approved unanimously by the full Board of Directors, with no abstentions.

Chairman’s Report:

Chairman Ed Trumbull opened the third Board meeting of 2025 by noting the unprecedented challenges facing the public workforce system, including federal funding delays, potential program eliminations, and proposed cuts for FY 2026 and FY 2027. He highlighted ongoing impacts from large, unauthorized Federal workforce reductions in the region.

To date, more than 1,500 dislocated Federal employees and contractors have visited American Job Centers (AJCs) across Northern Virginia, Arlington, and Alexandria. WIOA enrollments among this group remain modest (just over 20 individuals). The region’s first metro-based outreach campaign concluded in June and drove increased website traffic across multiple platforms.

The Board recently received long-delayed FY 2025 federal funding notifications and anticipates a tight funding environment for FY 2026. Proposed federal actions include reductions or eliminations affecting WIOA Youth, WANTO, SCSEP, reentry-focused grants, WIOA Adult funding, and a 50% cut to Job Corps. Staff are working with Fairfax County DFS and state partners to plan for further reductions projected for FY 2027.

The Board recognized ABM Facilities Management with the second Quarterly Employer Recognition Award, with a presentation scheduled during the meeting. Staff will also present the 3rd Quarter Employer Recognition Award recommendation for Board approval.

For FY 2025 through June, the region's AJCs served over 50,000 individuals, more than 85% of whom were low-income or low-skilled jobseekers. The Chair noted this trend is expected to continue alongside increased demand from dislocated Federal workers.

The Chair invited questions before moving into the printed agenda.

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 June 2025, the SSG Board of Directors met and acted on the following items:

- Continued to review and revise the FY 2026 SkillSource Budget, given the late release of information from the Federal Labor Department, which will be presented later at this meeting today. This FY 2026 Budget continues to be a work in progress.
- In reviewing end of FY 2025 financial details, The SkillSource Group, Inc. expects to have a budget surplus exceeding \$60,000 in unrestricted funds.
- The SkillSource Group FY 2025 Audit has started with our contractor audit firm, GRF. We anticipate the audit will be completed later in October and the results will be shared with this Board in December.
- The SkillSource Group Board was advised that its President, and the Executive Director of the Virginia Career Works Northern Region, will step back in June 2026, with the completion of his contract. He will turn 70 years old at that time.

Youth Committee: Leanne Rerko reported for the Youth Committee

- The Youth Committee last met on June 10, 2025.
- As of May 2025, the Northern Virginia WIOA Youth Program was at 260 enrollments, with 8 In-School Youth enrollment. Over 80% youth are Basic Skills Deficient and nearly 60% have a disability. Northern Virginia is the second largest WIOA Youth Program in the State.
- The Committee was updated on preparations for the summer Educating Youth through Employment (EYE) Program, which the Board will hear about later in this meeting.

- The Committee reviewed the PY 2024 obligations and expenditures – as of April 2025, the program has obligated and spent approximately \$675,000 of the \$1.35 million in funds available. VCWN anticipates all funding will be spent by the expiration date of June 30, 2026.
- The Committee reviewed the new contract award for the Northern Virginia WIOA Youth Program Operator to Fairfax County Department of Family Services.
- Lastly, the Committee reviewed the PY 2024 Quarter 3 performance for the WIOA Youth Program – the program exceeded all 5 program measures.

Quality Assurance: Robert Bartolotta reported for the Quality Assurance Committee.

- The Quality Assurance Committee will meet on May 29, 2025.
- The State Virginia Works team is currently going through the annual renewal process for all Eligible Training Providers on the State List. ETPs were given until August 31, 2025 to submit their annual performance data to the State. There are over 20 Area #11 ETPs that did not meet this deadline and are at-risk of being removed. State staff will still take the performance data for at least another week, so VCWN staff are in process of reaching out to these ETPs to ensure they are aware of this requirement, in order for them to remain on the WIOA ETPL.

Award of Virginia Career Works – Northern Employer Impact Award to ABM Facility Services

Michael Bozeth presented ABM Facility Services with the 2025 Second Quarter VCW Northern Employer Impact Award in recognition of the organization’s outstanding commitment to workforce development, particularly in supporting airline customer growth at Dulles Airport and Regan Washington Airport. Erick Avila, Director of Operations, accepted the award on behalf of ABM Facility Services and delivered brief remarks highlighting the organization’s human capital policies and successes.

Necessary Board Actions Aligned with Approved 2025-2027 Strategic Priorities

Become a Thought Leader for Workforce Development

Discussion of FY 2026 SkillSource Budget Considerations and Current WIOA Training Levels

David Hunn reported that, due to multi-month delays in receiving WIOA funding allocations and notices from the U.S. Department of Labor and Virginia Works, the FY 2026 Budget for the VCW Northern Region and for the One Stop Operator/Funds Manager (Fairfax County Department of

Family Services) has not yet been finalized. Discussions between VCW Northern Region administrators and DFS leadership are ongoing.

David noted that on August 27, 2025, The SkillSource Group received the first allocation of PY 2025 WIOA Formula Funds, which included:

- 100% of WIOA Youth funding: \$1,143,847
- Initial WIOA Adult funding: \$207,281
- Initial WIOA Dislocated Worker funding: \$232,867

These funds are available for use through September 20, 2025. Remaining PY 2025 WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker allocations are expected after October 1, 2025.

Michael Becketts, Director of the Fairfax County Department of Family Services, provided additional comments and context during this discussion.

Approval of Northern Virginia Rapid Response Application to Virginia Works to Support Dislocated Federal Employees and Contractors

Seema Jain reported that Virginia Career Works – Northern (Area #11) and the SkillSource Group, Inc. are preparing a Rapid Response funding request to the Virginia Department of Workforce Development and Advancement (DWDA) to support recently displaced federal employees and contractors. The region has experienced significant federal workforce reductions—approximately 20,000 federal jobs lost this year—and a \$1.7 billion (13%) decline in federal contracts and grants. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management has also announced that civil service positions will be reduced by 300,000 by September 30, 2025.

As of August 28, nearly 1,600 former federal workers and contractors have sought assistance at Northern Virginia American Job Centers.

The proposal requests \$1.13 million over two years to provide comprehensive reemployment services to 200 affected workers. The initiative will offer career navigation, targeted training, and employer engagement to accelerate reemployment and minimize further dislocations. Rapid Response funds will supplement already reduced WIOA Formula Funds and help relieve pressure on WIOA staff managing heavy caseloads.

VCWN plans to submit the Rapid Response request to DWDA in early September 2025.

A motion was made by Robert Bartolotta and seconded by Karen Drenkard to approve the two-year Northern Virginia Rapid Response proposal for \$1.13 million to the Virginia Department of Workforce Development and Advancement. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

Review of New Federal Report

David Hunn shared a new Federal Report from the Trump Administration which has set a economic strategy to reindustrialize America, dominate the artificial intelligence (AI) frontier, and reclaim control over the levers of national prosperity. Achieving this vision requires a workforce

system capable of propelling American workers into high-wage careers, upholding the dignity of hard work, and delivering the talent businesses need to power the nation’s economic resurgence.

This strategy lays out a comprehensive plan to address the workforce needs of American companies, integrate existing workforce development systems to maximize efficiency and effectiveness, provide accountability for workforce training programs, upskill incumbent American workers, and develop alternatives to 4-year college degrees. It rests on five strategic pillars: Industry-Driven Strategies, Worker Mobility, Integrated Systems, Accountability, Flexibility & Innovation.

Build Sustainable Partnerships with Employers in Target Industries

Approval of 2025 Quarter 3 VCW Northern Employer Recognition Award

Jamie Hudson discussed the selection of U.S. Army Child & Youth Services (CYS), Fort Belvoir as the recipient of the Virginia Career Works (VCW) Northern Region Quarter 3 Employer Recognition Award. This quarterly award was created to highlight employers who demonstrate outstanding commitment to workforce development and inclusion.

Over the past 24 months, CYS has partnered with VCW Northern American Job Centers in South County Fairfax, Annandale, and Alexandria to run a streamlined, community-focused hiring pipeline. Through roughly a dozen events—including five single-employer fairs—CYS implemented an “application → interview → same-day contingent offer” model, resulting in ~40 hires and ~110 contingent offers. The Fairfax County Department of Family Services Employer Engagement team supported promotion and turnout. Hires are Child and Youth Program Assistants (USAJOBS CY-01/02), providing supervision, activity planning, and safe, positive program environments. Pay at Fort Belvoir ranges \$20.31–\$25.70/hour, with regular FT/PT schedules and benefits. Childcare discounts—100% for the first child and ≥25% for the second—effectively increase take-home pay by ~\$11/hour for the first child. CYS has effectively turned Northern Virginia American Job Centers into a same-day hiring engine for quality, benefits-eligible roles, offering a replicable model for other employers and meaningful support for working families.

A motion to approve U.S. Army Child & Youth Services (CYS), Fort Belvoir for the 2025 Quarter 3 VCW Northern Employer Recognition Award, was made by Zuzanna Steen and seconded by Christopher Rieley. The full board approved, with no abstentions.

Expand Talent Pipeline of Youth and Adults for Business

Summary of 2025 Summer Educating Youth through Employment (EYE) Program

Robin Baker and Seema Jain gave an overview of the 2025 Summer Youth Employment (EYE) Program. EYE is a private sector initiative of The SkillSource Group, Inc., in collaboration with the Fairfax County Department of Family Services, which provides young adults ages 14-24 with

professional paid employment opportunities at agencies, non-profit organizations, and private sector companies throughout Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties. Ms. Baker highlighted the enrollment process, shared enrollment data, EYE Worksite, wages, employer feedback and shared success stories.

Focus on Quality Services through Data Collection and Continuous Improvement

Northern Virginia One Stop Operator Report on Caseload and Outcomes in FY 2025

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 2025.

Board Business Items

Program Management Reports

Not reviewed due to time constraints.

Executive Director Items

David Hunn briefly reviewed key updates for the Board. The PY 2024 WIOA Monitoring Report for VCW Northern has been issued by Virginia Works, and the team is actively responding to and correcting the findings identified. The Talent Up Fairfax program, recognized by the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) in Summer 2025, is being adapted to serve displaced Federal workers and contractors across Northern Virginia, providing innovative public service solutions for the region. In June 2025, David was featured on the I Build America podcast, highlighting our initiatives and impact. Finally, the pending contract and grant proposal matrix for The SkillSource Group, Inc. and VCW Northern Region was shared for reference and review.

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 10:01 a.m.