

Workforce Solutions - Deep East Texas
415 S. First Street, Suite 110B
Lufkin, TX 75901
Business Services Committee Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2020

I. CHAIR TYANE DIETZ CALLED THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER AT 2:00 P.M.

CHAIR TYANE DIETZ ANNOUNCED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDANCE FROM THE TEXAS GOVERNOR AND ATTORNEY GENERAL DATED MARCH 16, 2020, REGARDING SUSPENSION OF OPEN MEETING LAWS, THE BOARD IS PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ITS COMMITTEE MEETING VIA VIRTUAL MEETING WEB LINK. SHE ALSO SAID THE MEETING IS BEING RECORDED AND THE OPEN SESSION PORTION OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST.

AFTER THE ROLL CALL, CHAIR DIETZ CONFIRMED THAT A QUORUM WAS PRESENT:

Members Present: Lisa Balty, TJ Colwell, Tyane Dietz, Tim Ditoro, Wayne Haglund, Eddie Hopkins, Laurie King, Quincy Martindale

Members Absent: Karen Hatton, Rich Scott

Board Staff Present: Mark Durand, Misty Woodard, Josh Laskoskie, Brittany Feeney, and Karen Stubblefield

Visitors: Billy Reddick, Monica Peters-Clark, Tami Poulan, Scott Amy

CHAIR TYANE DIETZ REMINDED THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION.

Chair Tyane Dietz asked that all members sign a conflict of interest declaration regardless of whether they have a conflict and send it to the Board staff for recordkeeping.

WELCOME OF GUESTS:

Mark Durand welcomed contractor staff members Billy Reddick, Monica Peters-Clark, Tami Poulan (TWC), and Scott Amy.

II. Public Comments

None

III. Discussion/Action Item: Approval of Minutes – July 9, 2020

Motion: Tim Ditoro made the motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Second: Lisa Balty

In Favor: All

Oppose: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Passes

IV. Information Items

A. Reinstatement of Work Search Activities

B. Hiring Red, White and You Job Fair Event

Mark Durand noted that TWC reinstated work search requirements effective November 1: three searches per week. The Commission had paused the work search requirements back in March due to the

coronavirus COVID-19. Mr. Durand noted that furloughed workers with a definite return to work date that is within 12 weeks of the layoff are exempt from work search requirements. Return to work dates beyond 12 weeks can result in the waiver of work search at the discretion of TWC. While Self-employed individuals who intend to reopen their business do not need to complete work search activities. They do need to take steps to reopen their business. Self-employed individuals who do not intend to reopen their business will need to complete work search activities. Mr. Durand provided an update on the upcoming statewide Hiring Red, White & You! Virtual Job Fair for veterans and the public. He noted there were 35 employers signed up, 68 job seekers registered and 189 jobs posted for the event set for November 5.

V. Discussion/Possible Action

A. Open Session Action, if any, as a result of Closed Session

None

VI. Reports

A. Business Services Initiatives

B. Workforce Center Update

Mark Durand presented a report showing a 4-year trend of employer utilization of workforce services, hiring success, job orders and hiring events. To report on success in meeting the needs of employers, Mr. Durand introduced a set of measurable goals for the Business Services Unit, which will be shared with the Business Services Committee at least quarterly. Goals are: quarterly percent of employers in Workforce Development Area utilizing workforce assistance: 16.05%; number of employer referrals by staff: 2,000 for the first quarter, quarters 2-4 the goal increases to 2,200; quarterly number of new employers in WorkInTexas.com: 90; number of job fairs/recruiting events: 21 per quarter. Mr. Durand then reviewed the findings of the Employer Needs Assessment conducted by the employer relations specialists during June 26-October 9. The purpose of the needs assessment was to obtain additional insight from employers related to their staffing and training needs during the COVID-19 pandemic and into the future. 234 employers were interviewed by telephone, representing 11% of the employers in the targeted industries. The information will be incorporated into the strategic plan and related actions to serve the region's employers and further the development of a quality workforce.

VII. Take Up Other Action As Needed

Ms. Dietz provided an update from the Texas Association of Workforce Boards (TAWB) taskforce on which she serves. There are some changes being considered by the TWC Commissioners related to the Skills Development Fund grants. These changes are concerning to workforce boards, and boards are contributing letters to TWC urging that the fund continue to support existing businesses and their training needs.

VIII. Adjourn


Tyane Dietz adjourned the Business Services Committee Meeting at 3:14 p.m.

Duly passed and approved on this 26 *day of* February 2020



Tyane Dietz, Chair

Attest



Karen Stubblefield
Operations Manager