

Workforce Solutions - Deep East Texas
415 S. First Street, Suite 110B
Lufkin, TX 75901
Business Services Committee Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2021

I. CHAIR TYANE DIETZ CALLED THE BUSINESS SERVICES 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, Staci Hodges, Eddie Hopkins, Quincy Martindale

Members Absent: Wayne Haglund, Karen Hatton, Laurie King, Rich Scott

Board Staff Present: Mark Durand, Misty Woodard, Brittany Feeney, Debb Homman, Karen Stubblefield

Visitors: Paul Dunn, Billy Reddick, Rebecca Montgomery, Shakia Roberts

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 introduced Rebecca Montgomery, Regional Director for Dynamic Workforce Solutions.

II. Public Comments

None

III. Discussion/Action Item: Approval of Minutes – April 7, 2021

Motion: Quincy Martindale made the motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Second: TJ Colwell

In Favor: All

Oppose: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Passes

IV. Information Items

A. Teacher Externship

Mark Durand explained that the Teacher Externship program is scheduled for June 14-18 with 20 teachers and 20 employers participating. He reviewed the agenda for the week. Participating speakers during the orientation include Tyane Dietz, Angelina College President Dr. Michael Simon, and Angelina County Judge Don Lymbery. Among the speakers during the wrap-up session on Friday will be Board Chair Wayne Haglund and State Representative Trent Ashby.

B. Summer Earn and Learn

Mark Durand provided an update on the Summer Earn and Learn program, which is a partnership of Texas Workforce Solutions Vocational Rehabilitation, Dynamic Workforce Solutions and the Board. Recruitment of students is currently underway with 57 students registered and 37 employers committed to participate. The goal is to reach 61 participants. As part of the program, the students receive 10 hours of work readiness training and complete an interview with the employer.

C. Nacogdoches ISD and Workforce CTE Career Signing Day

Mark Durand noted the Board has been working for the past couple of years to introduce Career and Technical Education (CTE) Signing Day into the region to recognize CTE students entering the workforce, earning certifications and continuing their education. The May 21st event, hosted in partnership with Nacogdoches ISD, was one of three in the state. Workforce Board members and School Board members were present for the event recognizing 38 graduating seniors. Lisa Balty attended the event and said that it was very exciting and eye-opening. She was impressed with the variety of certifications being offered at NISD. Quincy Martindale noted that he and other executives are supporting several CTE programs at Hudson ISD. Tim Ditoro noted that Angelina College is expanding its HVAC program in collaboration with several school districts in Houston and Polk Counties, as well as offering a certification program in partnership with a local employer, Onshore, in Crockett. Staci Hodges noted that the East Texas Manufacturing Alliance will be pleased as it has emphasized specific training to meet the needs of local employers. Tyane Dietz observed these efforts are positioning young people for success. If they participate in CTE programs, they are more likely to continue their education at Angelina College or a 4-year institution.

V. Discussion/Possible Action

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

None

VI. Reports

A. Business Services Initiatives

Tyane Dietz noted that employers are having difficulty finding workers. Mark Durand said that in Texas, the federal benefits will drop off effective June 26. The workforce centers will be ready to help get people prepared to return to work. Discussion continued related to assisting employers with hiring and individuals with preparation for work.

B. Workforce Center Update

Billy Reddick provided an update related to employers and job seekers participating in job fairs and hiring events. He also summarized the number of individuals participating in WIOA training and job placement completions.

VII. Take Up Other Action As Needed

Tyane Dietz recommended board members who hear from employers having trouble with hiring to call Mark Durand to engage the workforce services staff for assistance.

VIII. Adjourn

Tyane Dietz adjourned the Business Services Committee Meeting at 3:04 p.m.

Duly passed and approved on this 27th *day of* September *2021*



Tyane Dietz, Chair

Attest



Karen Stubblefield
Operations Manager