

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

I. CHAIR TYANE DIETZ CALLED THE BUSINESS SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER AT 3:01 P.M.

CHAIR TYANE DIETZ ANNOUNCED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDANCE FROM THE TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION (WD LETTER 28-19) DATED NOVEMBER 19, 2019, REGARDING THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 551 ALLOWING THE USE OF VIDEOCONFERENCING AS A METHOD FOR CONDUCTING BOARD MEETINGS, THE BOARD IS PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ITS COMMITTEE MEETING AT THE ADDRESS LISTED ABOVE AND 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. PRESIDING OFFICER, TYANE DIETZ, WAS PHYSICALLY PRESENT.

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

Members Present: Lisa Balty, TJ Colwell, Tyane Dietz, Tim Ditoro, Wayne Haglund, Staci Hodges, Eddie Hopkins, Anita Humphreys

Members Absent: Karen Hatton, Laurie King, Quincy Martindale, Rich Scott

Board Staff Present: Mark Durand, Debb Homman, Karen Stubblefield

Visitors: Billy Reddick, LaTreaser Cartwright, Monica Peters-Clark, 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 the form to Board Staff.

WELCOME OF GUESTS:

None

II. Public Comments

None

III. Discussion/Action: Approval of Minutes – September 10, 2021

Motion: Eddie Hopkins made the motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Second: Tim Ditoro

In Favor: All

Oppose: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Passes

IV. Information and Briefing Items

Mark Durand stated the Apprenticeship Program has started. Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas partnered with Legacy Institute of Financial Education (LIFE), and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is in place. LIFE has an apprenticeship navigator who will be responsible for recruiting employers. Eddie Hopkins mentioned that the Jasper City Council will consider a resolution of proclamation for National Apprenticeship Week. Karen Stubblefield informed the committee that November 15-21, 2021 is National Apprenticeship Week.

V. Discussion and Possible Action

A. Action Item 21-27 Rapid Response Policy

Karen Stubblefield said that TWC issued an updated Rapid Response Guide in October, which prompted the Board staff to review the Rapid Response Policy. Karen mentioned that the qualifications to activate a Rapid Response service did not change. Changes to the Policy include, but not limited to, the description of the Rapid Response Team, responsibilities and response times, expectations with regard to onsite meetings with employers and orientations for affected workers, layoff aversion tactics and funding, use of forms and data entry, and updates to email addresses and web links to references and resources.

Motion: Eddie Hopkins made the motion to approve the Rapid Response Policy as presented.

Second: Wayne Haglund

In Favor: All

Oppose: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Passes

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

None

VI. Reports

A. Business Services Initiatives

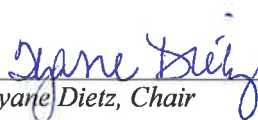
Ms. Dietz said that the Texas Real Estate Research Center published a report on economic data reflecting that construction and forest jobs had increased and numbers looked good. Karen Stubblefield reviewed the 2020 – 2021 data and numbers regarding employers, job seekers, training, and youth work readiness. WSDet connected with 4,174 Employers through various methods of outreach, with 576 new employers utilizing WorkInTexas.com. The number of employers using Workforce assistance is up from the previous year. The number of Job Orders increased from approximately 1,000 in the previous year to 4,175 for 2020 – 2021. Of the 4,175 Job Orders, 302, or 7%, were reported as filled. This number is partially dependent on the Employers notifying the workforce staff of positions being filled. The number of job seekers increased from approximately 8,000 to 11,939. 46 individuals completed training and became employed, with an average starting salary of \$18.07/hour. 3,286 youth and 69 employers participated in Youth Career Exploration and Work Readiness events. Billy Reddick discussed the goal of trying to get individuals set up with a job prior to completion of training. Karen reviewed the Business Services Committee Goal Summary and proposed adding a new goal in PY2021-2022 of 1,250 youth participants involved in Career Exploration quarterly through career events, Junior Achievement Inspire virtual platform, and Workforce Career Outreach Specialist programs. Mr. Durand noted the WIOA guideline that came out stating that if a county has over 25% poverty rate, the youth qualifies for WIOA services. None of the twelve deep east counties had a 25% or higher poverty rate, but over twenty (20) cities within the twelve counties did meet the poverty rate guideline so focus is being directed to those areas in hopes of improving youth enrollment. Ms. Dietz asked for input from Board members regarding employment in their respective areas. Mr. Eddie Hopkins noted the decrease in the unemployment rate from 12% the previous year to 9% this year and emphasizes outreach to youth. Ms. TJ Colwell stated the concern regarding the vaccine mandate in relation to a possible decrease in employee numbers.

VII. Take Up Other Action, As Needed

VIII. Adjourn

Tyane Dietz adjourned the Business Services Committee Meeting at 3:54 p.m.

Duly passed and approved on this 3rd day of February 2022



Tyane Dietz, Chair

Attest


Lauren Phipps, Planning and Policy Specialist