

Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas
415 S. First Street, Suite 110B
Lufkin, TX 75901
Business Services Committee Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2022

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 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, Tyane Dietz, Wayne Haglund, Eddie Hopkins, Anita Humphreys, Matthew Lowery, Quincy Martindale

Members Absent: TJ Colwell, Tim Ditoro, Staci Hodges, Laurie King, Rich Scott

Board Staff Present: Mark Durand, Debb Homman, Aubrey Jones, Lauren Phipps, Clo Prejean, Karen Stubblefield, Misty Woodard

Visitors: Jessica Blair, Rhonda Cartwright, Paul Dunn, 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:

Mark Durand introduced the newest Workforce Career and Education Outreach Specialist, Chloe Prejean.

II. Public Comments

None

III. Discussion/Action: Approval of Minutes – June 8, 2022

Motion: Anita Humphreys made the motion to approve the minutes as presented.
Second: Eddie Hopkins
In Favor: All
Oppose: None
Abstain: None
Motion: Passes

IV. Information and Briefing Items

A. 2022 Teacher Externship

Karen Stubblefield reported on the 2022 Teacher Externship that took place June 13-17, 2022. Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas (WSDet) partnered with 25 local businesses and 11 independent school districts to link classrooms with the workplace and help shape tomorrow's workforce for industry needs. The Teacher Externship program was developed based on feedback from area employers who said there was a disconnect between workplace expectations and the qualifications of individuals entering the workforce. The employers emphasized the need to address the skills gap in manufacturing, health care, professional and technical services, and information technology industries. The project was funded through the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) in the amount of \$58,112. Through the program, 27 Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers were matched with businesses across the region for a week of learning, observing and job shadowing. Among the immediate positive outcomes from the experiences were skill-specific lessons for the classroom, internships, job opportunities, mock interviews, employers speaking at schools, and student tours during the upcoming school year. Teachers also heard employers talk about the need for soft skills such as reliability, accountability, communication, empathy, attendance, professional behavior, listening, decision-making, productivity, and problem-solving. In an evaluation completed by participants, 100% of teachers and employers stated they would recommend the Externship to their peers. The Externship highlighted Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services and the Student HireAbility initiative as part of a presentation by Aubrey Jones, Student HireAbility Navigator (SHN), which led to Ms. Jones connecting to both employers and teachers.

B. TIP Grant

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Texas Industry Partnership (TIP) Program supports collaborations between local workforce development boards and industry partners, including private foundations, through the leveraging of matching contributions of cash or qualifying expenditures for occupational job training. Mr. Durand reported the Board and Lufkin ISD Education Foundation met on July 12, 2022, to discuss the partnership purchase of equipment for technical education and training for Lufkin ISD middle school students to address the skills development in Information Technology and Advanced Manufacturing industries. The Foundation identified the need for the technology through its Innovative Teacher Grant program. The program will provide for tools to deliver instruction so that 530 LISD middle schools students will learn programming and robotics, and thereby, can gain fluency, computational thinking, algorithmic thinking, as well as persistence, logic, and collaborative communication capabilities. These activities support the high demand occupations of computer programmer and engineer. If approved by TWC, the Lufkin ISD Education Foundation's contribution of \$2,320 will be matched with \$2,320 in TIP grant funds, and Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas will purchase the above-mentioned equipment.

Tyane Dietz removed herself from any discussion regarding Lufkin ISD Education Foundation because she is on the organization's Board.

C. Child Care Apprenticeship

TWC released a Request for Applications (RFA) for a Child Care Apprenticeship. RFA Submissions are due by August 12, 2022. Mr. Durand reported the Board reached out to Angelina College (AC) and Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA). SFA's Dr. Abbott responded that SFA would apply. Board staff also met with the T.L.L. Temple Foundation since the Foundation supports two child care centers; the Katherine Sage Temple Child Care Center and Pineland Early Learning Center.

V. Discussion and Possible Action

A. Action Item 22-20 High Demand Job Training JEDCO & DETCCA

The TWC High Demand Job Training (HDJT) Program is designed to address skills gaps and ensure a talent pipeline to address industry needs. HDJT is intended to support Boards in partnering with local Economic Development Corporations (EDC) that use their local economic development sales taxes for

high-demand job training. WSDet, Jasper Economic Development Corporation (JEDCO) and the Deep East Texas College and Career Academy (DETCCA), are collaborating to purchase information technology (IT) equipment to enhance the IT skills of the DETCCA students. The equipment will supply two (2) computer labs with 40 PCs and 15 Apple computers. The equipment will prepare 30 students to enter the field of network system and support occupations such as local area networks (LAN); wide area networks (WAN); and data communications. The students will earn a Level 1 Certificate in Computer Support with 24 college credit hours from Lamar Institute of Technology. The students attending the program will be from six (6) Independent School Districts that comprise DETCCA (Burkeville, Jasper, Kirbyville, Newton, Spurger, and Woodville). The TWC HDJT Grant requires the Board to partner with a local EDC. JEDCO has agreed to designate \$56,172, and WSDet will submit the grant for an additional \$56,172, for a total of \$112,344 to purchase the above-mentioned equipment.

Motion: Quincy Martindale made the motion to approve the High Demand Job Training Grant with JEDCO & DETCCA.

Second: Lisa Balty

In Favor: All

Oppose: None

Abstain: Eddie Hopkins

Motion: Passes

Eddie Hopkins declared a conflict of interest.

B. Action Item 22-23 High Demand Job Training Crockett ISD & CEIDC

WSDet, Crockett Economic and Industrial Development Corporation (CEIDC) and Crockett Independent School District (CISD) are collaborating to purchase health sciences and advanced manufacturing equipment to enhance the technical skills of CISD students. The health sciences equipment totaling \$7,168 includes manikins and simulators to train approximately 12 students during September 2022 through April 2023. Upon completion of the training, the students will earn Certified Nursing Assistant; Phlebotomy Technician; and EKG Technician certifications. The advanced manufacturing equipment totaling \$22,832 includes the purchase of a used forklift. Currently, CISD provides classroom instruction to the students, but then students must travel to Lufkin to test for their certification. The purchase of the forklift will allow CISD to certify students on-site. CISD is projecting 50 students will receive Forklift and OSHA certifications. All these occupations are listed on the WSDet Demand Occupation list. The CEIDC has agreed to designate \$15,000, and WSDet will submit the grant for an additional \$15,000, to purchase the above-mentioned equipment.

Motion: Quincy Martindale made the motion to accept the High Demand Job Training Grant with Crockett ISD & CEIDC.

Second: Matthew Lowery

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

WSDet received feedback from 2,597 employers over the last year regarding their certification qualifications for new hires. Pursuant to this feedback, workforce staff provided a list of these certifications. Shakia Roberts reported on the numbers for WIOA training for October 2021 through June

2022, with 30 participants currently attending training, 38 participants have completed training, and six (6) participants did not complete training, for a total of 74 total participants. Of the 38 participants that have completed training, 34 have been placed in employment. Monica Peters-Clark reviewed the hiring and recruiting events for June and July. NEDCO held its fifth event with WSDet in the form of a job fair in June 2022. This job fair consisted of 78 attendees and 36 employers and resulted in 11 hires. On July 14th, the WSDet Nacogdoches office hosted a Second Chance Job Fair with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Reentry and Integration Division to assist individuals with criminal background histories. Four (4) employers participated in this job fair, with some indicating they will conduct interviews with jobseekers that were in attendance. Reverse Hiring Events are being held at the WSDet Lufkin Office on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, and will expand to other locations in the future. Based on Job Orders processed in WorkInTexas.com (WIT), Workforce staff are launching a regional Employer Virtual Showcase that will remain open for an extended period of time with the intent of directing jobseekers to WIT.

VII. Take Up Other Action, As Needed

Ms. Dietz stated she has been working closely with Rep. Trent Ashby's Chief of Staff, Joseph Seeber, on the credentialing process in Texas and how to ensure the future workforce are graduating with certificates in hand that are meaningful to employers. Ms. Dietz conducted a meeting with Mr. Seeber, Mr. Durand, and several others to discuss what a good certification process could look like if state agencies could work together and listen to businesses. Ms. Dietz felt the meeting was successful, and is hopeful it is a step in the right direction to produce a relevant certification process that is valuable to employers.

VIII. Adjourn

Tyane Dietz adjourned the Business Services Committee Meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Duly passed and approved on this 14th day of October 2022



Tyane Dietz, Chair

Attest



Lauren Phipps, Planning and Policy Specialist