State Workforce Development Board

August 25, 2021

Zoom Meeting

1900 Kanawha Blvd. East

Building 3 Suite 300

Charleston, WV 25305

***Attendees:*** [Scott A Adkins](mailto:scott.a.adkins@wv.gov), Stephanie Ahart, Helen Marie Beaver, Lee Ann Belmont, Sarah Boley, Michael Bombard, Penny Brown, Clinton Burch, Ray Burke Jr., Steve Cox, Paul Espinosa, Michelle Foster, Roy Hamilton, Bryan Johnson, John Moses, Traci Nelson, Natalie Oliverio, Randall Rapp, Myisha Robinson, Jeffrey Rowe, Geoffrey Sawyers, Todd Shell, Michael Sirockman, Robert Skidmore, Stephanie Smith, John Sorrenti, Brian Stanley, Diane Strong-Treister, Chandler Swope, Josh Sword, Kim Tieman, Brian Ulery, Heather Vanater, Kelly Allen, Nick Allen, Pisnu Bua-Iam, Melissa Bias, Matt Boggs, Rachel Bowman, Regina Brogan, Stacy Brown, Becky Calwell, Janet Clarke, Michael Clowser, Lucinda Curry, Stephanie Decker, Jim Denova, Elizabeth Depue, Brett Dillon, Mark Downs, Sara Dyer, Matt Falter, Edward Guanch, Jeff Green, rosemary Guida, Monica Hamilton, Robert Hansen, Michael Haney, Bunny Harper, Deborah Harris, Jake Hunt, [Amber Jackson](mailto:amber.jackson@wv.gov), Liz Johnson, Alyssa Keedy-White, Chad Ketchum, Maria Larry, Nancy Ligus, Debra Martin, Rick Martin, Mendy Marshall, Kenneth Milnes, William Monterosso, Robin Morgan, Maureen Persons, Steve Roberts, Drema Smith, Edwina Tanner, [Christopher Treadway](mailto:chris.treadway@wvhepc.edu), Sarah Tucker, Matt Turner, TJ Vanmeter, Tammy Webb

***Welcome/Introductions:*** John Sorrenti, Board Chair, welcomed everyone and the meeting was brought to order at 10:00 a.m.

***WFWV Update - Scott Adkins:***

* May - August 2021 Pandemic Stats
* Pre vs. Post Nonfarm Payroll Employment Difference
* Number of Regular UI Claims Paid 2021
* Number of FPUC Claims Paid 2021
* Number of PEUC Claims Paid 2021
* Number of PUA Claims Paid 2021
* 2021 Claims Total
* 2021 Unemployment Rate
* 2021 Total Employment
* WOTC
* NDWG

***Economic Recovery - Secretary Gaunch, Dept. of Commerce:***

* Congratulations to WorkForce on work provided during the pandemic
* Mirroring comments from Scott Adkins

***Employment Based Social Enterprises - Brandon Dennison, CEO Coalfield Development:***

* Born and raised in West Virginia, he is Founder and CEO of Coalfield Development, which incubates social enterprises designed to diversify Appalachia's coal-based economy and cultivate opportunity for people facing barriers to employment. Dennison graduated from Shepherd University with a B.A. in History. He holds a Master of Public Affairs from Indiana University. In 2017, Brandon was named West Virginian of the Year by WV Living Magazine. He is winner of the JMK Social Innovation Prize, is a DRK Entrepreneur, and is an Ashoka Fellow. In 2019, Brandon was awarded the Heinz Award for Economy and Employment. He recently testified before Congress on how the Coalfield model could be used to combat climate change, and he currently serves as Entrepreneur in Residence at Marshall University. For 10 years.
* Being born and raised in West Virginia, Brandon never forgot seeing people his own age desperate for jobs. In 2010, Brandon founded Coalfield Development to respond to poverty in Appalachia through on-the-job-training, higher education, and mentorship. Coalfield Development has created more than 300 new jobs, started over 50 new businesses, and trained more than 1,300 people. It has leveraged more than $30 million in new investment to Appalachian communities. The organization’s story is featured in a film premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival: “From the Ashes.”
* Social Entrepreneurship
* Market Failure
* Government Failure
* Voluntary Failure
* Social Enterprise
* Personal, professional, and academic development
* Community-based real estate development
* 33 hours per week on the job training
* 6 hours per week in the classroom
* 3 hours per week for personal development
* 12-12 Reflections
* Potential, Power, Purpose
* Spectrum of Social Enterprise Components
* Accounting for the “Human Element”
* Kaldor Hicks Cost-Benefit Analysis
* Merits of the Approach

***Federal Opportunities on the Horizon: Strengthening our Workforce & Economy Post-Pandemic - Kelly Allen, WV Center on Budget and Policy:***

* Kelly Allen is the executive director at the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy. She is a lifelong West Virginian who joined the WVCBP team in 2018. She holds a B.A. in political science and communications from West Virginia University and a Master of Public Administration from Penn State University. Prior to joining the WVCBP, Kelly advocated for health policy and saw the importance of the Medicaid expansion and access to health coverage for the people of our state. As director of the WVCBP, she engages with residents, stakeholders, and lawmakers on tax and budget issues, health policy and issues that impact women and families.She has authored multiple reports for the WVCBP including Smoothing the Transition: A Medicaid Buy-in Could Reduce Churn and Expand Health Insurance Coverage to Thousands of West Virginians.
* Percent change in Employment
* Women still have not recovered from the Pandemic
* Workers of Color Hit Hardest and Seeing Slower Recovery
* Federal Action in 2021 Could Transform West Virginia’s Economy through Crucial Work Supports
* American Rescue Plan Act Creates Many Workforce Support Opportunities
* The Infrastructure and Jobs Act’s Impact in West Virginia
* “Build Back Better” Recovery Legislation: Paid Family and Medical Leave
* “Build Back Better” Recovery Legislation: Child Care Supports
* “Build Back Better” Recovery Legislation: Extension of Working Family Tax Credits: EITC & CTC
* “Build Back Better” Recovery Legislation: Additional Investments Expected to Impact Workforce and Economy

***Jobs and Hope - Betsy Jividen, Commissioner, Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation:***

* The Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation is charged with the mission of protecting the safety of West Virginia communities and the incarcerated populations of the state, as well as with providing resources and tools to better prepare offenders to reenter their communities as productive, law-abiding, citizens. Everyone benefits when former offenders can find gainful employment in their communities upon returning home. Established and documented link between employment and reduced recidivism. Safety and financial benefits to the community – as well as to the individuals.
* The return to society of incarcerated individuals is inevitable – our collective responsibility must be doing what we can to make these returns successful ones. Success depends upon working partnerships across government and also community providers and employers in the private sector. The DCR – and our offender population – and by extension the citizens of WV benefit from the relationships and cooperative efforts among education, WFWV, Jobs & Hope, transportation, highways, DMV, agriculture, social security, and a host of community providers.
* Our offenders within the Bureau of Community Corrections – work releases and parole services – have particularly benefited from the efforts and initiatives of cooperative efforts from WFWV.
  + Getting key WFWV personnel into our facilities to interact directly with,

and to educate, both our offender populations and our staff

* + Plans by WFWV to provide our DCR and DOE staff with the ability to

see WF program and registrants, and to both register and reactivate

expired WF accounts before discharge or parole – benefits to both WF

offices and offenders seeking employment.

* + WF is working to provide the DCR Employment with access to the WF

Registered Employer database

* + Plans by WF to develop an educational video specifically for

incarcerated offenders to provide information about contacts and

processes for connecting with WF locations and resources upon

release

* + Exploration of streamlining some of our overlapping services
  + CDL Initiative – collective effort by agencies across the board -

WFWV working with our populations at Beckley and OCC, including

coming on site to perform assessments & interviews and provide

program and grant eligibility information

* Community and intergovernmental relationships include another collective responsibility for those of us engaged in this work – education of the public about reentry – DCR has hosts reentry simulations where DCR staff and former inmates work together to educate the community and stakeholders about challenges to and best practices for reentry. A chance to “walk in the shoes” and gain insight into the roadblocks offenders face – offender participation – DOJ selection as national training site – encourage participation by everyone in attendance

***Rapid Response/TAA - Maureen Persons TAA Manager, WorkForce WV:***

* Purpose
* WARN Notifications
* Objectives
* When a dislocation occurs
* RR Steps
  + Notification
  + Delivery
* The Team Leader
* Arrange Meetings
* Coordination Plan

***Committee Updates:***

* Performance & Accountability - Joseph Zeke Hampton
  + Initially, the Performance and Accountability Committee plans to better understand current performance levels and available data. As Program Year (PY) 2020 data are finalized, performance across programs and geographic regions will be reviewed. As PY 2021 data are finalized, benchmarks and strategies will be developed and monitored on a quarterly and PY basis during PY 2022
* Youth Committee- Stephanie Ahart
  + Engage youth and young adults who have exited high school without a career path
  + State-wide Social Media Campaign
  + State-wide Community Events/Resource Fairs/High School Career Fairs
  + Subsidized Employment Experiences
* Adult & Dislocated Worker - Robin Morgan
  + Marketing
  + Field Trips, Career Days, Community Pop-Ups
  + Career Counseling, Case Management
* Overcoming Barriers - Myisha Robinson
  + Collaborate to come up with what barriers there are and why they are barriers.
  + Target the student population, provide them with a resource list or brochure, work with counselors
  + Host Resource Fairs

***Other Business / Adjournment:***

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.