

West Virginia Workforce Development Board
January 15, 2020
Charleston Marriott
200 Lee Street
Charleston, WV 25301

Board Members: Stephanie Ahart, Michael Bombard, Penny Brown, Steve Cox, Bill Crouch, Kathy D'antoni, Randall Rapp, Myisha Robinson, Michael Sirockman, Stephanie Smith, John-Chair Sorrenti, Diane Strong-Treister, Marijane Waldron, Reverend Matthew Watts

Attendees: Rachel Bowman, Regina Brogan, Janelle Comstock, Jeff Green, Rosemary Guida, Bunny Harper, Jake Hunt, Chad Ketchum, Kenneth Milnes, Jamie Moore, Robin Morgan, Maureen Persons, Linda Sansom, Edwina Tanner, Stefanie Cyrus, Amy Hall, Joseph Jarvis, Nancy Daugherty, Susan Weinberger

Attending Via Phone: Eunice Bellinger, Ray Burke Jr, John Moses, Geoffrey Sawyers, Kim Tieman, Lori Turner

Guest Speaker: Chad Ketchum, WorkForce WV
Mendy Marshall, Adult Education
Marijane Waldron, Division of Rehabilitation
Edward Gauch, Commerce Secretary
Mike Clowser, Contractors Association of WV
Matthew Watts, HOPE

I. **Introduction, Opening Remarks, Approval of Minutes:** John Sorrenti, Board Chair

Meeting brought to order at 10:00 am by John Sorrenti, first item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes from July 17, 2019 meeting. Motion to approve, moved and seconded. John welcome and introduced Scott Adkins to speak first.

II. **Welcome and WorkForce Development Board:** Scott Adkins, Acting Commissioner, WorkForce WV

III. **Functions & Responsibilities:** The West Virginia Workforce Development Board is appointed by the Governor and is responsible for assisting the Governor in the development, oversight, and continuous improvement of West Virginia's workforce investment system and the alignment of the education and workforce investment systems to the needs of the 21st century economy and workforce. The State Board supports the Governor's vision for a dynamic state with a richly diversified economy that is attractive both to employers who create and sustain jobs and individuals who bring knowledge and skills to those jobs.

1900 Kanawha Blvd. East * Building 3 Suite 300 * Charleston, WV 25305

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www.workforcewv.org

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- SWDB (State Workforce Development Board) is a partnership of state and local government, education, business, economic development and community organizations
- The State Board guides the strategic alignment of state programs, resources and services with employer needs to create a strong workforce development system
- Guidance is essential to sustaining West Virginia's competitive advantage in terms of workforce
- Business Representatives are at least 51% of members of the SWDB

Current vacancies of the State Workforce Development Board

- 4 Business Representatives
- 2 Labor Representatives
- 1 Local Elected Official County

Roles and Responsibilities

- Promoting the development of a well-educated and highly skilled 21st century workforce
- Developing, implementing, and modifying the State Plan
- The review of statewide policies and statewide programs
- Identification of barriers
- Support the use of career pathways
- Development and expansion of strategies for meeting the needs of employers
- Development and updating of comprehensive state performance accountability measures, including state adjusted levels of performance, to assess the effectiveness of the core programs in the state

Scott Adkins
Acting Executive Director, WorkForce West Virginia
Scott.A.Adkins@wv.gov
304-558-7024

IV. **West Virginia Unified State Plan:** Biggest target this year are young adults (16-24). Young adults who have graduated but are not going to college or have a career plan are also a concern for the State Plan.

A. WorkForce WV - Chad Ketchum

- Maximize efficiency of the Workforce Development System
- Strengthen relationships with employers
- Overcome employment barriers of individuals
- Promote career pathways
- Identify and maximize postsecondary and employment opportunities for youth
- Align Wv's Labor force participation rate with the National labor force participation rate

Chad Ketchum
Director Field Operations

Chadwick.W.Ketchum@wv.gov
304-558-1138

B. Adult Education - Mendy Marshall

Adult education is the academic instruction and education services below the postsecondary level that increases an individual's ability. "TASC" is a registered trademark for a test used to measure high school equivalency. Individuals that are eligible to test have attained 16 years of age and have not enrolled or required to be enrolled in a secondary school under state law. Over 2,500 adults are tested annually.

Mendy Marshall
Executive Director Office of Adult Education
mamarsha@k12.wv.us
304-558-0280

C. Division of Rehabilitation – Marijane Waldron

Goal 1. Provide integrated vocational rehabilitation services to West Virginians with disabilities to promote attainment of a high school education or greater, in order to increase their ability to move through meaningful career pathways

Goal 2. Provide pre-employment transition services to students with disabilities

Goal 3. Provide the services to West Virginians with disabilities, committing to the use of employment, to enable them to obtain competitive, integrated employment statewide

Goal 4. Improve access and availability of transportation options for DRS consumers who need transportation assistance to achieve or maintain competitive, integrated employment

Goal 5. Continue to build collaborative relationships with community providers to enhance the availability of services to DRS consumers

Marijane Waldron
Division of Rehabilitation Services
Marijane.k.waldron@wv.gov
304-356-2060

V. **Lunch Speaker:** Commerce Secretary C. Edward Gaunch

Goal 1. Improve workforce participation rate

Goal 2. Improving Education and Training not just for workforce but also K-12, Tech College as well as 4 yr. institutions.

Goal 3. Better career pathway development opportunities.

Goal 4. Streamline between jobseekers and employers.

Goal 5. Greater focus on youth and services available for youth.

Goal 6. Coordinate and Collaborate services that are available.

Goal 7. Enhance work experience opportunities.

- Goal 8. Develop a career pathway that leads to success for these young people.
 Goal 9. Improve communications between partners and local workforce boards.
 Goal 10. Standardized training.
 Goal 11. Strengthen relationships and increase collaborations with employers
 Goal 12. Assess and remove barriers to employment (i.e. Childcare)
 Goal 13. Better utilize apprenticeships and simulated workforce places to the fullest.
 Goal 14. Enhance data sharing.
 Goal 15. Create a document that we use to guide us into the future. Ask the hard questions, be proactive and results oriented. We are the vehicle that can really make changes to move the state forward.

Secretary C. Edward Gaunch
 Secretary of Commerce
 304-558-2234

VI. New Objectives to Goals & Strategies of the Unified State Plan:

A. Contractors Association of WV – Mike Clowser

- Bring more young people into the construction business.
- Became very active with the National Guard, for Guard members leaving service or Challenge Academy at Camp Dawson. 7 out of 9 kids who graduated at Challenge Academy were offered jobs at the end of the course. The only reason the other 2 did not accept the employment was because they did not want to relocate.
- Workforce development is #1 priority.
- Most businesses do not know about all of the services that Workforce West Virginia offers.
- Would like to see Schools promote Workforce West Virginia; Schools recommend Workforce West Virginia to students not planning on going to college.
- Suggests Schools provide list of all graduating Seniors.
- Would like a Campaign that would tout Workforce West Virginia and its benefits and opportunities.

Mike Clowser
 Executive Director – WV Contractors Association of WV
 304-342-1166

B. HOPE – Matthew Watts

Reasons why our Workforce participation rate is low.

- More death rates than Birthrates.
- Poor Health.
- Disability.
- Migration more people leaving than coming into the state.

- High Felony rate 10% of population have a criminal background.
 - Lowest participation rate amongst Females.
- Suggestions on improving Workforce participation rates:
- Need Job training for 16-24 yr olds.
 - Employ more non-violent offenders.

Rev. Matthew Watts
Mountain of Hope Organization
770-329-2506

VII. Other Business / Adjournment: John Sorrenti, Board Chair