

West Virginia Workforce Development Board

April 17, 2019

WorkForce WV

1900 Kanawha Blvd E

Building 3, 1st Floor Conf. Rm

Charleston, WV 25305

Board Members: Stephanie Ahart, Michael Bombard, Penny Brown, Steve Cox, Mendy Marshall for Kathy D'Antoni, Russell Fry, Bryan Johnson, Daniel Poling, Randy Rapp, Myisha Robinson, Michael Sirockman, Roy Smith, John Sorrenti, Chandler Swope, Marijane Waldron

Attendees: Pinsi Bua-lam, Rachel Bowman, Regina Brogan, Becky Calwell, Valerie Comer, Janelle Comstock, Jim Denova, Matt Falter, Angela Fry, Jeff Green, Rosemary Guida, April Sanders, Jake Hunt, Maria Larry, Robin Morgan, Maureen Parsons, Edwina Tanner, Mark Toal, Amy Hall, Nancy Daugherty

Attending Via Phone: Paul Espinosa, Michelle Foster, John Moses, Natalie Oliveria, Jeff Sawyers, Diane Strong-Treister, Kim Tieman, Brian Ulery

Guest Speakers: Business Resource Network - **Matt Falter**, Project Director, Ohio Business Resource Network, Workforce Initiative Association; **James Denova**, Vice Pres. Benedum Foundation; **Janelle Comstock**, Mid-Ohio Valley Reg. IV WDB Director; **Rosemary Guida** Northern Panhandle Region V WDB Director
HIREVets Medallion Program - **Mark J. Toal**, National Veterans Employment Manger, US Dept. of Labor
Region VI Workforce Dev Board Program Year 2018 Activities & Updates - **Maria Larry**, Executive Director; Region VI Workforce Development Board
Governor's Drug Control Policy Update - **Robert H. Hansen**, Director; WV Department of Health & Human Resources, Office of Drug Control Policy
Senate Bill 1, the West Virginia Invests Grant, from Passage to Program Start, 2019 - **Matt Turner**, Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration, WV Higher Education Policy Commission, WV Council for Community and Technical College Education

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

Meeting brought to order at 10:00am by John Sorrenti, first item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes from the January 16th meeting. Motion to approve, moved and seconded. John welcomed and introduced Russell Fry to speak first.

II. **Welcome and Workforce WV Update:** Russell Fry, Executive Director, WorkForce WV
Russell welcomed and thanked everyone for being present. He gave a brief update on WorkForce WV.

- Russell gave an update on Business Services. A statewide training was conducted with the local workforce development board staff, Adult Education staff, Division of Rehab staff, Veterans Employment and training services, national council on Aging, HRDF, and Ross. Along with One Stop Operators and Workforce WV staff.
 - 75 staff and partners were in attendance

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

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www.workforcewv.org

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- Leadership from WIOA core partners stressed the importance of providing services to employers
- Ken Messina was the keynote speaker on the MassHire Biz program
- Topics covered in the training were:
 - Employment and training services
 - Training grants and programs
 - Hiring tax credits
 - Layoff aversion or management
 - Specialized business services
- Follow-up meeting on April 30, 2019
- Supportive Employment Pilot Guidance Notice
 - Workforce WV is working with DOL to draft a Guidance Notice for serving the hardest to serve in overcoming multiple barriers and get them into employment
 - Program is designed to assist individuals in obtaining time-limited work experience that is wage-paid, subsidized up to 100%, and is in the public, private, or non-profit sectors
 - Jobs are designed to establish a work history, demonstrate work success in an employer-employee relationship and development the skills that lead to unsubsidized employment

A question and answer session was held after the presentation.

John Sorrenti introduced Matt Falter, James Denova, Janelle Comstock, Rosemary Guida as the next speakers.

- III. **Business Resource Network:** - Matt Falter, Project Director, Ohio Business Resource Network, Workforce Initiative Association; James Denova, Vice Pres. Benedum Foundation; Janelle Comstock, Mid-Ohio Valley Reg. IV WDB Director; Rosemary Guida Northern Panhandle Region V WDB Director
- Mission: The Business Resource Network helps regional businesses survive, grow and create jobs by bringing a strategic and collaborative approach to solving their problems and expanding their opportunities. This client-centered approach transcends individual programs and red tape to focus on meeting the complete business service needs of the client and delivering measurable results to our clients and communities
 - Vision: Enrich Communities by Building Stronger Business
 - The History and Progression of the BRN
 - The BRN Team
 - A three Step Process
 - BRN Evaluation
 - Coal BURN Project
 - Best Practices – Employer Engagement

A handout of the presentation was provided to all the attendees.

Matt Falter, BRN Project Director
Workforce Initiative Association
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Rosemary Guida, Executive Director
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Janelle Comstock, Program Director
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Jim Denova, PhD, Vice President
Benedum Foundation
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A question and answer session was held after the presentation. John Sorrenti introduced Mark J. Toal as the next speaker.

- IV. HIREVets Medallion Program:** Mark J. Toal, National Veterans Employment Manger, US Dept. of Labor
- Agenda
 - Veteran Demographics and Trends
 - DOL Integrated Services
 - VETS' Mission (4Ps)
 - Prepare: Transition Assistance Program
 - Provide: State Workforce Agencies via the AJC Network
 - Protect: USERRA and Veteran Preference
 - Promote: Employer Outreach and Hire VETS
 - VETS, Guard and Reserve Served Last Year by DOL Programs
 - 400,000 served in PY 16 within AJC priority of service
 - 118,000 of the above number, served by DVOPs in PY 16
 - 282,000 of the above served both other than DVOPs
 - Veteran Demographics
 - Median Age of a Veteran is now 64 years old
 - 19.2M veterans in the United States (7.7% of US population)
 - 9.4M veterans are in the workforce (less than 6% of total workforce- first time since before WWII)
 - 1.9M veterans are women
 - 55% of unemployed veterans are 45 year or older
 - 2.7% of unemployed veterans are under 25 years old
 - Prime Recruiting Market
 - Integrated Approach
 - DOL is the federal arm of the US Government – the sole federal agency responsible for employment- it is our core competency and the resources of all DOL agencies are focused on one thing – employment.
 - VETS is just one agency within DOL: We are the voice for veterans within DOL and the voice of DOL in the veteran employment space. VETS leverages all DOL agencies/resource on behalf of veteran employment.

- VA = Veteran Benefits/Healthcare. DOL and VETS = Veteran Employment. We work closely with our federal partners but do not want to duplicate responsibilities in the veteran employment space.
 - Priorities
 - DOL VETS Enduring Missions
 - We prepare America's veterans, transitioning service members, and their spouses for meaningful careers;
 - We provide them with employment resources and expertise;
 - We protect their employment rights; and
 - We promote their employment opportunities.
 - Provide employment resources and expertise
- A handout was given out regarding the HIRE Vets Medallion Program
- Military spouses who are looking to re-enter the workforce after absences related to PCS moves and overseas tours can find employment services through the American Job Center networks, and many qualify for special assistance because of their status as dislocated workers. These centers are directly connected to employment and training opportunities within their local areas and can best direct military spouses on where to go and what training programs may be available for them.

A handout of the presentation was provided to all the attendees.

**Mark J. Toal,
National Veterans Employment Manger,
US Dept. of Labor**

A question and answer session was held after the presentation. John Sorrenti the introduced Maria Larry as the next speaker.

- V. Region VI Workforce Dev Board Program Year 2018 Activities & Updates:** Maria Larry, Executive Director;
Region VI Workforce Development Board
- PY18 Funding: July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019
 - WIOA Adult: \$836,507.51
 - WIOA Dislocated Worker: \$2,028,953.69
 - WIOA Youth: \$746,940.40
 - SNAP E&T: \$190,000.00
 - PY18 WIOA Training: July 1, 2018 to March 15, 2019
 - Adult Served: 96
 - Dislocated Worker Served: 34
 - Youth Served: 5
 - PY18 Employer Training Summary
 - On the Job Training: \$162,780.00
 - Incumbent Worker Training \$20,665.00
 - Customized Training \$912.00
 - Transitional Job Training \$560.00
 - PY18 On the Job training Contracts

- Average wage rate: \$8.75 - \$21.43
- Total Obligated to date: \$162,780.00
- Testimonial and overviews from:
 - Quality Water Services, LLC
 - Specialty Groups, Inc.
 - YouthReady Programs
 - Youth Success Stories
 - Dislocated Worker Success Stories
 - Adult Success Stories
 - SNAP E&T Success Stories
- Region 6 Workforce Development Board is an active participant of the TEAM Consortium

A handout of the presentation was provided to all the attendees.

**Maria Larry, Executive Director;
Region VI Workforce Development Board**

A question and answer session was held after the presentation. John Sorrenti introduced Robert H. Hansen as the next speaker.

- VI. Governor's Drug Control Policy Update:** Robert H. Hansen, Director; WV Department of Health & Human Resources, Office of Drug Control Policy
- History
 - In 2017, the West Virginia Legislature passed House Bill 2620, the West Virginia Drug Control Policy Act, which established the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP).
 - Drug Overdose Death Data
 - In 2015, there were 735 overdose deaths.
 - In 2016, there were 890 overdose deaths.
 - In 2017, using preliminary data, there were 1,009 overdose deaths.
 - West Virginia has the highest overdose rate in the United States, and no other state is even close.
 - The Drug Epidemic
 - The drug epidemic in West Virginia is:
 - A health crisis
 - A social services crisis
 - An economic crisis
 - West Virginia is losing \$8.8 billion a year as a result of this crisis. That is more than 12% of our GDP.1
 - That is also more than double any other state.
 - The next closest state is Ohio at 5.32% of GDP.
 - WV's Response to the Crisis
 - WV is one of only a few states that has a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) waiver.
 - WV is the first and only state to have a Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) waiver.
 - In 2017, the West Virginia Legislature passed the Ryan Brown Fund allocating \$21.6 million to increase the number of treatment beds in the State.

- In 2018, the West Virginia Legislature passed SB 272, creating the Community Overdose Response Demonstration Pilot Project and the Access to Opioid Antagonists Act.
- In 2018, the West Virginia Legislature passed SB 273, creating the Opioid Reduction Act.
- In 2018, the West Virginia Legislature reallocated \$10 million to the ODCP.
- In 2019, the West Virginia Legislature passed HB 3057 creating Family Drug Court pilots.
- In 2019, the West Virginia Legislature passed HB 3132 that removes barriers for physicians treating less than 30 patients with Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).
- In 2019, the West Virginia Legislature passed SB 152 that enables non-violent felony offenders to have records expunged after they complete their sentence.
- In 2019, the West Virginia Legislature passed SB 520 that requires reporting overdoses within 72 hours.
- Governor's Executive Order No. 22-18
 - Executive Order No. 22-18 created the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment.
 - Appointed by the Governor, members are individuals from the public and private sector who have education, experience or special interests regarding substance use disorders (SUD).
 - The Council will collaborate with the ODCP to:
 - Make recommendations on prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.
 - Develop and administer a state plan on SUD.
 - The Council held its first meeting on January 4, 2019.
- Baseline data was shown and was included in the handout

A handout of the presentation was provided to all the attendees.

**Robert H. Hansen, Director;
WV Department of Health & Human Resources,
Office of Drug Control Policy**

A question and answer session was held after the presentation. John Sorrenti the introduced Matt Turner as the next speaker.

VII. Senate Bill 1, the West Virginia Invests Grant, from Passage to Program Start, 2019: Matt Turner, Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration, WV Higher Education Policy Commission, WV Council for Community and Technical College Education

- Goals
 - Meet the immediate need for a highly skilled workforce
 - Target adult learners – previously limited financial aid for adults in W.Va.
 - Attract new employers and grow the state's economy
- Information
 - Only 34 percent of working-age West Virginians hold a postsecondary certificate or degree
 - 31 percent of West Virginians aged 25-64 hold at least an associate degree
- WV Climb
 - West Virginia must work harder to equip residents with the training and skills necessary to land good, high-paying jobs
- Senate Bill 1 – 2019 Regular Session
 - Created the WV Invests Grant – “Free” Community College
 - Last-dollar-in state financial aid
 - Community college tuition and fees FREE to recent high school graduates and non-traditional students

- Students must stay in-state for two years after completion of a qualifying community college certificate or degree program
- Estimated annual cost of \$10 million
- Estimated enrollment growth of 20 percent
- 8 Easy Steps to FREE community college
 - Possess a high school diploma or equivalent
 - West Virginia resident for at least a year
 - COMPLETE A FAFSA!
 - Enroll in an eligible certificate or associate degree program at a public two-year or four-year college
 - Maintain a 2.0 GPA
 - Take at least 6 credit hours per semester
 - Pass a drug test (out-of-pocket) each semester
 - Complete 8 hours of community service

A handout of the presentation was provided to all the attendees.

**Matt Turner, Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration,
WV Higher Education Policy Commission,
WV Council for Community and Technical College Education**

A question and answer session was held after the presentation.

Other Business/Adjournment: Before the Luncheon Meeting: John Sorrenti spoke: Reverend Watts talked about the Workforce Participation Rate at the last meeting. I've asked for further discussions with Russ and his staff and I asked that Reverend Watts presentation be given to Secretary Gaunch considering he spoke to us at the last meeting about workforce participation as he was very interested in it.

We had a conference phone call the other day with Reverend Watts and Russ along with some other members of the staff. I told him we couldn't do anything last week because it wasn't on the agenda to take action. So, I would like to take some action on the workforce participation rate at our next meeting. In preparation for that I told Reverend Watts I would like to have a committee that would work on workforce participation and we would make Reverend Watts the chairman and I'd serve as an official member. I can't imagine that by our next meeting, that's July 17th.

We would need one or two meetings in order to put together a program that would be presented to our next meeting and passed on to Secretary Gaunch, then hopefully and eventually to the legislature. So, I'd like to see if I couldn't get a couple of or at least 3 volunteers and I need business people. And unfortunately business people are the busiest people. It's hard for them to volunteer for anything. So, I'd like some volunteers, is anybody interested to give some time to these one or two meetings between now and July 17th. There's 3 give your names to her before you leave.

John Sorrenti
Michael Bombard – Bombardier Aircraft
Steve Cox - Toyota
Myisha Robinson – WV Bureau of Senior Services
Nancy Ligus – WV CTC

Meeting adjourned.