

Workforce Development Board of Okaloosa and Walton Counties
Board Meeting * May 7, 2008
Ft. Walton Beach JobsPlus One-Stop

Call to Order

Chair Sylvia Hanks called the Workforce Development Board of Okaloosa & Walton Counties meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. on May 7, 2008.

The following Board members were present:

Dr. Jack Azzaretto	Carlene Anderson	Felix Beukenkamp
Earnestine Carswell	Marj Cummins	Robert Dobson
Cindy Frakes	Lee Grantham	Sylvia Hanks
David Miller	Martha Miller	Bobby Rains
Bill Robinson	Sandy Sims	Pam Tedesco
Janice Thomas		

The following Board Staff members were present:

Mary Lou Reed	Linda Sumblin	Sue Berntsen
Art Lee-Drewes	Emily Imsand	

Also present:

Jim Breitenfeld	Jerry Miller (Board Counsel)
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Approval of Minutes

Ms Hanks asked if there were any corrections or comments from the Feb 6, 2008 Board minutes as distributed. There were none.

Motion by David Miller, seconded by Robert Dobson, to approve the Board meeting minutes for February 6, 2008.

All Ayes.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Finance Committee: Dr. David Miller, Finance Committee Chair, and Art Lee-Drewes, Finance Director reviewed the budget information in the packet. The Fixed Asset Management section of the Board's General Policies has been updated to include specific information on the recently acquired Mobile One-Stop. Mary Lou Reed announced that there is an agreement with Okaloosa Schools to provide a parking area and a contract to perform routine maintenance on the Mobile. Sue Berntsen is the Mobile One-Stop Custodian and will schedule use and maintenance. Art Lee-Drewes is developing a fee schedule for use of the Mobile. The Mobile has already been used at the April 24th Panhandle Job Fair and by Niceville High School for Ready to Work testing.

Motion by Felix Beukenkamp, seconded by Marj Cummins, to approve the General Policy revision for the Mobile One-Stop..

All Ayes.

JobsPLUS Council: Chair Earnestine Carswell stated the Council is still working on the WT participation rate. The WIN Grant has 88 participants enrolled and is doing well.

Youth Development Council: Council Chair Wayne Harris and Board Staff Liaison were not present. Mary Lou Reed recapped The Able Trust Grant status. Linda Sumblin discussed the Six Days Six Ramps program. The Dept. of Children & Families and Dept. of Juvenile Justice are partnering in an effort to educate special youth populations about workforce services available to them. An information sheet is contained in today's packet.

Communications & Outreach Committee: Martha Miller commented on the graphics that the Committee designed for the Mobile One-Stop. She also reviewed information on the Third Annual Workforce Summit being held tomorrow and Friday at Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort. Registration forms are available at the meeting. Thursday's Events is 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The afternoon will have an interactive polling session. The Best Places to Work Breakfast of

Champions is Friday morning at 8:30. Fifty applications in three categories were received this year. Florida's Great Northwest will present the Target Cluster Analysis after the Breakfast.

Business Competitiveness Council: Dr. Jack Azzaretto commented on the training being provided to various entities in the area. Machinist training for DRS and InDyne, and other classes for City of Destin, White Wilson, Alpha Data, Chuck's Auto Body and the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Department were provided.

Ad Hoc Service Provider Selection Committee: Earnestine Carswell stated that six proposals were received in response to the Request for Proposals. The Committee is evaluating all proposals and has requested Board Staff to do additional reference checks. A recommendation will be brought to the Board at the June 4th meeting.

Executive Director's Report: Mary Lou Reed recapped the Executive Committee meeting held April 9th at the Walton Career Development Center. She also reviewed SB 428 and HB 959, just passed by the legislature. These bills allow Boards to request a waiver to provide direct services, and have the potential to save funds from eliminating duplication and layers of management; it could also result in savings from the profit line. Boards will still have the option to contract for all or for specific services. Region 2 is currently in the procurement process. Another meeting of the Services Provider Selection Committee will be held later this month (May); and the Committee expects to have a recommendation for the Board at the June 4th meeting.

The WDB and Okaloosa Applied Technology Center co-hosted the April TeCMEN meeting.

The US Dept. of Labor and Dept. of Defense visited Region 2 to observe the Military Spouse CAA program and attended the Business Competitiveness Council meeting the next day. Our CAA program has incredible numbers, with 232 enrolled as of May 2nd. The initial goal for the program year was 220. The program has recently been expanded to include spouses of all ranks and had expanded for additional career fields. The Education offices and Airman & Family Readiness Centers at both Eglin and Hurlburt are tremendous partners. Linda King, the Florida Coordinator for the Military Spouse CAA program, recently announced funding may be available for an additional position.

Linda Sumblin described a new grant recently obtained from The Able Trust to serve disabled veterans. Sixty thousand dollars will fund .5 FTE to serve 25 disabled veterans.

Military Update: Mr. Jim Breitenfeld updated the group regarding the \$750M in construction for BRAC. The WDB, Economic Development Councils, Building Industry Association and Florida PTAC are partnering to assist area contractors in registering and qualifying for contracts. Keeping as much of the work and funding in the local area is a common goal. Proposals are expected to be solicited in July, with contracts being awarded in October. January 2009 is the start date for construction with Sept 30, 2011 as the completion date. The pace of the project is picking up, small business are encouraged to contact the Florida PTAC to get qualified. Other projects such as the steel mill in Alabama, the Bay Count Airport and the Boeing K45 tanker project in Mobile will be competing for construction and other workers. Another \$1 billion in non-BRAC related construction for Eglin is also expected. An RFP for the housing privatization project has been issues. Twenty-four hundred units will be located on the main base.

The Northwest Florida Defense Coalition encompassing Escambia to Bay Counties is sending a group to Washington D.C. next week. Mary Lou Reed, Al Ward, Dawn Moliterno, and Jim Breitenfeld will be included. The Military Spouse program and the aging civilian workforce are included in the briefing documents provided to both congressional and military leaders the delegation is meeting.

Election of Officers: Committee Chair Bill Robinson presented the slate of officers nominated for 2008-2009.

Motion by Cindy Frakes, seconded by Leigh Grantham, to accept the slate of nominations for Board Officers.

All Ayes.

Education Update: Carlene Anderson stated the Walton County goal of having all students earn a Ready to Work Certificate along with their high school diploma. The Walton Career Development Center's new principal is Mike Davis. Cindy Frakes stated that although this is a terrible budget year for the schools, Okaloosa County remains committed to the CHOICE program. Dr. Azzaretto said that UWF held their commencement ceremonies May 3rd. Graduate and undergraduate were split into two different ceremonies because of the record number of graduates.

Economic Update: Pam Tedesco reported that Florida's Great Northwest conducted existing industry interviews of 78 aerospace companies across northwest Florida. Of the 78, 54 indicated the want/need to expand, but of those 28 say they cannot because of the lack of existing facilities, sites or workforce issues. Decision-makers outside our area then decided to consolidate or move elsewhere. The third round of WIRED grants have been issued. Twenty-five proposals representing 13 of the 16 counties were received. The Target Cluster Industry report will be unveiled by FGNW at the Summit.

Dept. of Children & Families Update: Janice Thomas commented that the DCF Quarterly Business Plan Review was held at the JobsPlus in DeFuniak Springs. Because of the many issues that rise up as youth are aging out of foster care, the department is working on developing new working agreements for foster care. Youth aging out of foster care and juvenile justice youth are two of the at-risk youth identified for the statewide WFI special initiative. Ms Thomas regularly attends the Youth Development Council meetings.

Comments and Information:

- On the agenda for the June 4th Board meeting:
 - The Ad Hoc Service Provider Selection Committee will present a recommendation\
 - The Audit for the year ending June 30, 2007 will be presented by the auditor
 - Chris Hart, President of Workforce Florida, Inc. will present the annual review
 - The initial budget for 2008-2009 will be presented
- The Third Annual Workforce Summit and Breakfast of Champions for Best Places to Work is May 8th & 9th at the Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort, Baytowne Conference Center, Camellia Room
- The Workforce Florida Inc. Board of Directors meeting is May 14th
- The Mobile One-Stop is open for tours outside the building today.

Public Comment: None

Old Business/New Business: None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.