

NCWorks Commission

Business Session
Jane S. McKimmon Center
May 4, 2016
1:30 pm

Minutes

Present:

Chair Jerri Tryon, Josh Arant, John Bailey, Claudia Horn (for Rick Brajer), Shawn Brown, Sherry Carpenter, Mel Chernoff, Corey Coon, Osceola Elliss, Linda Weiner (for Interim President George Fouts), Eric Hall, Susan Jackson, Elk Richardson (for Acting Secretary Kathryn L. Johnston), Joe Magno, Marti Matthews, Stu Matthis, Catherine Truitt (for Governor Pat McCrory), Olalah Njenga, Mike Okun, Joe Rogers, Walter Siegenthaler, Kevin Sills, Cecilia Holden (for Secretary John Skvarla), Leslie Boney (for President Margaret Spellings), Kim Toler, Chris Watters, and Hope Williams

Absent: June Atkinson, Lewis Dishmon, Kent Misegades, and BJ Murphy

OPENING BUSINESS

Motion to approve the February 17, 2016 minutes as written, Jerri Tryon. Moved by Joe Magno and seconded by Susan Jackson. Motion carried.

Chair Tryon commented on the new meeting day structure, inviting each member to provide feedback with respect to the field learning experience and committee meetings. She then thanked the Tillery Place NCWorks Career Center staff, Pat Sturdivant, Don Whittaker, Chet Mottershead, and Jane Sterner for their hospitality during the morning tour.

Ms. Tryon announced that the NCWorks Partnership Conference will be held October 5–7 in Greensboro. This is an annual conference that brings together over 1,000 workforce development professionals to highlight best practices, learn about innovative strategies and recognize successful partnerships across the state. Ms. Tryon directed members to information in their packets regarding opportunities to sponsor the conference and encouraged members to consider a company sponsorship.

WORKFORCE UPDATE

Catherine Moga Bryant reported on the magnitude of changes in leadership throughout the workforce system. The Community Colleges System, the UNC System, Commerce, and workforce boards have all seen significant changes in leadership or have current vacancies. In addition, 21 of the 33 members of the commission are newly appointed. Hope Williams added that 6 of the 36 NC Independent Colleges and Universities chancellors are also new.

Ms. Moga Bryant noted that the state legislature is back in session and commission staff will keep the commission informed of any upcoming legislation pertaining to the workforce system.

CREDIT FOR MILITARY TRAINING IN ACTION

Commission member Josh Arant outlined his company's success with hiring veterans and noted that there was an incredible amount of interest in the topic of "credentialing for military experience" among commission members. He introduced Chuck Gross, UNC, General Administration who spoke to Senate Bill 761 which essentially ensures collaborative work to provide uniform credit for active military members across the UNC system and community colleges.

Dr. Larry Keen, President of Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC) and Dr. David Brand, also with FTCC provided information on FTCC's military programs that ensures soldiers' training and education in the military translate into college credit. Responding to a question about adoption of this program statewide, Dr. Brand indicated the response has been slow.

Dr. Susan Letvak from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) provided members information on UNCG's School of Nursing Veterans Access Program that provides college credit to military personnel for their experience. Citing successful outcomes she noted many veterans have taken advantage of the Nursing program, and she is working with UNCG to grant college credit in other degree programs, as well.

Chair Tryon offered the assistance of the commission to all presenters to help spread the word about these programs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Business Engagement

Chair Marti Matthews reported that her committee conducted its first meeting in April and decided to take on three current responsibilities from the strategic plan: menu of business services, cross-training framework, and NCWorks Certified Work-Ready Communities. To date, the committee has established a meeting schedule, has drafted a mission and vision statement, and has discussed and prioritized other committee interests. Other interests moving forward include increasing awareness of the NCWorks system through marketing and outreach to businesses, equipping commission members with tools to promote the system, using metrics to measure progress, and exploring the topic of apprenticeship. The committee plans to focus its efforts to transform the NCWorks system from being the "best kept secret" in North Carolina into the vendor of choice providing workforce solutions to business.

Pathways to 67% Committee

Chair Eric Hall thanked his committee and provided context around the state's goal to have 67% of working-age North Carolinians with education or training beyond high school by 2025. Over the next few months, the Pathways to 67% Committee will be discussing how the commission can participate in and have an impact on achieving this goal. Mr. Hall also discussed the commission's role in overseeing the NCWorks Career Center system and its responsibility to set customer service criteria for these centers. In addition to the criteria for Tier 1 and Tier 2 NCWorks Career Centers, development of criteria for specialized career centers is also underway. This will allow local workforce boards another option to include locations that focus on a specific need or population, such as youth or dislocated workers in a specific industry, into the NCWorks Career Center system. The committee plans to continue drafting criteria for these specialized centers and gather feedback from the 23 local workforce boards, and then bring the criteria to the full commission at the August meeting for approval.

Accountability Committee

Chair Joe Magno thanked his committee and recognized the overall importance of using data to drive the decision making process. Mr. Magno briefly reviewed several committee priorities including the official implementation of commission approved workforce development board performance measures. These measures will be in addition to the federally-required measures. Mr. Magno explained that while initial indicators are being reviewed, it was his hope to have a final product to the commission for their approval in August. In addition, Mr. Magno explained the committee is interested in exploring measures around business engagement as well as customer satisfaction. In addition, the Accountability Committee is responsible for the oversight and review of the WIOA implementation plan beginning in July 2016.

Strategic Planning Committee

Chair Olalah Njenga reported that the Strategic Planning committee has been meeting bi-weekly. The committee has evaluated the wins, misses and items on hold and reviewed these items to determine relevance. The committee continues to vet seven open items. Ms. Njenga reiterated the need to determine the business case for the outstanding items which will then be submitted to the executive committee for their review. Ms. Njenga stated that the next strategic plan will be focused to ensure that logistics behind a strategic objective make it probable to achieve in the next two years.

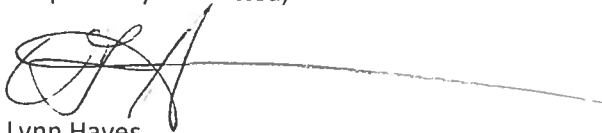
Chair Tryon discussed the need to establish a fifth committee comprised of state agency members to help further the work of the strategic plan. This may require some realignment of committees to achieve a balance of membership. She again encouraged new members to communicate any concerns.

NEXT STEPS

Ms. Tryon then welcomed two new members Shawn Brown, with Cargo Transporters and mayor of Claremont; and Chris Watters, with Restoration Hardware and announced the new role of Olalah Njenga as Vice Chair to the commission. She also mentioned the newly improved NCWorks Commission website and asked for feedback.

Chair Tryon asked for any new business, summarized action taken by the commission and future work. There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Hayes', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Lynn Hayes

Approved August 10, 2016