

**NCWorks Commission**  
**Business Session**  
**August 7, 2019**  
**Goodwill Opportunity Campus**  
**Charlotte, NC**  
**1:00 p.m.**  
**Minutes**

Present:

Chair Tom Rabon, Brock Ashburn, Shawn Brown, Sherry Carpenter, Melanie Chernoff, Scott Daugherty (for Dr. William Roper), Nate Davis, Christopher Egan (for Secretary Mandy Cohen), Jess Englert (for Governor Roy Cooper), Liz Crabill (for Secretary Tony Copeland), Osceola Elliss, Jeff Frederick, Himanshu Karvir, Maureen Little (for President Peter Hans), Candace Lowry for Secretary Machel Sanders, MaryBe McMillan, Trey Michael (for Mark Johnson), Joe Magno, Olalah Njenga, Mike Okun, Stan Sherrill, Kim Toler, and Pam Townsend.

Absent:

Josh Arant, Christopher Gergen, Marti Matthews Martin, Miguel Li Puma, Stephen Rosenburgh, Walter Siegenthaler, Ronnie Smith, and Hope Williams

**OPENING BUSINESS**

Liz Crabill, Chief Deputy Secretary, North Carolina Department of Commerce, began the meeting by thanking Goodwill Industries for hosting the meeting, and for organizing a tour of the Goodwill Opportunity Campus. The NCWorks Commission learned about the important work Goodwill does to support workforce development and economic mobility.

Chief Deputy Secretary Crabill noted that the North Carolina Rural Center and the North Carolina Association of Workforce Development Boards recently held a summit in Raleigh, highlighting several exciting partnerships going on across our state to build a skilled workforce in rural communities. This is an important part of Governor Roy Cooper's *NC Job Ready* initiative. To date, more than 1,800 *Finish Line Grants* have been awarded. The *Finish Line Grants* help community college students stay on track to completing the credentials they need for rewarding careers.

Chief Deputy Secretary Crabill also discussed Medicaid expansion, another priority for the Governor to benefit the state's economic development efforts. Additionally, recovery efforts from Hurricane Florence are continuing, and the Division of Workforce Solutions recently received \$3.1 million in additional funds from the U.S. Department of Labor to support a temporary employment program for Hurricane Florence. To date, 525 people in the Lumber River area have received temporary jobs with nonprofit organizations and local governments through the program.

Tom Rabon, NCWorks Commission Chair, opened the business session meeting with a warm welcome and noted that there is a lot of good collaboration going on among our state and local partners around innovative workforce initiatives.

Chair Rabon asked for a motion regarding the minutes from the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. A motion was made by Stan Sherrill to approve the minutes as written and seconded by Olalah Njenga. Motion carried.

## **NCWORKS LOCAL INNOVATION FUND PROJECT - GOOD JOBS CHARLOTTE**

Danielle Frazier and Sylvia Cini provided an overview of the project funded by the *NCWorks Local Innovation Fund*, which is an opportunity to recommit to building career pathways that are aligned with industry needs, connected to good jobs that pay a living wage, and reflective of equity goals. The project will target the use of multiple data sources to understand the region's workforce needs, education and training resources, and challenges. The goals are to identify areas of opportunity, target underserved and under-resourced populations, and develop a plan to increase access to and completion of training. Partners include Central Piedmont Community College (project lead), Charlotte Works, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. By 2020, the partners will identify strategies for workforce development that build and strengthen secondary postsecondary career pathways, education and training.

## **NCWORKS CERTIFIED CAREER PATHWAYS**

Sherry Carpenter, Vice President of Goodwill Industries of Northwest North Carolina and Commission member, recognized the following six local areas for their work in certifying an Energy Career Pathway: Region C Workforce Development Board, Mountain Area Workforce Development Board, Gaston Workforce Development Board, Western Piedmont Workforce Development Board, Charlotte Works Workforce Development Board, and Centralina Workforce Development Board. The Energy Pathway offers high demand jobs, high wage jobs and career advancement opportunities, and covers 21 counties, 27 local education agencies and 14 community colleges. North Carolina now has 36 certified pathways to date.

## **NCWORKS CAREER CENTERS CERTIFICATIONS**

Chair Tom Rabon recognized career centers in the Centralina, Lumber River, Piedmont Triad and Region Q Workforce Development Boards areas who received their *NCWorks Career Center Certifications*.

## **WORKFORCE UPDATES**

Annie Izod, Executive Director of the NCWorks Commission, noted that with the signing of *HB 664* on June 20<sup>th</sup>, the myFutureNC education goal of 2 million 25-to-44-year old North Carolinians with a high-quality postsecondary degree or credential by 2030 is codified into law. Additionally, she shared that The Center for Best Practices--NGA Solutions released a *Governor's Action Guide to Achieving Good Jobs for all Americans*. The guide outlines opportunities that governors have available to create responsive, nimble training and workforce systems. Lastly, she noted that The North Carolina Department of Commerce Labor and Economic Analysis Division (LEAD) has been awarded a \$1 million grant by the U.S. Department of Labor to enhance and expand the research and reporting of the *North Carolina Common Follow-up System*, a longitudinal education and workforce data system.

Jess Englert, Governor Cooper's Workforce Development Policy Advisor, provided updates on the *Finish Line Grant* initiative and gave an update of the Next Gen Sector Partnership Council. In August, a two-day training was held in Raleigh for state partners to provide technical assistance to the three regions

who will receive training sector partnerships; and bring together multiple employers within an industry to collaborate with community colleges, workforce agencies and other state partners.

### **ANNUAL PROGRAM REVIEW**

Jade Manley, NCWorks Commission staff, provided updates from the *NCWorks Commission 2019 Annual Program Review*. The program review data showed that while the populations targeted least by programs that include justice affiliated, youth and adult workers over the age of 55, programs have outreach strategies to increase service participation within these underserved populations. These strategies include partnerships with community corrections and training within the North Carolina Department of Public Safety facilities for justice affiliated, after school programs, and collaboration with the public school system for youth. Additionally, the survey revealed an area of opportunity for programs to increase business engagement by encouraging and promoting the use of the work-based learning tool, the *Navigator*.

### **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Jeff Frederick, Chair of the Employer Leadership Committee, updated the commission on the work of their committee. He noted that the committee convened their first meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup>. During that meeting they discussed the second goal of the *2019-2021 NCWorks Commission Strategic Plan* and their plans going forward. The committee discussed the Next Gen Sector Partnership Council's recent training session in July and the upcoming APCO rebranding and outreach campaign for the NCWorks brand. The committee is also working with LEAD on the biannual *Employer Needs Survey* and discussed the possibility of adding questions about childcare, access to capital funds, and cataloging urban versus rural tiers.

Sherry Carpenter, Chair of the Skills and Education Committee, updated the commission on the work of their committee. She noted that the committee convened their first meeting in July and discussed goal one of the *2019-2021 NCWorks Commission Strategic Plan*. The committee will continue to work on opportunities for engagement for the reentry population, veterans and those individuals with disabilities across the workforce development system. Meihui Bodane, Assistant Secretary of Policy, Research, and Strategy at LEAD, shared their current work related to goal one, which includes educational attainment data, employment and wage information, and the MyFutureNC goal.

Christopher Egan, member of the System Alignment Committee, updated the commission on the work of their committee. He noted that the committee convened their first meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup>, and they discussed goal four of the *2019-2021 NCWorks Commission Strategic Plan*. The committee will focus on workforce system alignment, providing customer feedback to ensure NCWorks is providing quality services, and outreach strategies to ensure both job seekers and businesses are aware of the plethora of services available. Andrew Beal, Information and Communications Specialist for DWS, shared information during the August 7<sup>th</sup> meeting on the APCO rebranding and outreach project for NCWorks.

Mel Chernoff, Chair of the Local Innovation Committee, updated the commission on the work of their committee. She noted that the committee convened their first meeting in July, and they discussed goal three of the *2019-2021 NCWorks Commission Strategic Plan*. The committee will continue to work on

highlighting local workforce innovations. Additionally, they will work to review the progress of each *NCWorks Local Innovation Grant* team and focus on researching methods of evaluating the *Innovation Fund* and ways to replicate. The next meeting will be held on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS**

Chair Rabon provided closing remarks, asking for any new business. He noted that the next meeting will be held on November 6<sup>th</sup>, in Durham.

There being no new business, Chair Rabon asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Olalah Njenga made a motion, seconded by Christopher Egan. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Izod

Approved on November 6, 2019