



NCWorks Commission Business Session

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

1:00 – 2:30 P.M.

Wake Forest Innovation Quarter

Winston-Salem, NC

Minutes

Present: Chairman Tom Rabon, Mike Okun, Walter Siegenthaler, Steven Hunt, Marti Matthews Martin, Trey Michael (Mark Johnson), Suzanne Johnson, Shawn Brown, Kim Toler, MaryBe McMillan, Paul Lawler, Maureen Little (Peter Hans), Annie Izod, Jessica Englert (Governor Cooper), Stan Sherrill, Josh Arant, Anita Bachman, Sherry Carpenter, Jeff Frederick, Mel Chernoff, Chris Egan (Mandy Cohen), Olalah Njenga, Christopher Gergen, Pam Townsend, Scott Daugherty (William Roper), Brock Ashburn, Himanshu Karvir

Absent: Secretary Tony Copeland, Ronnie Smith, Osceola Ellis, David Miller, Machel Sanders (Candance Lowry)

Opening Business

The meeting began with NCWorks Commission Chairman Tom Rabon welcoming commission members and guests to the first meeting of 2020 and thanking the Wake Forest Innovation Quarter for hosting the meeting. Chairman Rabon discussed the economic conditions in North Carolina, highlighting the December jobs report from the North Carolina Department of Commerce. The report shows “total Non-farm jobs” have increased by more than 93,000 from a year before. Moreover, there has been tremendous economic growth over the last three years and in January alone, 639 new jobs were announced. Two of the projects announced included manufacturers in the Triad area: LLFlex and Pactiv Corporation.

Chairman Rabon highlighted that North Carolina’s emphasis on education and workforce training has kept us competitive and we must continue this, but we can only do this by working together. The NCWorks Commission represents a partnership with multiple agencies, all working in different ways to build and support the workforce our state needs.

Next, Chairman Rabon introduced and welcomed the newest members to the NCWorks Commission. Anita Bachman is the CEO of United Healthcare. Steven Hunt is the Vice President for Workforce Development and Continuing Education at Robeson Community College. Suzanne Johnson serves as the Human Resources Director for Grifols Pharmaceuticals. Paul Lawler is a former elected official and economic developer. Lastly, David Miller—who was not able to attend is the Vice President and General Manager of Spirit AeroSystems.

Minutes Approval: Chairman Rabon called for a motion to approve the minutes as written from the November 6th meeting. Christopher Gergen made the motion, Olalah Njenga seconded the motion; having no discussion, the motion passed, and the minutes were approved.

Career Center Certifications: Chairman Rabon recognized the following local workforce areas that have completed the center certification process by meeting the commission’s criteria for quality customer service: High Country, Kerr Tarr, Durham and Gaston. There are now 83 centers certified all 23 local workforce areas around the state.

Presentation: Cecilia Holden, the first President and CEO of myFutureNC, noted that currently, the problems facing our state include a leaky education pipeline where fewer than a half of North Carolinians complete higher education and 39% say they have not reached their desired level of education. MyFutureNC is dedicated to closing the attainment gap and ensuring that 2 million adults ages 25-44 will have a high value postsecondary degree or credential by 2030. To reach this goal, myFutureNC will work on convening and engaging key partners, aligning and coordinating attainment and talent initiatives while advancing evidence-based practices and policies.

Presentation: Erika Ferguson, Director of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human services, Office of Healthy Opportunities provided a presentation on a new portal that addresses social determinants of health, NCCARE360. NCCARE360 is the first statewide coordinated network that unites health care and human service organizations with a shared technology platform allowing for a coordinated, community-oriented, person-centered approach to delivery care in North Carolina. The portal includes a resource directory, call center, and referral and outcomes for participants through a coordinated network.

Presentation: Dr. Betty McGrath, Director of Bureau of Labor Statistics Programs, provided a presentation on the 2020 Annual Workforce Development System Performance Report. The workforce development system performance report provides data on individuals tracked by the North Carolina Common Follow up System (CFS) and their progression over time. The CFS data is provided by education, employment and training agencies with information on program participation, services and courses, institution, participation dates, completions and demographics. Additionally, data is provided by the Division of Employment Security and the Labor and Economic Analysis Division (LEAD).

Workforce Development Updates

Jess Englert, newly appointed Assistant Secretary of N.C. Commerce Division of Workforce Solutions, shared that Governor Cooper just announced to date a total of 3,700 finish line grants have been awarded to students to limit barriers that have hindered completing their education. Finish Line Grants help increase skills and educational attainment to help reach the myFutureNC initiative ensuring that 2 million adults ages 25-44 will have a high value postsecondary degree or credential by 2030.

Executive Director Report: Annie Izod, Executive Director of the NCWorks Commission, discussed the workforce development dashboard project. The dashboard project was a request from the Local Workforce Board Directors and since discussion it has been approved by the Division of Workforce Solutions for development. The dashboard is provided by LEAD at the North Carolina Department of Commerce. It serves as a tool to provide information on the type of workforce and career services provided in the local career centers, as well as economic impact on employment and wages for individual services received. Ms. Izod also noted that as a part of the APCO business outreach campaign, the Department of Commerce has launched a new website. This website will drive business leaders to obtain information on how NCWorks can help them, “work on what’s next.”

Committee Updates:

Skills and Education Attainment Committee: Sherry Carpenter, chair, noted that the committee focuses on goal #1 of the strategic plan. She recognized new committee member Steven Hunt, vice president of

workforce development and continuing education for Robeson Community College in Lumberton, and ad hoc members and local workforce development directors Wendy Walker Fox and Danielle Frazier. Ms. Carpenter reported that the committee recapped their meeting with the NC Association of Workforce Development Boards (NCAWDB) Directors Council on December 2, 2019 and discussed the takeaways. Their objective is to learn more about their current work efforts and discuss possible collaborative opportunities that are in alignment with goal #1. One of the takeaways from that meeting is to have more shared meetings, so the committee will work with the directors to meet again soon. The committee, in partnership with the Employer Leadership Committee, will plan for a reentry panel discussion in May. - The committee received a presentation on *workforce strategies, successes and challenges for people with disabilities through DHHS-NC VR programs*.

Local Innovation Committee: Mel Chernoff, chair, reported that the committee discussed *goal #3* of the strategic plan and the work related to promoting the replication of creative solutions to challenging workforce problems by supporting local innovation. The committee is focused on two workstreams. The first is to spotlight local workforce innovations across the state. The second is developing criteria for evaluating the six grants from the *NCWorks Local Innovation Fund*; and the best ways to communicate and store the program outcomes of the *Local Innovation Fund*. Committee members were provided additional information on the evaluation process and how to begin the Request for Proposal process for a third-party evaluator. The Committee hopes to continue momentum around these efforts.

Employer Leadership Committee: Jeff Frederick, chair, reported that the committee is focused on *goal #2* of the strategic plan and that they have been absorbed in employer engagement strategies, such as field trips to visit small business employers to learn about their experiences working with local workforce boards and leveraging the system and where the committee can help fill in the gaps. The *NCWorks Employer Needs Survey*, with assistance from LEAD and NC State University, is underway, they received a presentation from Jeff DeBellis, who is the Director of Economic and Policy Analysis on the survey. The committee will receive a full presentation on this effort at the May commission meeting. Also, Lindsay Johnston, LEAD Economist, presented on RAMP EAST, the Regional Advanced Manufacturing Pipeline for Eastern North Carolina. This region is experiencing job growth from new and existing industries in Advanced Manufacturing and they have developed a collaborative approach to fill these positions within 10 county regions. Lindsay also shared information North Carolina's two largest business incentive programs during the committee meeting.

Governance and System Alignment Committee: Christopher Egan, committee member, explained that the committee is focused on goal #4 of the strategic plan, which targets system alignment. The Committee received a presentation on the workforce development dashboard by Dr. Betty McGrath and Dr. Oleksandr Movchan, Bureau of Labor Statistics Director. Moreover, the committee's current focus is the *2020-2024 WIOA State Unified Plan*. Working alongside the WIOA State Steering Council, the Governance and System Alignment Committee reviewed the plan in December and has determined the plan was thoughtfully developed, inclusive of all partners, comprehensive and intentional with the goals of the commission. The Committee unanimously approved this plan be approved by the NCWorks Commission.

WIOA State Unified Plan: Chairman Rabon called for a motion to approve the 2020-2024 North Carolina WIOA State Unified Plan as written with the understanding it will be forwarded to the Governor's Office and the WIOA state Steering Council will continue to refine the plan based on suggestions and public

comments that have been submitted. Chris Egan made the motion, Olalah Njenga seconded the motion; having no discussion, the motion passed, and the 2020-2024 WIOA State Unified Plan was approved.

Closing Business

Maureen Little, commission member reported 53 of the 58 community colleges recorded enrollment growth for Fall 2019. The community college system will continue be a connector in building the talent pipeline within North Carolina to meet myFutureNC's goal by 2030. Additionally, the 2020 ApprenticeshipNC Conference will take place March 5th and 6th at the Washington Duke Inn in Durham, NC. All commission members are encouraged to register and attend.

Chairman Rabon reminded commission members that the next meeting will be in Raleigh on May 13th. With no other business to conduct, Chairman Rabon asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Maureen Little made a motion, seconded by Paul Lawler. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Izod

Approved by the NCWorks Commission on May 13, 2020