

MINUTES

Macon-Bibb Workforce Investment Board
Full Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 8, 2014, 4:00 p.m.
175 Emery Highway, Suite C, Macon, GA

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jonathan Alderman
Robert Burnham
Cathy Garafolo
Myrtle Habersham
Shannon Harvey
Charles Howard
Ed Leysath
Tommy Meeks
Harry Murray
June Parker
Theresa Robinson
Steve Schwartz
Randy Tidwell
Jennifer Welch

STAFF PRESENT

Sheknita Davis
James Johnson
Laura Mathis
Carol Payton
Howard Scott
Lisa Yazzie

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Theresa Robinson called the July Full Board meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Lisa Yazzie called the roll and indicated that a quorum was present.

OPENING CEREMONIES

a. Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

b. Introduction of Guests

Any guests were recognized at this time.

c. Conflict of Interest Statement

In lieu of reading the entire statement, Ms. Robinson said if there is any business that will require action and could also benefit any Board member and/or family member, it is mandatory that they abstain from discussion and voting.

STANDARD ORDER OF BUSINESS

a. Approval of Minutes of May 20, 2014 Board Meeting

Chairperson Theresa Robinson indicated that there were a few minor changes which she has discussed with the secretary. Those corrections have been made, so she called for a motion concerning the minutes. Charles Howard made a motion that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Bob Burnham and unanimously approved.

b. Old Business

i. Local Plan Update

Sheknita Davis referenced a letter that was provided in the meeting packets from the Georgia Department of Economic Development Workforce Division which provided the necessary corrections required before approval of the Local Plan and the One Stop Business Plan.

Ms. Davis referred to page one of the letter where it discusses the Statewide Plan Improvements. This section contained recommendations for each local board to take into consideration and review for integration into future plan updates. Ms. Davis discussed briefly the following areas for improvement:

- Sector Strategies.
- Business Plan Structure.
- General Grammatical Review.
- Go Build Georgia.
- Local Board Composition.
- Veterans Priority of Service.

Page two references the Macon-Bibb plan review and approval. Included in this section are the requested corrections and modifications that are requested by the state before approving, for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2017, PY 2013 through PY 2016. The following sections were noted for corrections/modifications:

- Efficient Use of Resources.
- Flow of Services.
- Leveraged Resources.

- Service Delivery Structure.

The state also approved the Macon-Bibb Business Plan on the condition that the local area provides greater detail on the following items:

- Eliminate Duplication of Services.
- Integration of WP and WIA.

The final page of the letter contained feedback and comments for consideration by the Macon-Bibb Local Workforce Board. The comments currently do not require any action, but may help strengthen the effectiveness of the local plan in guiding the delivery of workforce programs.

Ms. Davis noted that she and Laura Mathis have a conference call with the Governor's Office scheduled for July 24 in order to get the exact wording that is needed for inclusion into the plan. Staff has until September 1 to complete and return.

c. New Business

i. Paxen Contract Budget Amendment

Information on the Paxen budget amendment was provided in the packets. Paxen is the youth service provider. The Board approved at the May meeting to renew the contract with Paxen for another year. They have submitted their budget request for the new program year which begins July 1.

Ms. Davis said she included the PY 2013 Budget and the proposed PY 2014 Budget and the dollar difference between the two years. There was an overall contract increase of \$32,629.33. The program will serve more out-of-school youth (60) than in-school youth (40) which increases the amount of supplies for GED test materials. Ms. Davis briefly discussed the incentives that are awarded to the youth for obtaining their GED or high school diploma or if they obtain a grade level increase.

There being no further discussion, Ralph Snowden made a motion that the Paxen budget amendment be approved. The motion was seconded by June Parker and unanimously approved. After approval of the budget, there was brief discussion concerning how it is determined the number of youths that will be served.

ii. Performance Negotiations

Ms. Davis referred to the performance negotiations that were included in the packets. The negotiations include the PY 2013 goals, proposed PY 2014 goals, and the current numbers for PY 2013. The proposed goals were negotiated with the state for the upcoming year. In order to

meet the goals, it is required that Workforce perform at 80 percent of the proposed goal. Ms. Davis went over the goals for each program area.

After a brief discussion concerning the negotiations with the state, Jonathan Alderman made a motion that the performance negotiation measures be approved. The motion was seconded by June Parker and unanimously approved.

iii. WIA Legislative Update

Ms. Davis commented that she has sent out several emails with regard to the Workforce Investment Act reauthorization which is now the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. She noted that included in the emails were key points from within the law itself. It has passed the House and is currently in the Senate. It is also a possibility that it may pass the bi-partisan bill.

Ms. Davis commented that she has read most of the bill, and the majority of the changes that would affect Workforce and the programs they provide would be in youth services. She also noted that she has participated in several conference calls with the National Legislation for Youth Services and the National Association of Workforce Boards, and the focus has been on the changes for youth. One major change is that it would require that 75 percent of youth funding be allocated towards out-of-school youth. More focus is being given to the high school dropout recovery. From the 2012 and 2013 graduation cohorts, there were 1,587 student dropouts in Bibb County alone. There is currently a 24 percent unemployment rate in the age group of 19 to 24 years of age. Because of this, another change would be extending the age range from 16 to 24. Ms. Davis discussed a few other changes that would come out of the bill. A link to a webinar was provided by email to board members.

She noted that the National Association of Development Organizations and the National Association of Counties had issues with the previous legislation thus resulting in the current bill in hopes of correcting those issues. Both the National Legislation for Youth Services and the National Association of Workforce Board strongly support this bill. Ms. Davis commented that it looks like this may be the first time the bill will be reauthorized. Not only will the bill affect Workforce Development but adult literacy and vocational rehab as well as Title V grants and programs.

There was discussion concerning if the bill contains any budget cuts as well as programs that are being eliminated. Ms. Davis noted that reference is made to redistricting the region. Any redistricting would be a collaborative effort between the workforce board, chief local elected official, and the Governor's office.

It has been noted by the federal agencies that are involved or have a stake in workforce development that this bill is the "most perfect" version yet. It definitely has bi-partisan support. There was discussion concerning how the funding for each workforce area is determined.

One important factor of the bill is recognizing how life has changed since the last time Workforce Investment Act was reauthorized in 1998, and this is a cleanup of what was important then but not now, because priorities have shifted.

iv. Board Member/Committee Update

Chair Robinson noted that there is a total of twenty-six board members – twenty-four active and two vacancies. Twelve need to be reappointed by Mayor Reichert. This is something that the staff will be working on in the coming weeks. She commented that she hopes everyone will agree to serve again.

Ms. Davis noted that Workforce has been under the Regional Commission now for a year, and it's time to get the Committees active and engaged now that a new program year has begun. It is also important to make sure that all policies, marketing, and community outreach are aligned and cohesively coordinated with efforts that are already taking place. Staff is recommending that the full board meet every other month, and the committees would meet the other months, if needed.

Ms. Robinson reported that the full board would still need to meet in August as well as any committees. Therefore, the full board will meet in August, September, and November. Committees will meet in August, October, and December.

v. Financial Report

MGRC staff member Mitchell Worthington presented a spreadsheet of expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. The total WIA approved budget was \$975,098, but the total YTD spent was \$969,765 which leaves a surplus of \$5,333. Mr. Worthington referenced the budget for tuition payments which was over budget by \$26,351 as of June 30, 2014. The Georgia Department of Economic Development is aware of this, which is an allowable expense. Brief discussion followed.

No action is required.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Board Chair Theresa Robinson noted for the record that the CLEO agreement has been executed between Macon-Bibb County and Payne City and filed with the state. Therefore, Mayor Robert Reichert is the CLEO for the next two years. Ms. Mathis noted that at the end of the two years, it may be necessary to file a waiver because Georgia law requires rotation every two years, and Payne City officials have indicated they have no interest/desire to serve as the CLEO.

a. Youth Services

Ms. Davis said during this time of year there is usually a heightened sensitivity to youth services because of the stimulus money and the increase in the number of youth. She has had to address concerns from the community because of recent violence involving youth. One of the concerns expressed was why Workforce was not doing anything to help the youth?

She indicated that as a board, youth services has been put out for an RFP. Also, Workforce has been exceeding performance measures, and great strides have been made towards the quality of services that are provided to the youth. Of the graduates that were previously mentioned, 77 percent are enrolled in post-secondary education and others have been employed.

A graduation ceremony has been planned for July 25 and once information have been received on the details of the ceremony, Ms. Davis indicated she would send an email to all board members. Veronica McClendon, who serves as the Youth Council Committee Chairperson, is currently out on maternity leave but remains very engaged and concerned about what's going on. Workforce has also partnered with the following community programs to provide other opportunities for youth and assist with leveraging resources that are available:

- Great Promise Partnership.
- Boys and Girls Explorer Program.
- Bibb County Board of Education Twilight Program.

Ms. Davis said she feels very confident about the youth services program and where it is headed. Plans are to present a video at the Annual Meeting in October. There was discussion regarding what kind of questions the public was asking about youth services and how Ms. Davis responded to those questions. Approximately four to five years ago, there was no tracking of the number of youth served or what happened to them once they exited the program. There is no evidence if it helped move them along or worked for their betterment. Workforce is now required by federal regulations to do a one-year follow-up after a participant exits the program.

It was noted that there is a work experience component in the contract with Paxen for this year. It was not included in last year's contract. These concerns with the youth services program makes more aware the need to market the programs and services.

* * * * *

As a matter of information, Ms. Davis said she was recently introduced to the Assistant Finance Director, Marlin Brandon, at the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority who is also a former WIA participant.

* * * * *

Howard Scott gave a brief report on the efforts that are taking place at Boeing during the layoffs. Several companies are scheduled to hold job fairs at Boeing – TransArtic South and Gulfstream.

* * * * *

Ms. Mathis noted one of many payoffs of having Workforce under the Middle Georgia Regional Commission is that the MGRC has been heavily involved since the beginning in the Kumho Tire project. The MGRC will be working with the Macon-Bibb team, as well as Kumho, to identify any needs and plugging in the resources for those needs. Steve Schwartz said one of the things that has come out of the Partnership Committee meetings is the need to push the local labor force and local vendors component when the construction phase begins at Kumho. Ms. Mathis noted that it is written in the agreement with Kumho the obligation of Macon-Bibb County to provide a list of contractors, companies, and firms that are available to do work in the construction of the facility.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Full Board Meeting – Tuesday, August 12, 2014, 4:00 p.m.
- b. Youth Council Meeting – Monday, July 14, 2014, 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.



WIB Chair



WIB Secretary



WIB CLEO