



DURHAM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (DWDB)

VIRTUAL MEETING

June 25, 2020

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

EXHIBIT A: MEETING MINUTES

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Paul Grantham called the meeting at 8:35 AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Updates from the Chair – Paul Grantham

Paul Grantham announced that there has been a significant surge in COVID-19, unemployment is at a record high, and systemic racism is on the rise. Some people are experiencing complications and facing a bleak outlook on life. As board members, you are here for a reason, to provide guidance, offer help, training for jobs, as well as offer ideas and be an active participant in this process.

Paul Graham congratulated new board member Rhonda Stevens and Roger Shumate, who was reappointed for another four-year term, by the Durham County Board of Commissioners.

Updates from the Senior Workforce Development Manager – Adria Graham Scott

Adria Graham Scott wanted to add to Paul Grantham's comment that there are social, financial, and professional complications as you look at the statistics and how this translates. On the impact of disease, black and brown people are highly impacted by the crises in health and economic well-being. This crisis is why each member has a critical role to resolve issues in a collaborative way.

For the Regional Plan, the State is looking at long-term approaches of how we plan to address COVID-19, as well as the regional cooperation with Kerr Tar and Wake County.

Russell Ingram said that the reopening of the NCWorks Career Center is scheduled on June 29, 2020, for staff, and July 6, 2020 for participants interested in receiving services. He stated that safety is at the forefront for everyone.

Alexis Franks stated that 258 individuals have been served at the Center, as well as 97 participants from adult worker and 26 participants in the dislocated worker program. They are making sure that customers have access to complete classes. In addition, they are looking for resources so participants can complete training. They have 35 on-the-job-training (OJT) with local businesses. More virtual workshops, job interviews and job platforms are being provided to get more people into employment.

Keyana Brown stated that they will be limiting the number of staff and jobseekers in the Center due to social distancing. She thanked Russell for providing two tablets to enroll individuals for appointments. They will also have virtual job fairs and drive through job fairs to meet the needs of individuals. The signage for the building was approved.

At the youth program at ReCity, they will have restricted staff, PPE shields, and staff still doing work experience. The unemployment last month was 13.3, so there are lower skilled individuals competing in workforce entry level as well as in competition with other individuals absorbed in new positions.

Kelli McLean Slade and Keyana Brown worked hard to develop the two-week Durham YouthWork Internship Program. They originally had 150 participants, then 113, and the current number of participants is 68. During the 1st week, they will work on employability resume, social media, and preparing for the workforce. For the 2nd week, the youth will work on career exploration. Thanks to Candice Rashada, who works at Durham Technical Community College, and has been amazing during this program. There were a lot of guest speakers, and Kelli moderated and kept the students hyped. Candice and Kellie worked on the DYIP graduation.

Adria Graham Scott said due to COVID-19, there was early release of some justice involved individuals in the justice involved program. They are providing the necessary and extra resources and partnerships to welcome home individuals. A cell phone, bus cards/ticket, and personal essentials were part of the package. Mayor Steve Schewel welcomed participants in the community as a social and cultural network. There were three full-time and one part-time individual absorbed in our justice involved program for 4-6 weeks. The recent released individuals also receive peer support, mentoring for jobs and careers, as well as other resources.

The Durham Loan Program partnered with Duke University and Durham County in providing \$1 million to the program and as well as grants to those 25 and under who are in business. The submission ends on Sunday at 11:59 PM. Seventy-five grant applications have been submitted.