I. CHAIR LISA BALTY CALLED THE BOARD MEETING TO ORDER AT 2:34 P.M. AND ANNOUNCED THAT A QUORUM WAS PRESENT.


Members Absent: Gregg Durham, Wayne Haglund, Garvey Jackson, Laurie King, Kelli Marshall, Quincy Martindale, Ellen Mills, Robin Moore, Marisa Phillips, Dr. Joseph Shannon, Elaine Wade

Board Staff Present: Mark Durand, Tara Mosley, Gini Blackwell, Melissa Oaks, Karen Stubblefield

Visitors: Kevin Bradford, Michelle Kennedy, Paul Dunn, Billy Reddick, Monica Peters-Clark, Teresa Maryska

CHAIR LISA BALTY REMINDED THE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION.

Chair Lisa Balty asked that all members sign a conflict of interest declaration regardless of whether they have a conflict.

WELCOME OF GUESTS:

Mark Durand welcomed the new executive director of Goodwill Kevin Bradford and Michelle Kennedy of Goodwill. He introduced the Dynamic Workforce staff Paul Dunn, Billy Reddick, and Monica Peters-Clark; Teresa Maryska with the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC); and Workforce Solutions Board staff Tara Mosley, Melissa Oaks, Gini Blackwell and Karen Stubblefield.

II. Discussion/Action: Approval of Minutes – February 19, 2019

Motion: James Gentry
Second: Tyane Dietz
In Favor: All
III. Public Comments
None

IV. Information and Briefing Item
A. New Board Member Appointment
Mark Durand welcomed Karen Hatton to her first board meeting. Mrs. Hatton represents the Private Sector Industry and lives in Tyler County. Mr. Durand also introduced and welcomed new board member Ethan Herr, Program Specialist at the Texas Workforce Commission, who represents the Public Employment Service (TWC) sector on the Board.

V. Board Members Comments on Activity in their Respective Areas
James Gentry announced that the Crockett Economic & Industrial Development Corporation (CEIDC) has completed an agreement with Onshore Outsourcing, an information technology outsourcing firm. The company expects to create 100 jobs over the next several years in Houston County. Mr. Gentry also noted that an oil recycling company expects to break ground in the next couple of months, creating 17 new jobs. Mr. Gentry discussed the upcoming vote on the ballot in Crockett during the May election, which calls for eliminating the CEIDC. He said the ballot item is confusing because a ‘no’ vote is actually a vote in favor of economic development. He said it is also disappointing that there are those who do not support economic development in the area. Board members expressed concern regarding the issue, stating that economic development activity in one county of Deep East Texas affects the entire 12-county region.

In Jasper County, Eddie Hopkins updated the Board on progress made by the new IT company, Provalus, which has already hired 30 employees and is outgrowing its lease space, needing an additional 2,000 square feet. He noted that two construction projects are under way, a new downtown parking lot as well as the lease space intended for Provalus.

TJ Colwell noted that her employer, Lockheed Martin in Angelina County, has exceeded 300 employees and expects more growth by the end of year. She is continuing to seek opportunities to fund training through workforce grants and programs for the company’s new and incumbent workers.

VI. Executive Director’s Report
During his report, Mark Durand noted that Shepherd ISD Superintendent Rick Hartley is interested in pursuing some grant opportunities for San Jacinto County. He reported that TWC Texas Rising Star Conference at Angelina College on March 6-7 was well attended and that providers from inside and outside of the Deep East Texas region participated. Mr. Durand said he had the opportunity to address the Lufkin/Angelina Chamber of Commerce during their April luncheon to provide an update on workforce issues, and he had several inquiries from area employers as a result. He updated the Board that there are now 818 children being served in 25 Texas Rising Star certified child care centers. The TRS quality banquet held on April 6 was a
tremendously successful effort accomplished by the team of board staff members: Tara Mosley, Melissa Oaks, Chelsea Martin and Debb Homman. He showed a video news clipping of the event that aired on KTRE News, http://www.ktre.com/2019/04/09/deep-east-texas-rising-star-childcare-providers-honored/. He and Robert Fitzpatrick also commented on the success of the recent career event in San Augustine County, where 12 employers and 72 job seekers and students participated.

See attachment for the full report.

VII. Committee Reports
A. Operations Committee Reports
   1. Committee Activity
   2. Briefing Items
      a. E. Taylor and Associates Dynamic WFS Monitoring Report
         Tara Mosley reviewed the findings related to this monitoring report. Tyane Dietz said she was satisfied with Ed Taylor’s findings and that the contractor had completed trainings to address the issues.

      b. Workforce Performance Report
         Mark Durand summarized the workforce center activity and expenditures through February.

      c. Child Care Performance Report
         Tara Mosley summarized the child care performance and direct care expenditure report.

   3. Discussion/Possible Action
      a. Action Item 19-04 Training Provider Applications
         Workforce Development Director Tara Mosley discussed training courses to be added to the eligible training provider list. Robert Fitzpatrick noted that all the training courses presented for consideration are eligible and the Operations Committee recommends them for approval.

         Motion: The Operations Committee recommended approval of the Action Item 19-04
         Second: Tyane Dietz
         In Favor: All
         Oppose: None
         Abstain: Rebecca Burkhalter, Laura Bush, Tim Ditoro
         Motion: Passes

         Rebecca Burkhalter, Tim Ditoro and Laura Bush declared a conflict of interest.

B. Business Services Committee Reports
   1. Committee Activity
Committee Chair Tyane Dietz reported that the Business Services Committee did not meet, but that the committee was looking for suggestions from board members for consideration as Employer Awards nominations.

2. Briefing Item
   a. Texas Rising Star Banquet

3. Discussion/Possible Action
   a. Action Item 19-05 Employer of the Year Nominees
      1. Large Employer of the Year
      2. Small Employer of the Year
      3. Local Employer of Excellence
      4. Veteran Friendly Employer of the Year

C. Executive/Finance Committee
   1. Committee Activity
   2. Discussion/Possible Action
      a. Action Item 19-06 Nacogdoches County Workforce Center
         Mark Durand explained that the current lease for the Nacogdoches County Workforce Center ends August 31, 2019. The Board released a Request for Proposal in February for a five-year lease that will allow for the integration of Vocational Rehabilitation services in the center. Tyane Dietz commented that it is not surprising that there was only one respondent to the RFP, because rental space of that size in the region is difficult to find. She also observed that the Board Staff had done the due diligence related to the project.

         Motion: The Executive/Finance Committee recommended the motion to enter into a five (5) year lease with "The Right Place" and approve the Executive Director to enter into a construction agreement to renovate the Nacogdoches Workforce Center as needed to accommodate the Workforce and Vocational Rehabilitation staff with the construction cost paid by the Texas Workforce Commission Vocational Rehab Services.

         Second: John White
         In Favor: All
         Oppose: None
         Abstain: None
         Motion: Passes

b. Action Item 19-07 Personnel Policies Revisions
   Mark Durand and Finance Director Gini Blackwell discussed several changes to the personnel policy and procedure handbook.

         Motion: The Executive/Finance Committee recommended the motion to approve the policies and procedures as presented.

         Second: Robert Fitzpatrick
         In Favor: All
         Oppose: None
Abstain: None
Motion: Passes

3. Open Session Action, if any, as a result of Closed Session
   None

4. Discussion and Acceptance of Financial Reports
   a. Finance Director Gini Blackwell presented the January and February 2019 financial reports that were accepted by the Executive/Finance Committee.

VIII. Adjourn

   Chair Lisa Balty adjourned the meeting at 3:48 p.m.

   Duly passed and approved on this 14th day of May 2019

   Signed
   WAYNE D. HAGLUND
   Print Name, Title
   Vice Chair

Attest

Karen Stubblefield
Business Development