

Deep East Texas Local Workforce Development Board
Business Services Committee
January 11, 2011
539 S. Chestnut, Suite 300

MINUTES

Members Present:

Tyane Dietz
Charles Rushing
Jim Wark
Garvey Jackson

Staff Present:

Marilyn Hartsook
Sarah Milligan

Members Absent:

Jerry Huffman
Betty Russo
Mark Tullia
Joseph Shannon
Kathleen Hawkins

Visitors:

Jon Bunn

Call to Order

Tyane Dietz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:50 p.m. A quorum was acknowledged and members were reminded of the conflict of interest policy.

Discussion/Action: Approval of Minutes from September 14, 2010

It was noted that the minutes from September 14, 2010, were both called to order and adjourned at 12:30 p.m. Jim Wark made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction of the adjourned time to 1:30 p.m. Tyane Dietz seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

None

Information Items:

None

Briefing Item for Discussion:

Manufacturing Skills Standards: Marilyn Hartsook explained that information on Manufacturing Skills Standards Certification (MSSC) was presented to the committee and the Board in September. The committee asked staff to develop a plan to determine if there is a need for the MSSC by local business. Ms. Hartsook presented the committee with a draft cover letter and survey to review which would be mailed out to approximately 150-businesses that may be interested in the MSSC. If a sufficient number of businesses are interested in the MSSC at the conclusion of the survey, a local training provider would need to be identified to administer the MSSC. After a lengthy discussion, Tyane Dietz recommended that Board staff move forward with the survey.

Synchronist User Forum: Marilyn Hartsook attended the Synchronist User Forum in Chicago in October, 2010. Ms. Hartsook discussed some of the highlights of the conference with the committee. Ms. Hartsook discussed how the system has been successful in the metropolitan areas and how it is not working in our rural areas. Ms. Hartsook emphasized the need for a full-time staff to visit key economic drivers and new and growing companies within the region to obtain available resource information. Ms. Hartsook noted that the system license ends in August 2011, and in spite of staff efforts it will remain unused.

Action Item:

Action Item 11-02: Annual Review of Weekly Work Search Requirements for UI Claimants: Marilyn Hartsook explained that the Wagner-Peyser Act require that the state unemployment compensation system administer work test requirements. The work test includes a determination that an Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimant is able, available, and actively seeking work. As provided by the law UI claimants must make a minimum of three-work search contacts per week in order to be actively seeking work. The Board must review the local requirement for work search contacts annually and may adjust the number of required weekly work search contacts as local labor market information and conditions warrant. The Board's current work search contact requirement is five for all counties. Board staff recommends no change to the number of work search contacts per week for UI claimants in Deep East Texas. Tyane Dietz made a motion to keep the weekly work search requirements for UI claimants at the current number of five. Jim Wark seconded. Motion carried.

Reports:

Contractor Business Services Update: Jon Bunn, Workforce Center Operator, reported approximately 1 million dollars spent on training in 2010. There are 150 adults and 25 in-school youth in training and 8 work experience youth. Mr. Bunn discussed the unemployment rates for Deep East Texas from January 2010 (9.9%) through November 2010 (9.3%), and the slight change that occurred in 2010.

Rapid Response Layoff Notifications and Business Openings Activity: The Committee briefly discussed the Rapid Response Layoff Notifications and New Business Openings for November and December 2010.

Labor Market Information: Marilyn Hartsook reviewed the labor and unemployment statistics for December 2010.

Business Services Oversight Summary: Marilyn Hartsook gave a summary of the report. There were 11,322 job seekers registered, 1,050 job openings, and 306 workers found employment through Work-In-Texas for December 2010.

Adjourn:

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Transcribed by:

Sarah Milligan, Recording Secretary

Date

Approved by:

Tyane Dietz, Committee Chair

Date