East Tennessee Local Workforce Board Retreat Minutes

Tuesday 13 September 2022

Bridgewater Place

Knoxville, Tennessee

Present

Sam Alexander

Pete Barile

Jessica Belitz

Jimmy Brooks

Joe Daugherty

Chris Griffey

Sean Hensley

Cindy Holt

Gary Human

Mark Palmer

Mike Raiford

Angie Respess

Tim Richmer

Grant Rosenberg

Rob Rule

Julie Simpson

Brian Vaughn

Absent

Brad Hale

Windy Noe

Bryan Shoffner

Wyatt Slagle

J.J. Walker

The Retreat began at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and breakfast breads. At 9:00 the new Board and guests were welcomed by Victor Oakley and Janice Cole introduced Rosa Mar and Chris Kahn from Leadership Knoxville. Colonel Paula Penson gave the keynote address. The rest of the morning was spent in team building activities.

At 1:35 p.m. The Board entered into selecting Chairmen and Vice Chairmen for the Youth and Operational/Oversite committees. Grant Rosenberg was selected Chairman and Tim Richmer Vice Chairman of the Youth committee. Pete Barille was selected as Chairman and Sean Hensley Vice Chairman of the Operational and Oversite Committee. The Board also selected Cindy Holt as Chairwoman and Julie Simpson as Vice Chairwoman of the Board. Tonya Randolph will continue as secretary to the Board.

The Board was tasked to add three additional members to the Executive Committee. The motion was made by Julie Simpson and seconded by Grant Rosenberg. Motion to add members was passed. Gary Human, Jessica Belitz, and Tom Payne became Executive Committee Members.

The next item on the agenda was planning the quarterly Board Meetings. The motion to set meetings was made by Cindy Holt and seconded by Mike Raiford. Motion passed. The tentative schedule is 13 December 2022, 14 March 2023, 9 May 2023, and 12 September 2023.

The 13 December 2022, Board meeting will begin at 5:00 with dinner and adjourn at 6:15 p.m. The meeting location is to be determined. The motion to approve December meeting was made by Grant Rosenberg and seconded by Sean Hensley. Motion passed.

Steve Playl spoke next about Commissioner McCord leaving this month and that the focus of the state is on the labor force participation rate. In the state of Tennessee there are 6 million people. The workforce is made up from people sixteen years and older, including military, and institutionalized individuals. In this group 60.3% are working and 39.7% are not working. By 2025 the governor would like the working up to 65%. In 1996 the number of working adults in Tennessee was 67%. The state is concentrating on Justice Involved, returning Military, (Tennessee is 7th highest in nation for returning military) Single parents, and Senior citizens. The state unemployment claims are at 3.3%.

He talked about the Convening for the East LWDA will be November 8th and 9th in Knoxville.

Director Walker talked about our budget being cut by 1.3 million dollars in the last two years, and that we had to figure out how to deliver more services with fewer dollars. The East Tennessee Human Resource Agency is the fiscal entity, East Tennessee State University is the American Job Center career services entity and that University of Tennessee Center for Industrial Services in the One Stop Operator entity. He would like focus in Scott and Cocke county youth to earn $12.00 an hour for up to 500 hours of paid work experience without being hired first in hopes that they would continue employment with their host employers.

At 4:00 p.m. the motion was made for adjournment by Cindy Holt and seconded by Sean Hensley. The Motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned.