

THE VIRGINIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL MINUTES

The Virginia Apprenticeship Council met on Thursday, June 22, 2017 at the Norfolk Scope Arena in Norfolk, Virginia.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Darold Kemp, Chairman
Danny Brookman
Dudley Harris
Ellen Marie Hess
Terry Kelly
Michael Mays
Dr. Leigh Armistead
Rebecca Leinen
Elizabeth Moran for Dr. Glen DuBois
Ray Davenport, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT: Patricia Morrison, Director
Kathleen Eddington, Assistant Director
Delores Ferrell, Apprenticeship Consultant
Rick Brooks, Apprenticeship Consultant
Maynard Stowe, Apprenticeship Consultant
Dr. Tom Cecere, Related Instruction Educational Specialist
Lynn Murphy, Related Instruction Educational Specialist
Christy Matelis, Lead Generation Specialist

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Chairman Darold Kemp called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and welcomed everyone. Council members introduced themselves. Chairman Kemp welcomed Ms. Rebecca Leinen to her first council meeting. He acknowledged the presence of Doris Crouse-Mays (Virginia AFL-CIO).

Registered Apprenticeship Director, Patricia Morrison explained that several staff members were present because of the Apprenticeship Job Expo happening later that afternoon. She introduced staff members Kathleen Eddington, Delores Ferrell, Rick Brooks, Maynard Stowe, Dr. Tom Cecere, Lynn Murphy and Christy Matelis. Director Morrison also introduced Larry Dotolo (Virginia Tidewater Consortium for Higher Education) and Sarah Parker (City of Norfolk) who were also co-hosting the Expo.

Chairman Kemp thanked the staff of the Norfolk Scope for their hospitality.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

No Comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On proper motion and second, the minutes for the Council meeting held on Thursday, March 16, 2017 were approved by Council members by roll call vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dr. Megan Healy, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Services and Employment Engagement for the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) gave a legislative update. She shared that, beginning July 1, VCCS will look at Registered Apprenticeships and award academic credit for skills and competencies obtained by apprentices. A faculty group at each community college will convene in order to evaluate those skills and competencies in order to determine the credit awarded. The college will then offer additional courses so that the apprentice can earn an associate's degree. Each community college is accredited separately, but there is an effort underway to ensure that all twenty-three (23) institutions are consistent in the credit awarded.

REPORTS:

Virginia Apprenticeship Alumni Association (VAAA):

Chairman Kemp mentioned the VAAA sends out flyers for their annual golf tournament in September. Historically, the Council has supported the Alumni Association by sponsoring a hole. Danny Brookman will assist with that process. Alumni Association raises money for scholarships for outstanding apprentices and career and technical education (CTE) instructors.

Virginia Employment Commission (VEC):

Commissioner Hess stated Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady in May at 3.8 percent for the third consecutive month. Compared to a year ago, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was down 0.2 percentage point. The labor force expanded for the 14th consecutive month to 4,306,169, setting a new record high, and household employment expanded for the 29th consecutive month to 4,144,295, also a record high. The labor force increased by 4,758 in May, as household employment rose by 4,562 and the number of unemployed increased by 196. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which was down 0.1 percentage point in May to 4.3 percent.

Unemployment Claims are at a more than 40 year low. The Unemployment Trust Fund is at \$1,175,200, an all-time high.

The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) has taken leadership role on the Governor's Task Force on Misclassification. The agency has two investigative auditors who were hired under a grant from the USDOL. The grant expires on September 30, the end of the federal fiscal year. VEC is creating classified positions for this work that will be paid for out of the regular agency budget. Also on the Misclassification front, VEC has received its first batch of 1099s from the IRS. VEC will use the 1099s to identify employers who are likely misclassifying workers. The Governor's Task Force had its first meeting as a public facing entity on May 22. It is expected that the Secretary will convene another public facing meeting later this summer.

VEC it to receive 2 million dollars to operate a part of the Rapid Response program. Many are probably aware Martin's Grocery Stores is laying off over a 1,000 workers this summer. VEC has been assisting workers who soon will be laid off from Martin's Grocery Stores. A number of the workers have indicated that they do not wish to stay in the grocery industry, but would rather pursue an apprenticeship. VEC has been working with the Division of Registered Apprenticeship at Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI), to connect these folks with apprenticeships. Commissioner Hess expresses appreciation to Director Morrison and the Division staff for their tremendous level of support and cooperation.

Virginia Community College System (VCCS):

Elizabeth Moran explained the Workforce Credential Grant (WCG) reduces student costs by two thirds for those good paying jobs in high demand fields. Ms. Moran reported 5,458 students enrolled, 3,930 training programs completed, and 2,068 credentials attained by students. Every dollar of this pay for performance fund has been expended. Time and additional data on employment outcomes will help tell the whole story, but early signs point to a wise investment on the part of the Commonwealth.

Division of Registered Apprenticeship:

Director Morrison began by giving an update on the numbers for the Division for the current fiscal year:

- Total Apprentices: 15,959
 - 3,605 are newly registered apprentices
 - Department of Corrections: 481 apprentices
 - Department of Military Affairs National Guard: 571 apprentices
 - US Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP): 4,158 apprentices
 - Private Industry/Public Sector: 9,749 apprentices
- Certificates of Completion Issued: 1,983
- Total Sponsors: 2,182
 - New or Re-activated Sponsors: 330
 - § New Sponsors: 242
 - § Re-Activated Sponsors: 88

In the past, the Division has not captured the number of signatories or membership with group programs either on the JAC/JATC side or the association side. Director Morrison has learned that most other states send out a letter once a year requesting that information so that they can truly see which employers are touched with the RA program. The Division staff is considering developing a letter to get a more accurate picture.

Director Morrison expressed that this has been a very busy year for the Division. Over the course of the year, three new Registered Apprenticeship Consultants have been hired—one each for the offices in Verona, the Central Region, and Roanoke. There are now 14 field consultants providing service to the community. Additionally, an Apprenticeship Education Specialist has been hired. Two contractors have joined the team to assist in executing initiatives related to the Apprenticeship USA Accelerator Grant.

Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI):

Commissioner Davenport informed the Council that the silica standard in construction that was adopted by OSHA last June will become effective on June 23. In April of this year, OSHA delayed the effective date for 90 days, pushing it back to September 23. However, the decision was made for the VOSH effective date to remain on June 23. Any delay in enforcement would require action by the Safety and Health Codes Board. Time did not allow DOLI to give notice, hold a meeting, and publish the change to the effective date. For further information, interested parties are urged to visit the Agency website.

As a reminder, the VOSH increase in maximum penalties will go into effect on July 1.

Simultaneous to the recruiting happening in the Registered Apprenticeship Division, VOSH is also recruiting. Commissioner Davenport shared with the Council that VOSH is in the process of screening and interviewing for six (6) additional positions—three (3) consultants and three (3) VPP coordinators.

Filling the Registered Apprenticeship Consultant position in the Roanoke is a great opportunity for growth for the Division. Southwest Virginia and, specifically, Roanoke offers great potential for a lot of Registered Apprenticeship activity.

Commissioner Davenport thanked the City of Norfolk, the staff of the Norfolk Scope and all of those who have worked to host the Apprenticeship Job Expo. He encouraged all Council members to stay for the Expo as it has always been a well-received event.

The Commissioner closed his remarks by thanking the Council for their time and service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Kemp announced that the next Council meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 21, 2017 at 10am at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (Richmond, VA).

Chairman Kemp thanked the Council, Director Morrison, her staff, and all in attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Mr. Darold Kemp, Chairman

Mr. C. Ray Davenport, Secretary