

APPROVED 9.17.15

THE VIRGINIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL MINUTES

The Virginia Apprenticeship Council met on Thursday, June 18, 2015, at the Henrico Theater, Highland Springs, Virginia.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Darold Kemp, Chairman
Danny Amos
Dr. Robert Benson
John Biagas
Danny Brookman
Steven Foster
Dudley Harris
Ellen Marie Hess
Terry Kelly
Michael Mays
Ray Davenport, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT:

Beverley Donati, Division Director
Delores Ferrell, Apprenticeship Consultant
Marco Pineda, Division Supervisor
Jessica Waddy, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Chairman Darold Kemp called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Chairman Kemp welcomed everyone. He thanked Henrico Public Schools and the staff at the Henrico Theater for hosting the Council. Council members introduced themselves.

Chairman Kemp acknowledged in the audience Mr. Norris Williams, President of the Virginia Apprenticeship Alumni Association.

Registered Apprenticeship Director, Beverley Donati introduced Delores Ferrell, Apprenticeship Consultant, Marco Pineda, Division Supervisor and Jessica Waddy, Administrative Assistant to Director Donati.

Chairman Kemp acknowledged a special guest in the audience, Mr. Ron Leonard, Multi State Director, US DOL, Office of Apprenticeship. Mr. Leonard addressed the Council by stating he was bringing greetings from the Regional Director, Thomas Bydlon. Mr. Leonard stated he has been in this position for approximately two years and looks forward to working with Director Donati, her staff and the Council in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

No comments offered by Council members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Director Donati made a clarification that in the minutes dated March 19, 2015, it stated double apprentices over the next five years, five years is the President's goal however the Division of Registered Apprenticeship's goal is two years.

On proper motion and second the minutes for the Council meeting held on March 19, 2015, were approved by Council members by roll call vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Approval of New Occupation – Digital Electronic Court Reporter

Prior to the meeting the Council received a packet of information pertaining to this request for review.

Director Donati introduced Marco Pineda, Division Supervisor. Mr. Pineda thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak and gave a brief description of the importance of the potential sponsor's request to have the occupation of Digital Electronic Court Reporter approved which will assist with the hiring of veterans. Mr. Pineda introduced Dr. Steven Killings and Tonie Wallace. Dr. Killings briefly addressed the Council on behalf of the Veteran Reporters and the Academy for Veterans Education and Training. Dr. Killings stressed that the Digital Electronic Court Reporter will address two workforce needs - lack of professionals in the field and unemployment of our veterans. The apprenticeship program is a 2 year program that will provide both Vocational and National Certifications. Upon conclusion Dr. Killings asked for questions from the Council.

A motion was properly made and seconded and passed by roll call vote.

This occupation will be forwarded to the US DOL, Office of Apprenticeship, for approval for national use.

Request for Exemption from Examination

Mr. John Biagas, Chairman of the Exemption from Examination Subcommittee – Sponsor 2003-02R initially registered in 1961, has apprentices in four occupations three of which are licensed. Upon review the sponsor meets all requirements and it is the opinion of the committee that the sponsor be granted exemption as requested.

A motion was properly made and seconded and passed by roll call vote.

Request for Approval of Revised Minimum Standards for Apprenticeship

Director Donati addressed the Council regarding the proposed revised Minimum Standards for Apprenticeship. It was noted that the difference in the current Minimum Standards and the revised appear in the references. Last revision was in 2000. The revised Minimum Standards for Apprenticeship will go into effect July 1, 2015.

A motion was properly made and seconded and passed by roll call vote.

REPORTS:

Virginia Apprenticeship Alumni Association (VAAA):

Mr. Norris Williams gave a brief overview of the VAAA. Four scholarships, \$1000.00 each, will be awarded for 2015. The 2015 golf tournament will be held on September 24th at The Hollows.

Virginia Employment Commission (VEC):

No report from Ms. Hess.

Virginia Community College System (VCCS):

No report available.

Division of Registered Apprenticeship:

Director Donati reported that her staff recently has been completing apprentices, delivering certificate of completions and attending graduations.

At the last meeting Director Donati reported on the American Apprenticeship Initiative grants being issued by US DOL. Five were submitted from Virginia that the DOLI, Division of Registered Apprenticeship, were asked to partner with and write letters of support. Governor McAuliffe and the Congressional Delegation also wrote supporting letters. No announcement made to date.

Update on the transfer of ARI responsibilities to VA DOLI – the IT divisions from VCCS and DOLI are working to transfer data.

Dr. Tom Cecere has joined the Division of Registered Apprenticeship team as an Apprenticeship Related Educational Specialist. He has many years of experience in education and Registered Apprenticeship.

A staff meeting was held in May. Time was dedicated to best practices to be able to give technical advice and support to sponsors with high cancellation rates, with the ultimate goal of increasing the number of credentials issued. The consultants were charged with examining statistics of sponsors with high cancellation rates and those with low cancellation rates and high completion rates. Sponsors identified were asked to share practices they use in hiring and techniques used to assist in the success of their apprentices. Waiting six months after hiring to register the employee as an apprentice was the common theme.

Director Donati reported the following numbers from July 1, 2014 to June 17, 2015:

Active Apprentices – 14,271

3,960 Certificate of Completions Issued.

2,147 represent sponsors that are identified for performance measures.

With an additional 1,813 apprentices completing through USMAP.

Total 18,231 apprentices served during this time period.

Active Sponsors – 2,235

A total of 328 new registrations

217 were new sponsors

101 were reactivated (meaning inactive for two or more years)

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY:

Commissioner Davenport began by stating the transition from VCCS to DOLI is moving forward and thanked Randy Stamper and his staff for their assistance.

The hiring of a new Apprenticeship Consultant is underway and hopefully will be finalized by the middle of July. Recruitment will begin for an Administrative Support person to assist with ARI responsibilities and support Director Donati.

Commissioner Davenport thanked Director Donati for her dedication and hard work.

Commissioner Davenport reminded all in attendance along with all sponsors to please "Work Safe", unfortunately during the last two weeks we have had two workplace fatalities that VOSH is investigating.

The agency had a "Safety Stand-Down" in May and asked employers to do additional safety training in fall protection and hopefully employers/employees will continue to focus on this issue.

To date, fourteen fatalities have been investigated in Virginia by VOSH.

A new VOSH policy will go into effect July 1, 2015 regarding Worker Misclassification. Outreach materials were available on the resource table.

Commissioner Davenport ended by thanking the Council for their continued support.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Kemp announced the next Council meeting will be September 17, 2015 at Confederate Hills Recreation Center, Highland Springs, VA.

Chairman Kemp thanked the Council, Director Donati and her staff and all in attendance. Meeting adjourned 10:50 a.m.

Mr. Darold Kemp, Chairman

Mr. Ray Davenport, Secretary