

APPROVED

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VIRGINIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL MINUTES Thursday, September 21, 2006

The Virginia Apprenticeship Council (Council) met on Thursday, September 21, 2006 at Confederate Hills Recreation Building, 302 Lee Avenue, Highland Springs, Virginia 23075. Chairman Barry Baker called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M.

COUNCIL MEMEBERS PRESENT:

Barry W. Baker, Chairman
Earl Dickerson
Dudley Harris
Darold Kemp
Don Lilywhite for Commissioner Dolores Esser
Everett Patterson
Dr. Steven Staples
Lynn Taylor, II
Gloria Westerman for Dr. Glen DuBois

STAFF PRESENT

C. Ray Davenport, Commissioner
Beverley Donati, Division Director
Reba O'Connor, Policy and Planning Specialist
Frank Dellinger, Policy Analyst

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Chairman Barry W. Baker called the regular scheduled quarterly meeting of the Virginia Apprenticeship Council to order. The presence of a quorum was established.

Chairman Baker expressed the Council's appreciation to Henrico County Public Schools for hosting the Council meeting.

Council members introduced themselves. Apprenticeship staff members introduced themselves. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship Training, State Director Jim Walker introduced himself and Office of Apprenticeship (formerly BAT) representatives.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment offered.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

No comments were offered by Council members

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On proper motion and second the minutes from the June 15, 2006 Council meeting were approved unanimously by role call vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to come before Council

NEW BUSINESS:

Standing Subcommittees:

a. Ad Hoc Subcommittee:

Mr. Kemp reported that the subcommittee did not meet this quarter.

b. Exemption from Examination Subcommittee:

Mr. Dickerson reported that sponsor number 2002-01 had met all of the requirements for exemption renewal. Mr. Dickerson moved that sponsor 2002-01 be exempt from the licensing examination for the period of four years. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by role call vote.

c. Update Perkins Funding:

Dr. Staples reported that the President has signed Perkins Funding with additional education accountability requirements. The funding remained level for this year. There were no questions from the Council.

d. Regulatory Review:

Ms. O'Connor reviewed the Periodic Review of Existing Regulations briefing package. Commissioner Davenport asked the procedure for expanding or clarifying existing definitions. Ms. O'Connor replied that the process would be as described. Dr. Staples questioned the proposed time requirements. Ms. O'Connor described the timelines. Ms. O'Connor reported at this time staff is recommending that Apprenticeship Council regulations be retained without any amendments.

Mr. Dickerson moved Council approval for staff to begin the regulatory review process. Mr. Kemp seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by role call vote.

e. Outstanding Apprentice Awards:

Chairman Baker appointed the following Council members to serve on this committee: Mr. Dickerson, Mr. Bess, Mr. Taylor, and Dr. Staples will serve as chairman.

Virginia Apprenticeship Alumni Association:

Mr. Harris announced that the Alumni will hold its Third Annual Golf Tournament following the Council meeting at the Highland Spring Golf Course. He thanked Gary Duff for chairing the event this year. The VAAA will meet following the Council meeting on December 14, 2006 immediately following the Council meeting.

REPORTS:

Virginia Community College System:

Ms. Westerman reviewed the Apprenticeship Related Instruction Report previously distributed. She reported that the number of registered apprentices were lower than in previous reports. She cited several reasons including all data had not been entered by the providers. She further explained that several sponsors registered with DOLI provide related instruction outside of VCCS. This would include but not be limited to:

the U.S. Navy, Department of Corrections, and Northrup Grumman Newport News, and Norfolk Naval Shipyard. Commissioner Davenport recommended that information between DOLI and VCCS be exchanged more frequently. There were no questions from Council.

U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship:

Mr. Walker addressed the Council. Greetings were extended from the USDOL, OA national and regional offices. He announced that FY 06 will end September 30, 2006. Mr. Walker reported that the OA staff had met their goals. He also reminded Council that as retirements occur, OA staff will not be replaced in SAC states. Mr. Walker concluded by thanking the Chairman for his years of dedication and support and wished him well in retirement. Chairman Baker thanked Mr. Walker.

Division of Registered Apprenticeship:

Ms. Donati reported that the vacancies in the Richmond Regional Office have been filled; Winchester interviews were held and the applicants are being evaluated. To date there are 13,070 apprentices registered and 2,214 registered sponsors representing 2561 employers; and 2823 programs. She reported that 359 Certificates of Completions were issued between August 1 and September 20, 2006. All of the staff members participated in the Workforce Development and Economic Development Public Meetings that were held across the Commonwealth. Strategic plans from the Office of the Secretary of Commerce and Trade and the Office of the Senior Advisor on Workforce Development will be presented to the Governor. Registered Apprenticeship was discussed in breakout sessions in each of the meetings. A grant by the Office of the Senior Advisor for Workforce Development using WIA funding has been awarded to produce two 30 second PSAs and a video to be distributed to high schools in the Commonwealth. The Governor has taped a message to be used for the PSAs. Letters to sponsors inviting nominations for the 2006 Outstanding Apprentice Awards have been mailed. Ms. Donati ended by thanking the Council members for their support and for taking the opportunities to share information about registered apprenticeship.

Department of Labor and Industry:

Commissioner Davenport reported that the SAC Review by the USDOL, OA would take place on September 26, 2006. He discussed challenges in recruiting staff not only in apprenticeship but agency wide. The Compliance Safety Officer and Industrial Hygienist apprenticeship programs are operating successfully. Currently there are 19 apprentices registered. A new program, Safety Consultant is being developed and will be registered soon. Commissioner Davenport reported that federal grant funding has not recognized the Commonwealth's last two raises. This is creating budgetary pressures throughout the agency. He shared that Safety Compliance Offices are being hired in private industry at 50 to 100% salary increases. Commissioner Davenport expanded more on the proposed PSAs reported earlier. One PSA will be targeted to potential apprentices; the second to potential sponsors. A longer video will be developed to be distributed to high schools targeting teachers, guidance counselors, parents, and potential apprentices. The Department of Human Resources Management has requested a presentation of DOLI's apprentice programs and the advantages offered to state agencies. Commissioner Davenport and Todd Cook will present this information at the annual DHRM Conference. Commissioner Davenport ended by congratulating Chairman Baker on his upcoming retirement and for all of his support over the years. He encouraged him to come back to visit often. Chairman Baker thanked Commissioner Davenport for his remarks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dr. Staples announced that a General Assembly Subcommittee is studying a proposal that would strengthen the tie between the standard diploma and career and technical education. He reported that generally educators were supportive but watching closely. Legislation is expected to be drafted and presented.

Commissioner Davenport reported to the Council the previously reported safety challenges with career and technical programs in relationship to homebuilding. The Agency recognizes how beneficial the programs are

but also that in the previous administration it had become apparent that safety was not part of the curriculum. Since that time DOLI has worked cooperatively with DOE to correct this omission and to strengthen the work experiences offered. Commissioner Davenport stated that he was a speaker at the VA Trade and Industrial Educators Conference in Roanoke. The DOE Director of Career and Technical Education told the 400 plus in attendance that DOE supported DOLI and not only did they support but that the educators were expected to teach the VOSH safety standards. The question and answer session went very well. Commissioner Davenport wished to report publicly of the “huge leaps and bounds in that area” and to thank DOE for their cooperation.

Dr. Staples addressed the Council as Vice Chairman. He recognized Mr. Walker who presented a Certificate of Appreciation from the USDOL, OA to Chairman Baker. Ms. Westerman expressed her gratitude for Mr. Baker’s leadership and support that he had given to her as a Council member. She stated that a letter of appreciation and congratulations would be forth coming from the Chancellor. Commissioner Davenport presented a Resolution in Recognition of Dedicated Service to the Commonwealth of Virginia and to the Apprenticeship Council and also a Certificate of Appreciation. Vice Chairman Staples presented a plaque on behalf of the Council in appreciation of Mr. Baker’s dedication to the Council as both a member and chairman. Mr. Baker responded to each presentation. A standing ovation followed the presentations.

Mr. Baker addressed the Council and those present. He began by thanking Governors Wilder, Allen, Gilmore, Warner, and Kaine for the opportunity to serve on the Virginia Apprenticeship Council. Chairman Baker thanked DOLI staff and Mr. Walker for their commitment and support. He stated that he began as an apprentice Sheet Metal Mechanic or Tinsmith and with this base, he had “become successful beyond my wildest expectations.” Mr. Baker highlighted work experiences and successes. He stated that he was “leaving the program in Virginia in good hands....and will continue to be to be an advocate of the program forever.” Chairman Baker ended by wishing everyone the best of luck in the future. The audience responded with a standing ovation.

Ms .Barb Hancock-Henley advised the Council that HB 1442 is in Subcommittee. This bill would require that two of the six elective credits be career and technical related. There were no questions from the Council.

The next Council meeting will be held December 14, 2006 at Confederate Hills Recreation Building, Highland Springs, VA.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Barry W. Baker, Chair

C. Ray Davenport, Secretary