

**BERKS COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
(WDB)**

**7:30 a.m.**

**December 11, 2015**

**Reading Area Community College's Schmidt Training and Technology Center  
15 North Front Street, Rooms 119 and 121  
Reading, PA 19601**

**Meeting Summary**

**Members Present**

Ms. Patricia Adamczyk  
Ms. Debra Antol  
Mr. Thomas Brizek  
Mr. John DeVere  
Ms. Marianne Egolf  
Ms. Kristi Gage-Linderman  
Mr. Robert Harrop  
Ms. Carole Homolash  
Ms. Joanne Judge  
Ms. Ruth Mathews  
Mr. Thomas McKeon  
Mr. Brian McMahan  
Mr. Peter Pellicano  
Ms. Laura Rader  
Mr. Michael Rowley  
Mr. Mark Schlott  
Mr. Russell Showers  
Ms. Connie Skipper  
Mr. Pablo Tejada  
Mr. Karyn Troxell  
Dr. Anna Weitz  
Ms. Tammy White  
Mr. Chester Winters

**Members Absent**

Mr. Stephen Borza  
Mr. Modesto Fiume  
Mr. Tom Herman  
Mr. William Hornberger  
Ms. Peggy Kershner  
Mr. Lewis McCoy, Jr.  
Mr. John Morahan  
Mr. Mark Pinkasavage  
Mr. Gregg Riefenstahl  
Ms. Jennie Rodriguez-Priest  
Mr. Edward Swoyer

**Staff and Guests Present**

Mr. Daniel Fogarty  
Mr. Alan Fineman  
Mr. John Moser  
Mr. Rory Stevenson  
Ms. Patricia Spencer  
Ms. Auria Bradley  
Mr. Doug Keim  
Ms. Terri Lampe  
Mr. Walt Fullam

Berks County Workforce Development Board Staff  
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Reading Area Community College  
Reading Area Community College  
Manufacturers Resource Center  
Penn State Berks-Lehigh Valley

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rowley at 7:40 a.m. and a quorum was present.

Dr. Weitz, President of RACC, welcomed the Board to the Schmidt Training and Technology Center and said she was pleased to host this meeting. She introduced Mr. Keim and Ms. Bradley, both RACC staff members, and extended an invitation to the Board to stay for a tour of the Center after the meeting.

Mr. DeVere, who before retiring, served as Vice President of Workforce and Economic Development at RACC, shared a brief history of the Center stating that the original vision was for a Science and Tech Center, but it was found, through extensive studies, that a Training and Technology Center was clearly needed. The Center which evolved from that study is a “world class” advanced manufacturing and information technology training facility.

Newly appointed Members—Ms. Marianne Egolf and Ms. Karyn Troxell—were welcomed by Mr. Rowley. Mr. Rowley also said that Mr. Pellicano was retiring from Brentwood Industries and that this would be his last Workforce Development Board meeting. He thanked Mr. Pellicano for his many years of service.

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted unanimously upon motion by Mr. Winters and seconded by Ms. Mathews.

The Executive Committee report was introduced by Mr. Rowley. He said Mr. Fineman guides the Committee through the complications of expenditures very well. Despite the State budget impasse, sufficient funding to pay CareerLink contractors was able to be “drawn down” for funds owed to them for the July-September 2015 period. Mr. Rowley noted that the Board is fully compliant with all WIOA Board membership requirements. Committee assignments for new Board members will take effect January 1, 2016. Finally, the Board was notified by the State that Berks would be part of a WIOA regional planning area along with five partner WD Boards (Philadelphia, Bucks, Montgomery, Chester and Delaware) in the SE PA PREP region.

Ms. White referred to the Youth Committee report saying that under the new guidelines a broader range of youth can be reached and asked the Board to approve a policy on Additional Assistance Barrier for Youth Eligibility. Mr. Showers moved to adopt the policy; the motion was seconded by Mr. Harrop and approved unanimously. She said the Committee approved the addition of \$119,541 to the ResCare budget allowing the WDB to meet the 80% obligation rate for 2015 funds. The additional funds will be used to hire additional staff and to expand program elements to additional locations.

The PA CareerLink Oversight Committee report was introduced by Ms. Rader. Specific points from the report were noted: a representative from the Allentown Unemployment Compensation Service Center provided information to 33 employees of Bill’s Khakis; Trade Act enrollment/Assessment/Waiver meetings for Surgical Specialties were held; and the Fall Job Fair 2015 was held at the Designers Place at the VF Outlet complex having a record number of 86 employers participating with 97 total exhibitors. Mr. Rader added that 801 job seekers braved the wind and rain to attend. A Spring 2016 Job Fair will be held on May 2 from noon to 5:00 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza in Wyomissing.

Mr. Fogarty urged Board members to network and to get in touch with Ms. Adamczyk or Ms. Rader when information is available about upcoming layoffs so there is adequate time to get information out to workers about services.

Ms. Judge referred to the Training and Industry Partnership Committee report. Mr. Fiume and Mr. Kistler, Opportunity House, provided the committee with an informative presentation on the creation of an innovative community reuse/recycle program. The very successful enterprise called OppShop is located in the Kmart Plaza on North Fifth Street and opened in July, 2015. Ms. Judge said that four occupations were slated for removal from the 2015 Berks County High Priority Occupation list but were reinstated due to a successful regional petition campaign by the Berks WDB. An exploratory committee will be formed in collaboration with area hospitals, healthcare providers and community-based organizations for the purpose of developing a Berks County Health Care Industry Partnership. Dr. Weitz said that RACC can offer free ESL training.

There was discussion on investigating the possibility of combining ESL and CDL at Berks Career and Technology Center.

The Q1 PY16 Performance Measures report was explained by Mr. Moser. There was a data error in the Youth Literacy/Numeracy goal that has been corrected. All the measures were met and four of the nine measures exceeded the negotiated goals. Mr. Rowley reminded the Board that Workforce Development Boards are judged on their Performance Measures.

Mr. Fogarty, referring to the Staff and COO Report, said that the local labor market has recovered from the recession with October's local unemployment rate at 4.7%. 202,500 Berks County residents were employed in October, exceeding the previous record high of 201,500 reached in May. His report gave a summary on the Berks County WDB's Priority Industry Sectors/Outlook for 2016: Manufacturing (Priority A—Driver Industry), Healthcare and Social Assistance (Priority B—Sustaining Industry), Logistics, Transportation and Warehousing (Priority C—Watch Industry), Agriculture (Priority C—Watch Industry) and noted that Construction could be another possible Watch Industry. He added that the Industry Sectors chosen were determined by the Policy, Planning and Priorities Committee chaired by Mr. Winters.

Mr. Fogarty commended Mr. Stevenson for his management of the Make It in America application. He added that there is a tremendous coordination between CareerLink and RACC. Mr. Fogarty also thanked Ms. Adamczyk, Mr. Fineman and Mr. Moser for their input, cooperation and expertise whenever new State guidance comes out.

Mr. Rowley opened the floor for nominations for the Chair's position for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2016. Mr. Pellicano moved to nominate Ms. Judge as Chairperson and Ms. Rader seconded the motion. No other nominations were offered. All members voted in favor of the election of Ms. Judge.

Mr. Pellicano then moved to nominate Ms. Gage-Linderman as Vice-Chairperson for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2016 and Ms. Rader seconded the motion. No other nominations were offered. All members voted in favor of the election of Ms. Gage-Linderman.

Ms. Judge said that the Board recognized Mr. Rowley's leadership and service for the past three years. Mr. Rowley said that "this is a great organization to work with" and that he will serve on Mr. Winters' Policy, Planning and Priorities Committee and on the Executive Committee.

Ms. Gage-Linderman was appointed Chairperson of the Training and Industry Partnership Committee and Mr. Schlott was appointed as Co-Chairperson of that Committee.

Market Intelligence was described as: keep your eyes to the sky and ears to the road.

There being no public comment, Mr. Fogarty introduced Ms. Lampe, the new Business Development Manager at the Manufacturers Resource Center. Dr. Weitz introduced Ms. Bradley, saying she does a great job with the Literacy Program and ESL.

Mr. Rowley noted that the 2016 WDB meetings would be held on March 18, June 17, September 16 and December 9.

Mr. Fogarty asked Board members to complete the Conflict of Interest Forms included in their packages and to submit them before leaving the meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Winters moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Pellicano seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Guests were invited to tour the Schmidt Training and Technology Center following the meeting.