

# LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING

Location: Virtual Meeting & Virginia CareerForce  
Date: March 10, 2022  
Time: 11:00 a.m.  
Facilitator: Marie Domiano

## Minutes

- I. **Call to Order:** 11:13 am by Commissioner Adee
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Commissioner Adee, Commissioner Walsh, Commissioner Mills, Commissioner Ives; Commissioner Niemi Excused: Commissioner McDonald Absent: Commissioner Proulx Staff: Domiano, Helms
- III. **Approval of Agenda:** Move to approve 3-10-22 agenda by Commissioner Walsh, seconded by Commissioner Mills, no discussion, unanimously passed and approved.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting: 1-13-22,** Motion to approve with no corrections or additions by Commissioner Mills second by Commissioner Niemi, no discussion, unanimously passed and approved.
- V. **Old Business:** No old business.
- VI. **New Business**
  - a) **Funding Update:** Modified our Federal Adult and Dislocated worker plans to move funds from individual training to the Talent Development Program (TDP) for incumbent worker training. We have seen decreased dislocated workers, so more incumbent worker training dollars to aid businesses in training current staff. Fiscal year ends June 30<sup>th</sup> on track for federal and state programs. DHS program started 1/1/22 and everything is progressing according to plan.
  - b) **Discontinuation of Pre-ETS:** Pre-Employment Transition Services program (Pre-ETS) began about 4 years ago. JET is a sub-contractor for Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS). At onset a grant was awarded to the agency. The federal government modified how the state administered funds. Instead of issuing the grant money upfront, first services are rendered, then we must ask for reimbursement for those services provided. Piloted this program in Koochiching and Itasca Counties. VRS continuously modified program requirements, making invoicing and the reimbursement process extraordinarily difficult. These changes along with VRS allocating grant dollars to individual staff, that have since left the organization, JET has decided not to proceed with offering Pre-ETS services any longer. JET will still deliver the same services to schools through our normal funding streams. Long term strategy of agency does not supported by Pre-ETS effort. Focus shifted to those with chemical dependency, criminal backgrounds, and mental health barriers. JET will leverage its resources to pursue grants that align with this vision. JET will be able to apply to provide Pre-ETS services in the future if we so wish. Ultimately, this high cost, low return program is not in the best interest of the organization. Our current contract ends June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2022, we will not submit for another contract.
  - c) **Joint Powers Agreement Discussion/Insights:** Looking to see if there are resources, accounting systems, phone systems, or other infrastructure resources, we could partner with the counties to benefit JET since we are a local unit of county government. Niemi

mentioned occasionally meeting with the county board would be valuable so they know our programs and services and can visualize potential partnerships or support. This effort could be increased. The board wonders about the return on the investment. They wonder what we are benefiting from the participation, and it would be beneficial to communicate this back to the board. We have partnered with economic development in Aitkin County, as well as in the Aitkin school. Mills: In other regional groups the relationship with the counties is defined by state statute on how it was formed how and why it was formed. Different groups have different structures, and different fiscal agents, and there are advantages to integrating or staying separate. If there are things within JET that could be partnered or streamlined with the county it could be beneficial, however, some services are expensive to use through the county. Must examine what the needs for the organization are and where opportunities to partner are most beneficial. Deeper dive into by-laws might be beneficial and could be brought to the LEO for review.

- d) **Drug Policy Implementation:** Implemented a drug and alcohol testing policy driven by work experience and on the job training opportunities for our youth. Also pertains to JET staff in the instance there is reasonable suspicion.
  
- e) **WDB Nominations:** Working on engagement, fresh people, more action focused. Wayne Kangas, chair, and Marie are working on growing and updating board.
  - a. Eric James – IRE/Mesabi Range College
  - b. Maria Bellamy – Allete

Motion to approve both by Walsh, support by Ives unanimously passed and approved.

VII. **County Updates**

- VIII. **Adjournment:** Motion to Adjourn by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Walsh. Motion unanimously passed and approved. Adjourned at 12:14pm.



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Tara Helms, Recording Secretary



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[Commissioner Thomas Proulx \(Jul 14, 2022 09:57 CDT\)](#)

Tom Proulx, LEO Secretary





# 3.10.2022 LEO Minutes (2)

Final Audit Report

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