



## **MID-CAROLINA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

**July 11, 2023**

**Sampson Community College**  
1801 Sunset Ave, Clinton, NC 28328

### **Members Present:**

Ms. Phyllis Godwin (Representative of Workforce – Registered Apprenticeship)  
Ms. Juanita Hooker (Representative of Education and Training – Vocational Rehabilitation)  
Ms. Denver Hopkins (Representative of Business) - Virtual  
Mr. Michael Jackson (Representative of Business)  
Mr. Gregory McElveen (Representative of Education and Training – Higher Education) - Virtual  
Mr. Naynesh Mehta (Representative of Business) - Virtual  
Ms. Michelle Muir (Representative of Ed/Training – Wagner-Peyser Act/State Employment) - Virtual

### **Members Absent:**

Mr. Ken Adelberg (Representative of Business)  
Mr. Kevin Brooks (Representative of Business)  
Mr. Curtis Brown (Representative of Workforce – Registered Apprenticeship)  
Mr. Hugh Carr (Representative of Business)  
Mr. Jimmy Keefe (Representative of Business)  
Dr. Jon Matthews (Representative of Education and Training – Adult Education and Literacy)  
Mr. Tony McKinnon (Representative of Workforce – Labor)  
Mr. Jerry Milton (Representative of Business)  
Mr. Jeff Nethercutt (Representative of Business)  
Mr. Chuck Spell (Representative of Business)  
Mr. Scott Tart (Representative of Business)  
Mr. Robert Van Geons (Representative of Education and Training – Economic Development)  
Mr. Bartley Warren (Representative of Business)

### **Guests Present:**

Mr. Glenn Adams (Cumberland County Board of Commissioners) – Virtual  
Mr. Stephen Barrington (Sampson County Economic Development Commission)  
Ms. Amanda Bradshaw (Sampson Community College)  
Ms. Erin Cain (Sampson Community College)  
Ms. Amy Epley (NC Community College System)  
Mr. Victor Glover (Division of Workforce Solutions)  
Mr. Raymond Godsave (DWS – Cumberland County)  
Ms. Sonja Godsey (Equus)  
Ms. Anitra Hart (Harnett County Government) - Virtual  
Ms. Jennifer Holcomb (EDPNC)  
Mr. Jamie King (Sampson County Schools)  
Ms. MaryAnn Lawrence (PowerNotes LLC - Virtual)  
Ms. Charlotte Leach (Harnett County Government) – Virtual  
Mr. Robert Locklear (MyFutureNC)  
Dr. Jolee Marsh (Fayetteville Technical Community College)  
Ms. Julia McKenzie (Division of Workforce Solutions) - Virtual  
Ms. Katelyn O’Neal (Sampson Community College)  
Mr. Alonza Royal (Sampson Community College)

Ms. Regina Smalls (DWS – Moore County)  
Dr. Bill Starling (Sampson Community College)  
Ms. Angie Stewart (Harnett County Economic Development) - Virtual  
Ms. Sandra Webster (DWS – Sampson County)

**Staff Present:**

Ms. Peggy Aazam  
Mr. Ray Bolton  
Mr. Matthew Fowler  
Mr. Justin Hembree - Virtual  
Ms. Tamara Hodge  
Ms. Verna Jones  
Ms. Karmen McRae  
Ms. Leronta Williams

**I. Call to Order and Introductions**

Ms. Amanda Bradshaw, Dean of Workforce Development & Continuing Education with Sampson Community College, welcomed attendees to Sampson Community College and introduced Dr. Bill Starling, Sampson Community College President, who provided additional words of welcome.

The July 11, 2023, meeting of the Mid-Carolina Workforce Development Board was called to order by Board Chair, Mr. Naynesh Mehta, at 10:07 am. Mr. Mehta read the Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest statement to the Board.

**II. Approval of Minutes from April 4, 2023 MCWDB Meeting**

Motion to approve minutes was tabled due to not having a quorum.

**III. MCWDB Chair Report**

**a. North Carolina Association of Workforce Development Boards (NCAWDB) Quarterly Chairs Meeting**

Mr. Mehta provided an update of the NCAWDB Quarterly Chairs Call that took place on June 15, 2023. Mr. Mehta encouraged collaboration with County Schools to boost training and employment opportunities for youth. Ms. Phyllis Godwin spoke about Harnett County's LEAP program initiative.

**b. Standing Committees**

Mr. Mehta explained that the MCWDB standing committees are paused as the Board is reorganized as a result of the transition of Montgomery and Moore Counties to the Mid-Carolina Local Area.

**IV. MCWDB Director Report**

Mr. Matthew Fowler, Executive Director of Workforce & Talent Development, introduced Ms. Karmen McRae, WIOA Title I Program Manager.

**a. PY23 Budget**

Mr. Fowler reported that PY23 allocation amounts have been released. While the Mid-Carolina Local Area received an overall increase, in part due to the addition of Montgomery and Moore Counties, there were several areas that saw reductions from the previous program year. Staff are in the process of reviewing County-specific program allocations in order to determine the contract budgets.

**b. Annual Workforce Plan**

Mr. Fowler reported that Mid-Carolina received conditional approval of their PY23 Local Area Plan. Outstanding items are related to the realignment; staff are working to get the remaining items resolved as soon as possible. Funding is contingent on LA Plan approval.

**c. Request for Proposal (RFP) for One-Stop Operator (OSO) Services**

Mr. Fowler explained that Ms. MaryAnn Lawrence, the consultant hired to assist with the realignment and reorganization of the Mid-Carolina Workforce Development, will facilitate the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the One-Stop Operator for Cumberland, Montgomery, Moore, and Sampson Counties. A task force of the MCWDB will review proposals and make a recommendation to the full Board for a contract to begin January 1, 2024.

**d. Mid-Carolina Local Area realignment update: Welcome Moore & Montgomery**

Mr. Justin Hembree, Executive Director of the Mid-Carolina Regional Council, welcomed Montgomery and Moore Counties to the Mid-Carolina Local Area. He explained that while neither county is within the Mid-Carolina Council of Government (COG) area (Montgomery is under Piedmont Triad and Moore is under Triangle J), having them part of the Mid-Carolina Workforce Local Area will provide opportunities to explore innovative partnerships with the neighboring COGs. Staff are working on tying up the administrative loose ends as a result of the realignment and look forward to serving the region.

**e. My Future's So Bright Summer Program**

Ms. Verna Jones, Deputy Director, shared that the Mid-Carolina Regional Council received \$90,000 from the City of Fayetteville for the My Future So Bright (MFSB) Initiative, which is designed to create strong partnerships throughout the City of Fayetteville while serving youth populations and giving them crucial career exposure opportunities. While the goal of the Initiative is to provide local youth with training for future employment, especially within in-demand occupations, there is also an opportunity for the Mid-Carolina Workforce Development Board to streamline local resources that would serve to benefit future projects within Fayetteville (and the

surrounding areas). Through the partnership, participants of the program, ages 14-22, will be paid \$15 per hour and receive training on soft skills that are vital to achieving employment and career success including workshops on effective communication, self-esteem, and etiquette. Following successful completion of this training, participants will be placed in worksites across Fayetteville that will give them critical exposure and firsthand experience in career fields of their interest that will provide them knowledge on how to advance their future careers. Although this initiative is specific to Fayetteville residents and businesses due to the source of funding, the program itself can be replicated throughout the region. There will be a ceremony to conclude the program at 10:30 am on August 11<sup>th</sup> at Fayetteville Technical Community College.

**f. Mid-Carolina Workforce Website**

Ms. Jones reported that the Mid-Carolina Workforce website is scheduled to launch August 1<sup>st</sup>. The website will contain information about who we are, what we do, and why it matters, and will encompass news and information regarding all five counties within the Mid-Carolina Local Area. Mr. Ray Bolton, Business Services Manager, requested partners and representatives to share events and highlights of their respective areas.

**g. Mid-Carolina Side by Side Initiative**

Ms. Jones shared that Mid-Carolina Workforce staff will be volunteering monthly in pairs at community-based organizations across the region. The whole team will volunteer together in the month of December.

**h. Mid-Carolina Workforce Newsletter**

Ms. Leronta Williams, Business Services Coordinator, reported that the Mid-Carolina Workforce Newsletter will be emailed monthly with labor market information, events, and highlights of the NCWorks Career Center and from around the region. Partners and representatives were encouraged to make suggestions and to share events and highlights of their respective areas for inclusion in the newsletter.

Ms. Jennifer Holcomb announced that CNBC reported North Carolina was named the top state for business for the second consecutive year.

**V. Equus Solutions (WIOA Title I Service Provider) PY23 Overview**

Ms. Rochelle Brown, Regional Director of Equus Workforce Solution, provided an update on Equus' role as the WIOA Title I Service Provider in Cumberland and Sampson, as well as Montgomery and Moore as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. She explained that they are learning the region, to include the needs of employers and populations most in need. Staff are in the process of determining the PY23 budget. Ms. Brown said they continue to make adjustments to do more with less resources and appreciate the ongoing support.

## **VI. Career Center Reports**

Career Center Managers and Service Provider Managers provided updates for their respective Centers, much of which was referenced in the written report. Mr. Raymond Godsave and Ms. Sonja Godsey for Cumberland County; Ms. Sandra Webster and Ms. Godsey for Sampson County; Ms. Anitra Hart for Harnett County; Ms. Regina Smalls for Moore County; Ms. Sandra Clyburn from Montgomery County was experiencing technical difficulties connecting to the meeting.

## **VII. Follow up and Open Discussion**

## **VIII. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:08 am.

**Save the Date: MCWDB Meeting Tuesday, October 3, 2023 @ 10 am in Cumberland County  
(location to be determined)**

