

# Virginia Board of Workforce Development

## Access and Equity Committee MINUTES

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Meeting Date: 9/19/2019 1:00 PM | Meeting location [The Virginian Lynchburg, Curio Collection by Hilton](#) 712 Church Street, Lynchburg, Virginia, 24504, USA

**Meeting called to order** by Thomas Bell

**Members present**

Thomas Bell, Chair  
Julie A. Gifford, Vice Chair  
Lane Hopkins  
Frank Ruff  
John Dougherty  
Jonathan Ward

**Members Absent**

Jae K. Davenport  
Senator Bill DeSteph  
Xavier Beale  
Melissa McDevitt

**Staff Present**

Dr Robert M Walker Jr  
Pam Hinterlong

**Guests:**

Dr Megan Healy  
Randy Stamper

## AGENDA

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Agenda topic: *Public Comment Period* | Presenter *Thomas Bell* | Reference

Discussion: Members and Staff present introduced themselves. No members of the public were present.

Conclusion: N/A



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Agenda topic: *Meeting Minutes* | Presenter *Thomas Bell* | Reference

Discussion: Review minutes from last meeting

Motion was made by Lane Hopkins and seconded by Jonathan Ward to accept the minutes.

Conclusion: Minutes from the June 19, 2019 meeting at *Goodwill – Richmond Community Employment Center, 6301 Midlothian Turnpike, Richmond, Virginia 23225* approved.

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Agenda topic: *Discussion of Committee Goals and Objectives* | Presenter *Dr. Megan Healy* | Reference Annotated Agenda; Virginia Board of Workforce Development Orientation and Retreat

- Discussion: Dr. Megan Healy, led discussion by first presenting an overview of the new committee's objectives and goals. Dr. Healy led a brief discussion on the current barriers to employment. Dr. Healy then led discussion centered around five questions; What jumps out at us? Which of these can we prioritize? Should we focus on the easy wins or more challenging factors? How do we incentivize businesses to work with people who experience barriers? What industries can bend? At the conclusion of the discussion it was decided that the committee will initially have two subcommittees Veterans- transitioning spouse subcommittee and a subcommittee that will address Opportune Youth both Out of school youth and in school at risk.

The following barriers were identified during discussion:

- Disability
  - Mental Health
  - Substance abuse
- Lack of education
- Veterans-spouses
- Adult Basic Ed
- Immigrants – refugees
- Out of school youth 18-24
- TANF, food stamp recipients
- Special populations with specific barriers to employment
- Rural areas- transportation. Child Care
- Strategies to upscale current workers- lack of skills
- Criminal background

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Agenda topic: *Plan for next committee meeting* | Presenter *Thomas Bell* | Reference

Discussion: Next Committee will be in Richmond in November. At November meeting committee will review the regional youth plans. Dr. Healy will send executive summary of reports (regional youth plans) when



available for members to review. Date and location will be finalized based on the outcome of a doodle poll that will be sent out by Staff.

Conclusion: The committee will meet in November at a site to be determined located in Richmond.

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Agenda topic *Closing* | Presenter *Thomas Bell* | Reference

Discussion: Any further comments, thank you.

Motion made by Lane Hopkins and seconded by Julie Gifford to adjourn meeting

Conclusion: Meeting Adjourned 2:00 P.M.

