



## Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation

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### Local Elected Official (LEO) Board Meeting Notes June 25, 2018

The Local Elected Official (LEO) Board of Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation (CPWDC) held a meeting Monday, June 25, 2018 at Union County Government Center, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

#### **LEO Board Members Attending:**

Commissioner Kenneth Holdren- Montour County  
Commissioner Lee Knepp - Snyder  
Commissioner David Kovach – Columbia County  
Commissioner John Mathias – Union County  
Commissioner Richard Mirabito- Lycoming County  
Commissioner Pete Smeltz – Clinton County

#### **LEO Board Members Voting by Proxy:**

None

#### **LEO Board Members Excused:**

Commissioner Stephen Dunkle – Mifflin County  
Commissioner Michael Pipe – Centre County  
Commissioner Richard Shoch – Northumberland County

#### **Guests Attending:**

Jay Alexander

#### **Staff Attending:**

Brooke Gessner  
Celia Hussar (intern)  
Korrie Lucas  
Erica Mulberger

#### **Call to Order and Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Pete Smeltz, LEO Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:21 a.m. after adjourning from the Annual Meeting of Members. He noted a quorum was present and offered warm welcome to workforce development board chair, Jay Alexander.

- ***Commissioner Holdren made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2018 LEO Board meeting. Commissioner Mathias seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.***

#### **Public Comment**

No comments were made.

#### **Funding and Program Updates**

##### **Fiscal Year 19 Budget**

Erica Mulberger, CPWDC Executive Director reported a FY 19 funding increase attributable to a higher allocation in WIOA Title I formula funds as well as four new competitive grants received. In-depth information and budgets will be presented at the joint LEO/WDB meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Additionally, Erica reported anticipated success with the 2018 State/Local Internship Program (SLIP) program. CPWDC requested nearly \$267,000 to support businesses in hiring 50+ interns this summer and the grant has been fully funded. She expressed gratitude to the LEO for helping with outreach to businesses and noted Pete's success given the number of interested companies in Clinton County.

##### **Unemployment Compensation (UC) Resolution**

William "Bill" Trusky, Jr. has been named deputy secretary for Unemployment Compensation programs with the Pa Department of Labor & Industry. He recently met with local WDB Directors during a Pennsylvania Workforce Development Association (PWDA) meeting and Erica reported he openly addressed concerns and asked for time to effectively tackle them. He has a plan for UC staff to be available in the PA CareerLink<sup>®</sup> offices during the busiest times, such as when seasonal jobs end. He also committed to hiring more people and changing the call center hours to meet customer demand.

Discussion ensued amongst the commissioners regarding the need for agencies and different departments to communicate effectively with the best interests of constituents in mind.

##### **WorkKeys<sup>®</sup>**

While attending a meeting with a group working towards development of a community college in the Northumberland, Snyder, Union area, Erica was privy to a presentation from ACT, the makers of WorkKeys<sup>®</sup>.

ACT was marketing a new initiative where communities are recognized as “ACT Certified”, that is with a certain number of people who have passed the assessment and a certain number of employers who endorse it. At present, the community college group is unsure of their commitment to WorkKeys®. Some individuals at the community college meeting expressed interest in learning more; there was discussion that a site selector catalog pulls ACT statistics as part of the overall data for each county but it was unclear to economic development partners whether companies actually use that indicator.

Commissioner Holden expressed concern about duplication of efforts since PA CareerLink® staff are trained in administering the assessment. Pete inquired as to what is necessary to become certified. Erica explained to become a certified community, two people from each county must attend a two-day training with ACT in Memphis at a cost of \$6,000 per county. She and the commissioners discussed and came to the conclusion that if it is determined to be in a county’s best interest to become certified, it may make sense for someone from CPWDC to attend the training and serve as one representative from each county along with another who is poised to promote the initiative with businesses in the county. Also discussed was that ACT should be asked to bring the training to the Central Region if certification is pursued. Further, Erica explained that to be certified, there would be commitment to promote WorkKeys and negotiation with ACT would be needed to determine what the goals would be.

Commissioner Kovach expressed support of WorkKeys® from a job seeker aspect because it clearly shows the skills a person has allowing them to showcase skills to be hired.

Commissioner Mirabito questioned how many companies recognize WorkKeys® now to which Erica responded 700 employers in the region are or at one time were aware of it, but it’s not heavily recognized as credential by employers currently; over 6,000 people have taken the assessment.

Commissioner Smeltz asked for thoughts regarding whether certification seems to be something that could be beneficial to any of the counties. Commissioner Mathias recommended moving forward with a strategy businesses want rather than pushing something on businesses. For example, hearing directly from companies that inability to pass a drug test is one of the main reasons for unfilled vacancies, strategies should align to help with that problem. Commissioner Mirabito further added that lack of soft skills is a main issue and it may be more productive to put energy there rather than WorkKeys® certification. More discussion was held and the LEO determined time is needed to think about how certification might benefit their individual counties.

#### Mentoring

Erica reported that a mentoring training opportunity will be made available via a successful Strategic Innovation grant application; this will be discussed in depth during the joint LEO/WDB meeting.

#### **Open Discussion**

None.

#### **Adjournment / Date of Next Meeting**

CPWDC’s Executive Committee will meet August 3, 2018; LEO Board members are invited to attend for informational purposes.

The LEO Board meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Korrie Lucas