



RUTLAND REGION WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

FEBRUARY 11, 2025, 8:30 AM

MEETING DETAILS

Virtual: Teams Meeting, ID: 288 673 665 898, Pass: 8ak7Ck

In-Person: 16 Evelyn Street, 2nd Floor, Rutland, VT 05701

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Michelle Daniels (GE), Amanda Richardson (SVTAHEC), Wendy Morse (VDOL), Ellen Coyle (City of Rutland), Devon Neary (RRPC), Maria Burt (Hireability), Melissa Connor (STC), Wendy Morse (VDOL), and Brian Kerns (RRMC)

Other: Tracy Gallipo (PHS), Karimah Edwards (RRPC)

MEETING MINUTES

8:30 CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting for informational purposes only.

8:35 APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 11TH AGENDA

Motion by Coyle. Seconded by Richardson. Approved by voice vote.

8:36 APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 10TH MINUTES

Motion by Coyle. Seconded by Morse. Approved by voice vote.

8:38 OPEN TO PUBLIC

None present.

8:40 DECEMBER 2024 FINANCIALS

Neary presented the financial summary for December 2024. For informational purposes only.

8:45 REGIONAL UPDATES

1. Coyle (City of Rutland): Registered for career fair in April at area schools. Coyle will be attending as well as representatives from Fire and Police as well. First time we have had three departments actively participating in career awareness. The City of Rutland is offering temporary position at DPW. City would like to participate in the Bring Back the Trades.
2. Gallipo: Working on Bring Back the Trades. VTSU-Castleton will be hosting a Career Pathways fair on April 9th.



RUTLAND REGION WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

3. Connor: STC will be working on BBTT. Pre-Tech Exploratory program will be geared at 10th graders to give them experience at STC for a year. Hosting the CEDRR Mixer today (2/11).
4. Morse: VDOL will be a sponsor for BBTT and also involved in the Career Pathways event on April 9th. VDOL will focus on financial aid and financial skills. VDOL will host two financial reality fairs in Rutland and Bennington. Planning for Job Fest, which is a partnership with Hireability, for the first event on May 8th in Rutland.
5. Kerns: Recently hired VTSU-Castleton nursing school director which will be a great partnership since RRMC hires many VTSU-Castleton nursing graduates. Beginning second on-site LNA training program at RRMC, pays participants to go to school for LNA, which can then advance to LPN and RN. RRMC internship program is returning for high school seniors or college students.
6. Richardson: Working with RRMC volunteer services and the teen volunteer program, including students from RHS. Spring is college and career fair month so there are a lot of events, including events at Otter Valley and Fair Haven. Host 25 internship students for placement throughout southern Vermont. Hosting a session of Governors Institute for 70 high school students at VTSU-Castleton for health careers.
7. Daniels: Second summer internship program planning for this summer with 5 interns. There were challenges for students that were 17, especially for labor rules. Will apply for grant from VDOL for a work place learning. Planning another class for an apprenticeship program. Recruitment continues to focus on hourly side for those with limited experience in manufacturing. For salary side the challenge continue to be lack of housing. Morse and Connor both mentioned how much the students enjoyed the GE internship.
8. Burt: New partnership to increase opportunities for high school students with disabilities. Will also be hosting a mock interview events ahead of the April and May career fairs.
9. Edwards: Bridge Program is partnership with BBTT to do outreach for the program. The first cohort is going to be small with only 10 students and happening in fall in 2025. The Bridge Program Committee continues to develop the criteria and programming.

9:00 NEXT STEPS

Neary discussed how the RRWIB should focus on regional collaboration and the WIB will continue to evolve to focus on information and resource sharing. Morse agreed and stated that working in the workforce development space, there are so many programs and there is a need to collaborate and braid services and programming. Connor suggested a “retreat day” to pull in partners for an annual strategy. Will need to find a time that works for schools and workforce development folks, which may be



RUTLAND REGION WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

October/November or January/February. First year could be research/polling to focus objectives/purpose and then set a recurring schedule. Will add this to the agenda for April. Karimah to send out a doodle poll and outlook calendar for future meeting schedule.

9:30 ADJOURN

Motion by Neary to adjourn. Second by Morse. Adjourned at 9:21 AM.