

DACC Existing Business and Workforce Development Committee

12-Mar-21

8:45:00 AM

Virtual

Meeting called by	Phil Gaffney
Type of meeting	Existing Business and Workforce Development Committee
Facilitator	
Note taker	Anita Patel
Adjourned	9:09:00 AM
Attendees	Phil Gaffney, Hugh Hollar, Jean Garniewicz, Ron Thigpen, Kerry Bridges
Staff/Guests	Robbie Bennett, Anita Patel, Taylor Edwards

Meeting Agenda

2 minute(s)	Phil Gaffney	
Discussion	A motion to approve the Agenda for the March 12, 2021 Existing Business and Workforce Development Committee Meeting was made by Jean Garniewicz. Second: Hugh Hollar. The motion carries unanimously (4-0).	
Conclusions	None	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	N/A	N/A

Minutes of Previous Meeting

>1 minute(s)	Phil Gaffney	
Discussion	A motion to approve the minutes for the January 8, 2021 meeting was made by Jean Garniewicz. Second: Hugh Hollar. The motion carries unanimously (4-0).	
Conclusions	None	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	N/A	N/A

Old Business

0 minute(s)	None	
Discussion	None	
Conclusions	None	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	N/A	N/A

New Business		
0 minute(s)	None	
Discussion	None	
Conclusions	None	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	N/A	N/A
Updates		
30 minute(s)	Robbie Bennett, Taylor Edwards	
Discussion	<p>Taylor Edwards shared the following update:</p> <p><u>Existing Industry</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many engagements with personal visits to existing industry. - Most discussions were in regards to (1) COVID & how to get employees vaccinated and (2) wage data - Wage data requests, posting jobs, support activity in terms of labor force are the types of assistance requested. - Companies are adapting to offering higher wages, offering benefits immediately and retention strategies. - All counties are having wage conversations , how to engage workforce participation, wage analysis and wage planning are becoming very important with the new companies offering higher wages and benefits packages. Internally, companies are working on "culture" and the rigidness of wages seems to have softened to become more competitive so as to retain current employees and attract new employees. - Working with Adela Kelley who is in the process of developing an online, virtual existing industry council. - Aiken, Augusta/Richmond County, Columbia County in discussions about a regional workforce study. - Goal to launch a wage survey by May 2021 and then do another one next year to see if there has been an effect on wages with the opening of the new companies in the region. <p>Robbie Bennett shared the following updates:</p> <p><u>Regional Workforce Study</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Robbie is presenting the results from this study on Wednesday March 17th at the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce's kickoff meeting for their Executive Luncheon series for 2021. <p><u>Teachers In Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DACC helped sponsored this event with the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce . A digital library of videos has been created. This has been an opportunity to engage employers in the area, and discussion is to expand this library to showcase and serve as a resource to educators and the local community about the jobs available and skillsets needed in the area for talent recruitment and retention programs. - SRSCRO - funding available that is earmarked for workforce development programs that have a regional impact including the creation of a regional job board. The goal is to create a regional talent recruitment tool. - The committee discussed housing affordability in Columbia County vs. labor force wages. 	
Conclusions		
Action Items		Deadline
None	N/A	N/A
Adjournment		9:09:00 AM
Conclusions	Motion to adjourn: Hugh Hollar. Second: Ron Thigpen. Motion carries unanimously (4-0)	
Next meeting: May 14, 2021	Virtual	All