



**CRWC Workforce Investment Board
Meeting Minutes
GoToWebinar
February 11, 2015, 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Attendance:

Andrea	Anderson	Murphy Brown LLC	Human Resources Manager
Jerry	Barber	Crowley County	Private
Clarke	Becker	Colorado Rural Workforce Consortium	Director
Debbie	Bell	Fremont County	County Commissioner
Keith	Brown	CRWC	GP IV
Vicky	Casey	UAACOG - UA WFC	WIA Program Director Director, Division of Employment and Training
Bill	Dowling	CDLE	Commissioner
Keenan	Ertel	Montezuma County	TTA Division Director/SUCAP
Dawn	Farrington	SUCAP/The Training Advantage (TTA)	Manager
Karen	Ferrington	Colorado DVR	Human Resource and Public Relations Manager
Peggy	Gair	Royal Gorge Bridge & Park	Executive director
Tracey	Garchar	Mesa County WFC	Supervisor
Shannon	Garcia	Southeast/South Central Region Colorado Department of Labor and Employment	Executive Director
Ellen	Golombek	CRWC	Board Liaison
Christy	Gonzales	CRWC	Project Manager
David	Griffin	CRWC	Exalted Ruler Director, Human Resources - Colorado Region
George	Hanzas	Rocky Ford Elks Lodge #1147	Administrator SCSEP
Scott	Harrell	Peabody Energy	HR Director
Audrey	Krebs	CDHS	Exec Director
Jeannie	Larsen	Southeast Health Group	Executive Director
Kari	Linker-Nation	MCEDC	Director
Judy	Lohnes	UAACOG	Senior Regional Manager and Health and Wellness Champion
Ray	Lucero	CDLE - Western Office of Economic Development and International Trade	Pueblo and Upper Arkansas Regional Director
Meridith	Marshall	Rural Consortium	Director
John	Martinez	Colorado Mesa University	HR/Payroll
Joey	Montoya Boese	Everist Materials	Sr. Instructional Designer
Erin	Mumma	Education Edge Now	Workforce Director
Tish	Nelson	Rocky Mountain SER	
Leon	Ortega		

Angie	Oswalt	CRWC Admin Team	Grants and Contracts Manager
Rosemary	Pettus	Northwest and Rural Resort WFCs	Regional Director
Greg	Pope	GKP Consulting	CEO
Chris	Romer	Vail Valley Partnership	President
Frank	Schoengarth	Broomfield Health and Human Services	Workforce Director
Bill	Strutton	CDLE-CRWC	Upper Arkansas Regional Supervisor Program Specialist/Business Community Liaison
Caren	Swales	Job Corps	Director
Betty	Velasquez	SC & SE	Regional Supervisor
Chloe	Wiebe	SW Colorado Workforce Center	CRWC Quality Assurance Analyst
Nancy	Wrigley	CDLE - CRWC	Owner
Ronnie	Zaday	Wolf Creek Traders Inc.	Commissioner
Karn	Stiegelmeier	Summit County	
		San Luis Valley Development Resources Group	CFO
Roni	Wisdom		Area Manager
Kathy	Worthington	Xcel Energy	County Commissioner
Ray	Garcia	Huerfano County	
Dawn	Garcia	Colorado Dept of Labor	Regional Director

Welcome & Opening Comments

Clarke Becker, CRWC Director
Roni Wisdom, CRWC WIB Chairperson
Commissioner Debbie Bell, CRWC LEO Chairperson

November 2014 Meeting Minutes Approval*

WIB:
Motion to approve November 2014 Meeting Minutes by Jerry Barber, Crowley County
1st: Audrey Krebbs, CDHS
2nd: Kari Linker, Morgan County Economic Development

LEO Board:
Motion to approve November 2014 Meeting Minutes
1st:
Unanimous electronic approval

February 11, 2015 Meeting Agenda Approval*

WIB:
Motion to approve February 2015 Meeting Agenda: Ronnie Zaday, Wolf Creek Traders
1st: Caren Swales, JobCorps
2nd: Jerry Barber, Crowley County

LEO Board:
Motion to approve February 2015 Meeting Agenda
Unanimous electronic approval

CRWC WIB Membership*

Introduction of Chris Romer, Vail Valley Partnership. The Rural Resort Region appointed a new Workforce Investment Board Chair at the January meeting by nominating Chris Romer of the Vail Valley Partnership. Chris Romer was appointed to the Rural Resort local board on July 17, 2013 and has accepted the Chair position.

WIB:

Motion to approve addition of Chris Romer to the CRWC WIB by Roni Zaday

1st: Jeannie Larsen, Southeast Health Group

2nd: Caren Swales, JobCorps

LEO Board:

Motion to ratify addition of Chris Romer to the CRWC Workforce Investment Board

Unanimous electronic approval

Steve Ivancie was the Routt County commissioner and served as the LEO representative from the Northwest Region. He was not re-elected.

Karen Ferrington has served on the Rural Consortium WIB since September 2013. Karen is retiring from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Doug Hinkley also served on the WIB since September 2013. He no longer works with GPS Source in Pueblo. Doug represented the private sector from the Technology industry.

Jeff Patterson served on the WIB since July 2007. He is now working in an oil field near Denver, CO.

“Around the Consortium”

The latest accomplishments and endeavors the Rural Consortium sub regions have been engaged with at the local level. Regional highlights and testimonials of business and job seeking customers were shared including

The Rapid Response Program provides guidance and information for businesses facing corporate restructuring and downsizing. Services include: Job placement assistance On-site layoff transition workshops Information on the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Act (WARN) Guidance on establishing an on-site career (outplacement) center to assist affected employees with their future employment needs. Services to help reduce employee attrition prior to the defined layoff date.

Oxbow Carbon has owned and operated an underground coal mine in the heart of Colorado’s historic coal mining region for over two decades. Located on the banks of the Gunnison River operates the Elk Creek Coal Mine, which is currently idled due to a seismic event. In the past, the mine has produced nearly 4 million tons annually of low-ash, low mercury super-compliant bituminous coal for the domestic and international power markets. Delta County continues to experience the effects of these layoffs. Several small employers have laid off workers as a result of the reduction in mining jobs. The area has seen many miners leaving to find work outside of the area which will impact the schools in the future.

St. Vincent Hospital – Leadville The hospital has been an institution for the community for 135 years, employed 144 staff and is a major loss for the residents of Lake County. Since the announcement of the St. Vincent Hospital District closure, Leadville workforce staff has provided several Rapid Response presentations for hospital staff. Approximately 107 staff members will be affected but many already have positions in other medical centers.

Evraz & Davis Wire - Pueblo EVRAZ/Rocky Mountain Steel has announced a layoff of 200 employees at the tube mill in Pueblo. The company produces seamless pipe for the gas industry and the demand for the product has recently slowed down. It is hoped that the workers will return to work in the near future as the need for gas production increases again.

Alco closings - several in Rural Colorado.

The economy in Pennsylvania was very bleak with few jobs and very little chance of finding one. It took guts for James to move to another state where he had no family or support system. With his wife and his three young boys loaded into their battered mini-van he headed to Colorado in hopes of finding work. They chose Cañon City because it looked like a nice place on the map.

Staying at the Best Western Motel, James was told by the motel manager (an employer served by the Cañon City Workforce Center) about the jobs at the Cañon City office. The entire family arrived at the Center, and the three young boys were very well behaved as the Workforce Center staff took an extraordinary amount of time providing James with tons of job search resources as well as a hot lead to Vestas Towers in Pueblo who were desperately seeking welders to begin work right away.

“The James Gang” saddled up and burned up the highway to the Pueblo Workforce Center, where James successfully passed the strenuous testing regimen, was sent out for an interview, passed the welding test, and started his new job at Vestas Towers as a welder at \$17.00 per hour. The successful collaboration between the Upper Arkansas and Pueblo Regions resulted in fast-track employment for James.

The Rural Resort Region Rifle Workforce Center moved to a new location at 216 W. 3rd Street in Rifle, as of February 1st.

Workforce Center staff across the Consortium has been attending training, hosted by Department of Human Services sharing ideas and strategies for working with customers that are low income or have challenges entering the labor force.

George, “I would like to share information about two of the six funding projects supported by the Youth Council”

The first one is, The Southwest region held its second annual PoWeR (Post-Secondary Workforce Readiness) Career Fair. It was held at Fort Lewis College on January 8th. An estimated 1,600 high school students from Animas, Bayfield, Big Picture, Durango, Ignacio and Pagosa Springs High School attended with the help of over 150 volunteers. Each student attended three, 45-minute sessions exploring career options. Many volunteers sat on one of the 41 panels classified by industry. The most popular categories were fine arts, criminal justice, health science, business and marketing.

The second one is the Montelores youth event was held at the Mancos-Cortez Campus of the Southwest Colorado Community College in November 2014. This project introduces over 800 students from the Southwest Region. These students were introduced to career opportunities based on the “Career Clusters”. Additionally, the Career Fair has panel offerings on workforce readiness, college readiness, and military. These panels provide preparatory information for College, inclusive of 2-year and 4-year Institutions, soft-skills for workforce, and military opportunities. This collaborative included partner, such as business and industry representative, the Workforce Centers, The Training Advantage, the High School, and other community organizations that provide services to youth.

The Youth Council is planning the Youth Case Management Conference and it will be held in Glenwood Springs on May 13, 14, & 15, 2015.

The Southeast region city of La Junta was recently named in Global Trade Magazine as one of America’s best cities for global trade and was noted as having a great business environment, a well-educated or skilled workforce, and is a globally minded city. It was also cited for its strategic location from where a business can grow their global reach. Based on this information the La Junta workforce center staff is excited and ready to assist with increased activity based on this report.

The center will serve as the hub for the Colorado’s first-ever, toll-free statewide hotline to report suspected child abuse and neglect. The hotline will provide one, easy-to-remember number and is a component of Governor Hickenlooper’s Child Welfare Plan “Keeping Kids Safe and Families Healthy.” Calls to the hotline will be routed to the appropriate county through the hotline connection center. Callers who are not sure of the county, speak a language other than English or Spanish, or are deaf or hard of hearing will be directed to a hotline connection

center representative who will assist them in identifying the appropriate county. The hotline will always be answered by a real person, 24/7.

Fit Republic – pictured above is Felix Jesus, Jr., owner of Fit Republic, with Tonya Owsley of San Luis Valley Development Resources Group. In a region of the country known for nurturing world-class distance runners, the opening of a new business in Alamosa caters to the nutrition needs of fitness enthusiasts. This past weekend Fit Republic opened its doors providing nutritional supplements for the daily runner, the gym rat, and extreme athletes.

CRWC Results In Action

In September at Mesa County Workforce Center and in November at the GoToMeeting, the SWOT Analysis results:

- Local awareness
- Getting the word out
- Accountability
- State level awareness and exploration
- Partnerships
- Regional meetings supporting the efforts
- Outreach to local business
- Eyes and ears to the community
- Limited opportunities to market WFC services
- Accountability
- State level awareness and exploration
- Build partnerships...best when developed relationships locally
- Regional meetings supporting the efforts
- Outreach to take place

“Hire for Colorado”

On January 8th, Governor Hickenlooper launched a new program assisting the long-term unemployed get back to work. The program is being administered by the CDLE.

It’s been called a Catch-22: the longer you are unemployed, the more unemployable you may seem to be.

At the new website, www.hireforcolorado.com, employers who can look past a long stretch of unemployment are asked to sign an “employer pledge,” telling those job seekers that if they have the right skills and the capacity to learn and grow, they will be given a fair shot.

At the website, employers can explore options for hiring targeted groups, post jobs and learn about work experience and on-the-job training incentives that will give them the opportunity to try out a candidate.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act

Roni Wisdom encouraged anyone knows of anyone in their local area that is interested in learning more about the Rural Consortium Workforce Board, please get that information to the Executive Committee. They will be invited as a guest. This includes the mandatory partners and private business.

Roni further encouraged engagement with a list of “What Can You Do Today?”

- Forward the Hire for Colorado to five businesses that you know of....
- Sign up – Take the Pledge
- Talk to someone in your local community that may fit the needs for our system..... (one of the partners)
- Refer a business to the WFC

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: May 6-8, 2015 – La Junta, CO