

Business Resources & Opportunities Committee (BROC) Minutes

Meeting Date: December 6, 2022 (4:00PM) via Zoom

Present: Marcus Cutrell, Krystal Watson, Kirstin Bradley, David Carroll, Hillary Robertson(staff), Amber Morse (staff)

Absent: David Loope

1. **Call to Order:** Krystal Watson called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the September 2022 meeting were provided to committee members. A motion to approved was provided by Marcus Cutrell with a second provided by David Carroll. With no discussion the minutes were unanimously approved.
3. **Business Services Updates:** Committee members were provided with November's business services metrics in their meeting packet. Amber reported that the business services team has started to meet regularly again, and she has been providing some training for them for the first few meetings to get them going as most members are newer staff. Marcus reported the Career Centers have hosted some well attended job fairs in the past month, even with challenges with employers. Krystal brought before the committee the idea to plan a "Peanut Drive Job Fair" working with the employers located on or close to Peanut Drive in Edenton. Krystal and Amber are to discuss later how to begin the planning of that event.
4. **OJT Wage Review:** Amber presented the current living wages for each county per the living wage calculator. She reminded the members that per the NWDB OJT policy the minimum OJT wage must be review yearly. Krystal asked for clarity on the benefits of OJT other than the salary reimbursement such as travel and childcare assistance. David Carroll commented that rural counties, such as Dare, are struggling to find workers due to the distance they have to travel, and the cost associated with that travel, making OJT a plus. David Carroll noted that as a representative of labor he would like to see the minimum wage increase. Marcus and Krystal both expressed concern over employer's ability to pay a higher wage. David Carroll requested the average wage increase amount and for the committee to consider increasing the OJT wage according to the average wage increase. Amber to calculate that percentage and send to the committee the next day.
5. **Strategic Plan Review:** Krystal reviewed the BROC strategic action plan goals with the group. Krystal asked the committee to review the goals and come up with any ideas, focus points, or suggestions for non-board committee members and bring those back to the January meeting. Krystal asked "Do you feel this committee adds value to yourself and do you bring value to this committee" to the group and asked for conversation. David Carroll

commented that he enjoys the committee and feels that having organized labor at the table brings a different perspective to the committee than you would have from a business owner, however attendance has been a struggle recently for him due to scheduling conflicts and with the new time change that he hopes to be able to attend more often. Krystal suggested meeting with similar committees from other regions to see how their meetings are structured and what we can bring back to make our meetings more effective. Amber to send out the strategic action plan to the group after the meeting.

6. **Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was provided by Marcus Cutrell with a second provided by David Carroll.

Next committee meeting date: January 10, 2023 at 4pm.

Minutes prepared by Amber Morse

Approved by: Krystal Watson

Date: 02 / 10 / 2023

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