

**LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA TEN
SOUTH CENTRAL TENNESSEE WORKFORCE BOARD
SOUTH CENTRAL TENNESSEE CAREER CENTER
JANUARY 12, 2005
MINUTES**

A meeting of the South Central Tennessee Workforce Board was held on January 12, 2005 at 11:30 a.m. at the South Central Tennessee Career Center Marshall County Office, Lewisburg, Tennessee. Members present were as follows:

Barbara Beltz	Tony Beyer	Sandy Calvert	Dwayne Cornelison
Guy Derryberry	James Dixon	Glenn Gordon	Beth Keaton
Sam Kennedy	Victor Lay	Robert Mitchell, Jr.	Pame Moore-Morrow
Pamela Morris	Sam Outlaw	Randy Short	Jim Sloan
John Stephens	Joe Max Williams		

Rick Alexander, Jimmy Copley, Dr. Rebecca Hawkins, Robby Moore, Kathy Pigg, John Rawe, Linda Rochell, and Tim Webb submitted their proxies. Guests present were Hickman County Mayor Steve Gregory, Marshall County Mayor Terry Wallace, Lewis County Mayor Kenneth Turnbow, Jeff Tritapoe, Jeff Smith, Joseph Davis, Angela Sanders, Jack Irby, Teresa Stallings, Joe Fults, Jamie Ledbetter, Eddie Wiles, and Meredith Stinnett. Staff present included Jan McKeel, Rick Molder, Sheryl Jordan, Suzanne Croft, Elaine Newcomb, Joe Beard, Dean Dickey, Gayle Escamilla, Delores Young, and Patricia Lymon.

Terry Wallace, Marshall County Mayor, welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief county overview.

Dean Dickey, South Central Tennessee Career Center Employer Relations Manager, presented the Employer Recognition Award to Pliant Corporation in Lewisburg, Tennessee. Jeff Tritapoe, Plant Manager, accepted the award. Mr. Tritapoe introduced his staff members Angela Sanders, Human Resources and Safety Coordinator, Joe Davis, Production and Technical Manager, and Jeff Smith, Quality Manager. Pliant Corporation, in existence since 1984, produces plastic stretch wrap. The company continues to provide challenging and rewarding jobs with one of the top compensation packages in Marshall County.

Jan McKeel, Executive Director, presented the Partners of the Quarter Award to the Joint Economic and Community Development Committee (JECDC) and the Lewisburg Industrial Board. Eddie Wiles and Jamie Ledbetter accepted the award on behalf of Lewisburg Mayor Bob Phillips and Larry McKnight. Ms. McKeel stated that both these partners have worked with the Career Center on numerous events for the county and continue working with existing and potential employers

Gayle Escamilla, Career Center Manager at the Marshall County Career Center, presented the Youth of the Quarter Award to Meredith Stinnett. Ms. Escamilla stated that Ms. Stinnett had made many accomplishments, including attending Columbia State Community College where she was one of the eight national winners of the Thompson Foundation essay contest and serving

on the Youth Advisory Council for the South Central Tennessee Workforce Board. Ms. Stinnett has been employed at Kantus since June 2003.

Tony Beyer, South Central Tennessee Workforce Board Chairman, called the meeting to order at 12:29 p.m.

The minutes from the October 13, 2004 meeting were approved as written.

Marshall and Maury county board members gave a brief overview of employment activities in each of their counties.

Mr. Beyer deferred to Randy Short to give an update on Marshall County. Mr. Short stated that the combined involvement of the Technology Centers, Marshall County community, and the South Central Tennessee Career Center have made a great impact in providing training to those in Marshall County.

Joe Max Williams and Jim Sloan gave an update on Maury County. Mr. Sloan emphasized the need for the Board to work towards finding ways of improving the aptitudes of individuals for the workforce. Mr. Williams talked about a need for increased marketing and recruiting efforts in the communities to be a competitive factor in maintaining current businesses and industry and recruiting new businesses to our areas. Discussion followed

Mr. Beyer mentioned that Lewis, Perry, and Wayne counties will be on the agenda for county updates from Board members at the next board meeting April 13th in Hohenwald, Tennessee.

Mr. Beyer discussed the honorarium for Rick Alexander for his dedication and service as Board Chairman for the last three years. The scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior from the Hampshire Unit School in Maury County.

Mr. Beyer briefly discussed the upcoming Joint School Board/County Commissioners meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to share information from the e3 Summit with those whom did not have the opportunity to attend. As a result of the meeting, hopes of a taskforce, consisting of representatives from among the counties, would be constructed to study the problems facing the communities and form possible solutions. At this time, there are two meetings scheduled: January 24th in Lewis County at 5:00 p.m. at the Career Center and January 25th in Maury County at 5:00 p.m. at the Career Center. The Board will be informed of future meetings in the remaining counties as they are scheduled. Discussion followed.

Mr. Beyer introduced Robert Mitchell, Jr. with Manpower as a new board member who will represent the Private Sector in Hickman County.

Ms. McKeel reminded the board of the National Association of Workforce Board (NAWB) Forum 2005 Conference being held March 3-5, 2005 in Washington, DC.

Ms. McKeel briefly reviewed the Standing Committee Structure.

Ms. McKeel gave a brief Dislocated Worker Update.

Ms. McKeel reported on Legislative Update. The WIA Reauthorization bill was reintroduced in the House on January 3rd when Congress reconvened.

Ms. McKeel deferred to Sheryl Jordan, Director of Career Centers, to present the OJT Mid Year Review. She stated to-date there are 323 OJT slots, 260 are filled; 193 individuals currently employed, and a retention rate of 75 percent. This does not include the other activities we are doing with employers such as assessments. Ms. Jordan, along with the Employer Relations Unit, is currently reviewing OJT policy and procedures in hopes of bringing back recommendations for improving upon OJT to the Board in April.

In addition, Ms. Jordan gave a Dislocated Worker status:

- Eaton, Hohenwald, TN – Next layoff is scheduled for January 21st
- PlusMark, Franklin, TN – Job Fair was held January 11th. 300 of the 500 employees affected by this layoff reside in our counties.
- Murray, Lawrenceburg, TN – Auction date was changed from January 18 to January 19. A tentative mass meeting event has been scheduled for January 25th if a layoff occurs.
- 1,400 applications were taken for 50 job positions at Bert Co. in Pulaski, Tennessee

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.