



Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 21, 2023 | 2:00-3:30PM
Virtual ZOOM Meeting

I. Call to Order:

Meeting Call to Order at 2:05pm by Chair, Dr. Suzanne Magras.

II. Roll Call:

Council Members in Attendance	Council Members not present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Nesha Christian-Hendrickson, Esq., Assistant Commissioner, Department of Labor Representative and Legal Council ▶ Dr. Michael Francois, VI Board of Career & Technical Education Representative (<i>absent at Roll Call; joined meeting at 2:23pm</i>) ▶ Shenika Sebastien, Director of Youth & Apprenticeship, Department of Labor Representative ▶ Dr. Suzanne Magras, Chair, Apprenticeable Occupations Representative ▶ Carla Scott, Employer Representative ▶ Chris Richardson, Employer Representative ▶ Lindsay Askew, Employee Representative ▶ JoAnn Murphy, VI Board of Career & Technical Education Representative ▶ Tarah Graham-Hodge, Employee Representative 	

Others in Attendance
Michael (Mike) Lawrence, ICF Ed Turnbull, ICF Evelyn Turnbull-Banson, ICF Vinz Koller, Social Policy Research Associates (SPRA) Tsedek Roberts, Department of Labor (joined at 2:25pm)

III. Approval of November 15, 2022 Minutes

Council member Nesha Christian-Hendrickson made motion to approve minutes and seconded by council member JoAnn Murphy. Motion carried and minutes approved.

IV. Report

A. VI Apprenticeship State Office Report - Council member, Shenika Sebastien (Director of Youth & Apprenticeship) and Michael Lawrence (ICF) reported:

Current Program Updates

- Forty-six (46) registered apprentices; Based on projection presented in the November meeting of 18 new apprentices, the State Apprenticeship Office numbers reported exceed the projected numbers.
- Eight (8) registered program sponsor (Plessen Healthcare, Peace of STX, VI Professional Charter Association, Islands Seasfire, The Turning Point, Bureau of Correction, Tropical Treasure Hunt, and Gold Coast Yachts)
- One (1) sponsor canceled program (Therapeutic Massage Center)
- Anticipate fourteen (14) apprentices to complete program in 2023.
- Pending Program Sponsors are 340 Integrated Project Team (Construction Craft Laborer) and EBM Academy of Cosmetology.

Areas of Interest expressed by potential Sponsor/Employer specific to island:

- St. Croix – Information Technology, Healthcare, Construction; St. Thomas – Marine, Customer Service, and Technician; St. John – IT and Early Childhood Education and Territorial – IT First Responder and Cosmetology
- Projection for the next 6 months to 1 year includes fourteen (14) additional program sponsors and forty-five (45) additional apprentices.

Outreach Activities

- Successful Employer Forum on January 12, 2023, at Ritz Carlton with a panel of three current program sponsors sharing their experiences and launched VI Apprenticeship website. Anticipate conducting industry target webinars to engage employers.

B. Update on Budget - Council member, Shenika Sebastien (Director of Youth & Apprenticeship)

- Annual budget (\$40,000) shared with Council Members. Expenditures of \$7,381.25 and unobligated balance of \$ 32,618.75. Expenditures include cost for Employer Forum.
- Council Member Nesha Christian-Hendrickson and Carla Scott recommend utilizing funds to highlight apprentices during Labor Month and National Apprenticeship week. To include media coverage for apprentices completing programs and possible Business After Hours to engage employer.

V. New Business

- Council Member Nesha Christian-Hendrickson attended the National Association for State Workforce Agencies Board Directors Meeting and shared that USDOL representative stated that more apprenticeship grants will be coming down the pipeline.

VI. Unfinished Business

- Chair, Dr. Suzanne Magras inquired about draft of letter to meet with Licensing Board & Commissions. Letter still pending.
- Pros and Cons of VI Apprenticeship Council being included in Review Process before approval by VI State Apprenticeship Office. Vinz Koller (SPRA) shared his experience working with different states. States that include the Apprenticeship Council tend to take longer. The role Apprenticeship Council can be a part of the process is to create principles for programs as well as apprenticeship ambassadors. Also State Apprenticeship Offices can be four times slower than Office of Apprenticeship.

VII. Announcements | National, Regional, Local News

A. National Apprenticeship Week Events - Council member, Shenika Sebastien

- Vinz Koller (SPRA) shared that Educator (teacher) Apprenticeship is a big focus of the administration and funding may be available in the future. Vinz also shared that the local SHRMP chapter is developing an apprenticeship program.

B. Next Meeting

- Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 2 – 3:30pm

C. Council Members Update

- No updates by Council members

VIII. Adjournment

Council member, Nesha Christian-Hendrickson, made a motion to adjourn the meeting and motion seconded by Council member Dr. Michael Francois. The meeting adjourned at 3:12pm.