



Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 14, 2023 | 2:00-3:30PM
Virtual ZOOM Meeting

I. Call to Order:

Meeting Call to Order at 2:09pm by Chair, Dr. Suzanne Magras.

II. Roll Call:

Council Members in Attendance	Council Members not present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Dr. Michael Francois, VI Board of Career & Technical Education Representative ▶ 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 ▶ Tarah Graham-Hodge, Employee Representative <i>(absent at Roll Call; joined meeting at 2:23pm)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Nesha Christian-Hendrickson, Esq., Assistant Commissioner, Department of Labor Representative and Legal Council ▶ JoAnn Murphy, VI Board of Career & Technical Education Representative

Others in Attendance
Michael (Mike) Lawrence, ICF Charles McNeil, Deputy Regional Director, USDOL ETA Office of Apprenticeship Pheobe Reeves, Workforce Development Specialist, USDOL ETA Tricia Reynolds, Multi State Navigator, USDOL ETA Office of Apprenticeship Genevieve Whitaker Dr. Monique Faulkner, State Director of Career & Tech

III. Approval of February 21, 2023 Minutes

Council member Carla Scott made a motion to approve minutes and seconded by council member Dr. Michael Francios. 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:

Program Updates

- Thirty-eight (38) registered apprentices; decrease in number since February 2023 quarterly report.

- Eleven (11) registered program sponsors; an increase since February 2023 quarterly report. Three (3) NEW programs added.

Current Registered Apprenticeship Programs

- **Gold Coast Yachts, Inc.** – no apprentice; working with other funding sources and WIOA separately from RA.
- **Peace of St. Croix** - sixteen (16) apprentices; six (6) apprentices expected to complete in 2023.
- **Plessen Healthcare LLC** – five (5) apprentices; six (6) apprentices completed pending certification.
- **USVI Bureau of Corrections** (inmate program) – no apprentice; pending MOU agreement with RTI provider.
- **The Turning Point Senior Care** – no apprentice
- **Island Seafire, LLC** – six (6) apprentices
- **Tropical Treasure Hunt Company** – three (3) apprentices
- ***NEW Program: Therapeutic Massage Center, LLC (Massage Therapist)** – no apprentice; anticipate starting in 2024.
- ***NEW Program: CommHIT-USVI (Cyber Security Support Technician)**– no apprentice; anticipate five (5) apprentices by end of year.
- ***NEW Program: 340 Integrated Project Team (Construction Craft Laborer)** – no apprentice; changed RTI provider; employers pending.

Pending Registered Apprenticeship Programs

- **EBM Academy of Cosmetology (TBD)**
- **SHRM Foundation (Human Resources Specialist)**

Update Based on Projections

- Sponsor/Employer: projected additional six (6) program sponsors/employers; actual as of 8/14/23 – only able to add three (3) of the projected six (6).
- Apprentices: projected forty-five (45) active apprentices; actual as of 8/14/23 – thirty-eight (38).

Concerns/Challenges

- Program Sponsors/Employers are concerned about funding support moving forward to add new apprentices. For the past two years sponsors/employers were able to receive support through WIOA funding for RTI and Skills for Today (HUD) funding for wages reimbursement. Skills for Today funding ends in September 2023 leaving some sponsors/employers worried about adding new apprentices. Some Sponsors/Employers received up to 100% wage reimbursement.
- Charles McNeil, Deputy Regional Director, Office of Apprenticeship stated that in other territories employers only receive 50% wage reimbursement for a 9-month period. Charles mentioned other possible funding sources through other agencies such as Voc. Rehab, Department of Education, Department of Energy, Department of Transportation who include apprenticeship requirements in the grants provided.
- The VI State Apprenticeship Agency needs to explore funding options and grants.

V. New Business

- No New Business

VI. Unfinished Business

- Council Training Request – Charles McNeil, Deputy Regional Director, Office of Apprenticeship, will facilitate training to council members on September 5, 2023, at 2pm – 4pm
- Draft Letter to meeting with Licensing & Consumer Director; unable to provide update.

VII. Announcements | National, Regional, Local News

A. National, Regional, Local News

National, Regional News: *Charles McNeil, Deputy Regional Director, Office of Apprenticeship*

- DOL, Office of Apprenticeship is rewriting 29 CFR Part 29 and hope to have the regulation in place by October 2025. Lot of changes and updates that include how states Apprenticeship Councils works, state apprenticeship agency approval process of occupations, certifying pre-apprenticeships and CTEC apprenticeships.
- Registered Apprenticeship Academy available on www.apprenticeship.gov . The academy proves information, videos and resources to program sponsors/employers, apprentices, State Apprenticeship Agency and any partners.
- Tricia Reynolds, Multi State Navigator, USDOL|ETA| Office of Apprenticeship is available to discuss braiding funding options.

Local News: - Chair, Dr. Suzanne Magras and Council member Shenika Sebastin

- Chair Suzanne Magras announced and shared flyer with council members for the upcoming Governors Workforce Development Summit in the Virgin Islands Oct. 10th on STX, Oct. 12th on STT and Oct 13th on STJ
- Council member, Shenika Sebastien: VI Apprenticeship Agency with partner with Plessen Healthcare to host a graduation for apprentices who completed training and will update council members on date.
- National Apprenticeship Week (Nov 13th – 19th); Council needs to meet with VI Apprenticeship Agency to plan activities for the week.

B. Next Meeting

- Meeting dates need to be set for Fiscal Yr. Council member Shenika Sebastien and Chair, Dr. Suzanne Magras will meet to set dates and send updated calendar to members.

C. Council Members Update

- No updates by Council members

VIII. Adjournment

Council member, Chris Richardson, made a motion to adjourn the meeting and motion seconded by Council member, Dr. Michael Francois. The meeting adjourned at 3:10pm.