

**HIGH COUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
APRIL 15, 2019
MINUTES**

The Executive Board of the High Country Council of Governments met April 15, 2019, 7:00pm, at the High Country Council of Governments Office in Boone. The following members were present at the meeting: Charles Vines, Brenda Lyerly, Robert L. Johnson, Gary D. Blevins, Todd McNeill, Dale Baldwin, René Castiglione, Doug Matheson, Theresa Coletta, Dennis Aldridge, Mark Evans, Vern Grindstaff, Sandra Simmons, Jim Blevins, Russell Ferree, Rennie Brantz, Larry Fontaine, Paul Robinson Jr., Valerie Jaynes, and Johnny Riddle. The following staff and guests were present at the meeting: Julie Wiggins, Jeff Hedrick, Keith Deveraux, Brian Ingraham, Christina Dupuch, Brian Shuping, Angie Chandler, and Victoria Potter.

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Chairman Riddle welcomed and thanked everyone for attending and called on Robert L. Johnson to lead the invocation. Chairman Riddle then led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Rennie Brantz made a motion to approve the Executive Board minutes for March 18, 2019. Charles Vines seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Discussion of Finance Officer Search

Chairman Riddle called on Interim Finance Officer, Julie Wiggins to give details regarding the Finance Officer search. Ms. Wiggins reported that the Finance Officer search was well underway with three interviews scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2019. Ms. Wiggins mentioned that Executive Board member, Charles Vines would be sitting in on the interviews as well.

Financial Highlights

Ms. Wiggins announced that the fiscal year 2020 budget is in the works and asked the board to give her any suggestions they might have. Ms. Wiggins also mentioned that the Audit FY 2018 will be presented at the May 20, 2019 Executive Board Meeting. Chairman Riddle stated that the Advisory Committee had suggested for HCCOG to continue the Audit Contract with Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams, & Co, P.A. FY 2019. Charles Vines made a motion to approve continuing the Audit Contract with Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams, & Co, P.A. Brenda Lyerly seconded the motion. Motion carried. Ms. Wiggins commented that the FY 2018 Audit was delayed because of the OPEB Accrual Study, which HCCOG must continue with next year as well.

VAYA HEALTH PRESENTATION

Brian Ingraham, CEO of Vaya presented slides (Attachment A) regarding Medicaid Transformation coming to North Carolina. Highlights from his presentation include: This is the biggest change we've ever seen in Medicaid, there will be standard and tailored plans, a letter will go out to eligible applicants explaining the changes and the healthcare options they can choose from, there will also be call centers and enrollment brokers to help with the process. There will be a lot of confusion and most people will end up being auto enrolled if they do not sign up for their plan of choice. Mr. Ingraham noted that Ashe, Alleghany, Watauga and Wilkes counties are in the first phase of standard plan roll outs coming in November 2019. Avery, Mitchell and Yancey

counties are in Phase 2 rolling out in February 2020. Several board members asked questions and made comments about this upcoming Medicaid Transformation and how it would affect the citizens in our region.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Keith Deveraux, Workforce Development Director presented some quick updates including; Unemployment Rate is still low across the High Country region, HCWDB had a successful Spring Job Fair at Wilkes Community College with 54 Employers and 260 Job Seekers, a Fall Job Fair is in the works due to such tremendous success, but the date has not been determined yet. Mr. Deveraux also mentioned that the NC Works Local Innovation Fund Grant is upcoming in conjunction with Wilkes Community College and focusing on Rural Transportation.

REPORT FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Wiggins announced that the COG Association meeting she and Executive Board member, Gary Blevins attended in Raleigh on March 27, 2019 was very successful. Ms. Wiggins also announced that the Advisory Committee Retreat is coming up April 26-27 in Burnsville. Ms. Wiggins reminded board members that May 2019 ReCOGnition submissions are due to Victoria Potter by Tuesday, April 30, 2019 and stated that this was a great time to showcase projects in the region. Ms. Wiggins informed everyone that Phil Trew, Planning & Development Director is heading up the High Country Manager's Meeting on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 and that Nicole Hiegl, Area Agency on Aging Director is presenting at a national conference this week.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

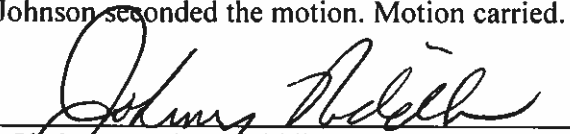
Reneé Castiglione asked other board members about receiving line item or high-level monthly finance reports, the consensus was that most towns/counties receive high level, overview reports and only ask for line item reports if needed. Renee thanked everyone for their input.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Riddle thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

As there were no other comments or business, Mark Evans made a motion to adjourn. Robert L. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.



 Chairman, Johnny Riddle



 Clerk to the Board, Victoria Potter

Date 5/20/19