

21APR 2015 MINUTES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
1636 Gold Star Drive, Raleigh, NC  
10:00 AM

Gary McKissock, NCMAC  
Creswell Elmore (by phone), NCMAC  
Joy Thrash  
Kimberly Lindsay  
Ron Massey, Military Host Cities  
Tom Bowlin, NCNG  
Stuart Ruffin, NCMF  
Jamie Norment, ACT  
Chris Kukla  
Sebastian Montagne, NCDOT  
Greg Taylor, Ft. Bragg Alliance

10:00 am: Economic Development Committee Chairman Gary McKissock welcomed attendees, and called the meeting called to order following call of the roll.

**Stuart Ruffin, NC Military Foundation – Hiring Pipeline Project**

Mr. Ruffin updated the Committee on the hiring pipeline project.

- 174 vets hired in the past 2 months based on 3 hiring events; Melissa Werner of the Governor's Office has been instrumental in this.
- Working on strategic leadership summits: 6/3 – MetLife in RTP, 8/11 in Wilmington and the week of Veterans Day in Charlotte.
- NC Chamber will provide logistical support ensuring audience of 28,000; Cisco has been a key patron and will fund program manager in addition to \$50k in funding.
- Anticipated additional sponsors include WalMart, PNC and Verizon who will be invited to add members to steering committee. MetLife will be a key funding sponsor.
- Expect release of a 1-page PDF within 3 weeks with logos, fact sheets, etc.
- All base transition offices will be participating at Wednesday's event.
- Kimberly Lindsay will give an update at the next full Commission meeting.

**Consumer Lending**

Chris Kukla of the Center for Responsible Lending reported to the Committee on SB 681.

- Discussed alternative rate structures
- Credit insurance is not included in loan APR's.
- Per Ms. Kukla, the NC Vets Council, American Legion, AARP and Navy Relief Society all oppose SB 681 as written.
- Discussed potential impact on federal level.
- Crossover deadline to pass bill is within next week or two.
- Will brief on this at 5/5 ESG meeting.

**F-35 Roundtable Discussion**

Cresswell Elmore briefed on a 3/11 roundtable discussion that included (Ret.) Gen. Harry Blot, Craven County Economic Development, the regional airport director, NCEDP members, NC Military Foundation, and NCMBC.

- Mr. Chung took a tour of Cherry Point and FRC East, and experienced an F-35 cockpit simulator demo.
- Mr. Elmore will have a follow-up meeting with Ret. Gen. Harry Blot.
- Mr. Norment feels that Mr. Chung needs more information from ACT and/or NCMAC to emphasize the need for an individual to manage the program.
- Mr. Elmore drafted a letter that Mr. Norment suggests go to the Governor and to EDPNC; time sensitive.
- Chairman McKissock will brief the ESG on the Committee's recommendation regarding the letter.

### **Scott Dorney, NCMBC**

Mr. Dorney briefed the Committee on options to grow and expand business opportunities. He suggested that a strategically focused office to represent the defense industry in Department of Commerce would be beneficial (see handout on NCMAC website). The recruitment focus is to coordinate across industry sectors. He discussed investing \$16 million into infrastructure in NC. There is a \$5 million match to do improvements in Elizabeth City. Having the State Chamber have a point person could be considered for the NCMAC's support.

### **Future Business**

Cresswell Elmore will update the full Commission on the status of the F-35 initiative at the next meeting. R. Scott Ralls of the NC Community Colleges System will brief the full Commission at the next meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Following an invitation for questions or comments, Chairman McKissock adjourned the meeting at 11:50 AM.

**NC COMMUNITY COLLEGES SYSTEM REPORT** Dr. George Millsaps briefed on the NC Community Colleges System Report, and findings on gaps and omissions in military training related to licensing and certification (see Presentations/Handouts on NCMAC.com: NC Community Colleges System report and NCCC Plan). The second report or "plan" treats certifications and licensures at greater length.

- The military does not provide credit when training takes place, which causes a gap.
- Dr. Millsaps highlighted specific aspects of the Report, which outlines data such as civilian credit for military training, best practice research, potential challenges like lack of staff and faculty familiarity on the subject. See page 6.
- A Military Credit Advisory Council has been created (page 7).

- Timeline for implementation (Page 10 of Report) and when the first NC AC will be held
- Key target dates (see Page 11)

Along with being given to the oversight committees of the NCGA, Dr. Millsaps will provide a copy of his report to the administrative office of the MAC. Chairman McKissock suggests a separate meeting to discuss this issue.

The meeting was adjourned for a ten-minute break at 2:07, Chairman McKissock reconvened the meeting at 2:17.

### **FUTURES, INC.**

Chairman McKissock introduced Geoff Cramer of Futures, Inc, who presented to the Committee on the next generation of software and way ahead in effort to assist transitioning personnel.

- Talent is the number one economic driver
- No shortage of training opportunities or personnel
- No shortage of employers. Small and medium-sized businesses need talent. How do you connect what they need so they can make informed decisions? 18% of NC jobs require 4-year degree or more. Reviewed top 50 careers in NC. Army hired Futures to do an evaluation of UPS
- Problem is translation – partnered with DoD and Cisco Systems, spent 5 years building a military latticing engine
- Now have over 9500 MOC's
- Underemployment is biggest problem for veterans, not unemployment
- 60-second video is significant tool

### **NC MILITARY FOUNDATION**

Stuart Ruffin briefed the Committee on the activities of the NC Military Foundation relative to veteran hiring (see Presentations/Handouts section on [nccommerce/mac.com](http://nccommerce/mac.com)).

- A 501(c)(3) sister organization, the NC Veterans Foundation, has been set up to allow more time to view the veteran hiring issue and what is being done to improve transition from the perspective of end-to-end employment.
- The NC Veterans Foundation is a private, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization focused on effecting positive change on our veteran's most critical post-service needs, including transition into the workforce, financial coaching and counseling, treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).
- The Foundation executes by bringing together key stakeholders from government, industry, and the military to identify gaps in North Carolina's veteran support infrastructure, and then creating partnerships that fill these gaps and improve the lives of veterans.
- Will be focused on effort coordination between key stakeholders, military transition offices, the State entities.

Following a request for comments or questions, Chairman McKissock adjourned the meeting.