



**REGIONAL COUNCIL 9  
TALENT DEVELOPMENT (TD) TASK FORCE MEETING  
JANUARY 7, 2026  
10 am to 11 am  
ALL-VIRTUAL**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88963465467>

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**MINUTES**

**TD Task Force Members Present:** Jean Runyon, Kim Blosser, Roque Castro, Cheryl Kirby, Cathy Schafrik

**TD Task Force Members Absent:** Tina Weaver

**Staff Present:** Shannon Holland; Christie Taylor; Helen Cauthen, CVPED

**Guests:** Anne Allison, PVCC; Katie Dulaney, CVPED; Rachael Hobbs, UVA Economic Development; Jack Honig, DHCD

**1. Welcome**

Jean Runyon called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Introductions were made.

- **Roll Call**  
A roll call was performed. **A quorum was established, as noted above.**
- **Public Comment**  
No public comment was submitted prior to or offered at the meeting.

**2. Consent Agenda ACTION ITEM**

- Talent Development Task Force Meeting Minutes, October 10, 2025

***Cathy Schafrik made the motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2025, Talent Development Task Force meeting. Cheryl Kirby seconded the motion. Motion carried.***

**3. Update(s):**

Shannon Holland provided the following updates:

- **Growth & Diversification Plan Grant Opportunities – 2025**  
The state Board approved the Growth Plan. The Grant Opportunities that the Council is soliciting to advance the Growth Plan on page 5.
- **GO TEC Launch in Region 9**  
The project was approved at the December State Board Meeting. A late spring contract date is being considered by the project team.
- **Mobile AI Unit Competitive Grant**  
The Mobile AI Unit grant was deferred at the December State Board Meeting. If issues are addressed the grant could be approved later.
- **Region 9 Talent Development Dashboard**  
The project dashboard for Talent Development projects was presented and there was no discussion.
- **Region 9 Project Pipeline**  
This document was updated to show potential funding sources.

#### 4. Project Deliverable Review ACTION ITEM

- **MEMO: BioBridge Talent Pathways Initiative (TPI) Report DRAFT – Review**
- **Discussion**

Jean Runyon led the BioBridge TPI Report discussion. The memo in the meeting packet listed the contract deliverables. The applicant team is scheduled to present to the Council at the January 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, and the Task Force hopes feedback is addressed by then. The project team and study participants were thanked for their work.

Katie Dulaney was asked when the final report will be ready. She said the final date hasn't been confirmed, but it is expected within a week of the presentation to the GO Virginia Region 9 Council on January 16.

Below is a summary of the report's deliverables and the related discussions:

1. Development of industry-wide coalition: *An impressive 38-member advisory group was convened representing a wide audience. Regional representation was scarce from northern part of Region 9.*
2. Complete qualitative and quantitative analysis: *Met deliverable.*
3. Gap analysis of jobs needed to help industry grow: *Met deliverable*
4. Identification of skills and training needed for individuals to fill those roles: *Met deliverable. However, it will be important to further identify the skills and requirements for positions identified in the report including industry credentials, associate degrees, apprenticeships, etc. that current and future job seekers should possess to be qualified for openings. Asset mapping could be expanded to include availability of the training, credentials, etc. or a gaps analysis so that training can be made available for jobs of the future.*
5. Asset mapping and identification of strategies to meet unmet needs: *Discussion overlapped with item #4.*

***Kim Blosser made the motion that the deliverables have been met, and additional explanation is desired for the skills training analysis, as this project team prepares for presentation to the Region 9 GO Virginia Council. Roque Castro seconded the motion. Motion carried.***

#### 5. Other Business

Anne Allison shared that Astra Zeneca expressed concern for ancillary supply chains and pipeline of workers. Helen Cauthen added that CVPED is working in partnership with regional localities on the supply chain issues

#### 6. Adjourn

***Kathy Schafrik made the motion to adjourn. Cheryl Kirby seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:19 AM.***