



Hennepin-Carver

Workforce Development Board

MEETING NOTES

January 31, 2024, 12:30 – 1:45 PM

CareerForce - Bloomington

4220 Old Shakopee Road W #200

Bloomington, MN 55437

Attendees: Nicole Mattson, Garfield Clark, Cara Garrett, Doug Mueller, Sara Gutzman, Emily Watts, Shannon Seaver, David Muscoplat, Becca Stearns, Melissa Scherer, Tim Mayer, John Hacker, Cindy Larson, Kim Schrupp, Brad Markwell, Andrea Erickson, Derrick Givens,

Absent: Elise Durbin

Excused Absent: Johann Peterson

Guests: Sam Peterson-Etem, Charlie Roma, Leah McNamee, Avery Bardell, Debbie Ferry, Matt Udermann

Online: Nola Slagter, Raul Sanchez, Stephen Kolcinski, Kerry-Ann Samuda, Cindy Booker, Nicole Lindsheid, Barry Platt, Tara Munroe

Staff: Jennifer Kielas, Erik Aamoth, Bri Steirer, Nicki Hanson, Virginia Rose Kane, Shannon Quigley

Call to Order- Chair Nicole Mattson

Items in red require a vote to move forward

1. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Emily Watts

SECOND: Doug Muller

MOTION PASSED: 17 Yeas, 0 nays

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes (November 2023)

MOTION: John Hacker

SECOND: Melissa Sherer

MOTION PASSED: 17 Yeas, 0 nays

3. Board Business

a. WIOA Adult/Dislocated Worker/Youth RFP Provider Recommendations (Board Action Request 2024 – 01)

MOTION: Emily Watts

SECOND: Doug Muller

MOTION PASSED: 17 Yeas, 0 nays

Discussion: Board members inquired if the increase in responses to the RFP will result in more providers being chosen. Slagter-Johnson clarified that there is no correlation between number of RFP responses and number of providers chosen. Slagter-Johnson also informed the Board that Hennepin County staff work with newer providers to increase the capacity of their organizations to operate WIOA programs that are strictly governed by federal rules and regulations, including ARPA funded-programs, state-funded programs (such as MYP or State Dislocated Worker), or TANF programs.

b. Local Plan Comparison 2021/2024 (Link to Basecamp)

- i. Aamoth noted the WDA 09 Local Plan is due May 6th.
 - ii. The State Plan opened for public comment on January 16th. Aamoth encouraged Board members to review the plan and offer any comment.
 - iii. The Regional Plan draft will be ready by mid-March. The Regional Plan informs local plan on sectors of focus; staff are distributing questions to work groups for feedback.
 - iv. Feedback is provided by one-stop partners, work groups, external partners, and HCWDB members.
- c. Board Work Group Report Outs
- i. Program Design: The Work Group is continuing to build their baseline knowledge; addressing strategies to expand access and awareness of programming, support services, and employment opportunities to residents to be included in the Local Plan draft. The Work Group will be developing an implementation plan for their Q1 goal: working to engage participants/jobseekers.
 - ii. External Relations: Tim O'Neill provided an overview of Q3 employment numbers and top sectors as it relates to Drive for 5; Tim to provide projections in the next meeting.
 - iii. Data Measurement: Amy Carlson & Tim O'Neill: WF1 system and what data resources and where they derive from; started to review some resources that will be available to rest of work group. The Work Group will be establishing their next goal(s) in next week's meeting.
 - iv. Internal Operations: The Work Group discussed the Board responsibilities for JPA, Erik provided an update on the Local and Regional Plans, and the Work Group discussed funding for providers.

4. Updates

a. Board Updates

- i. HCWDB Internal Operations Work Group New Chair is Emily Watts
- ii. Emily Watts and Sarah Gutzman were reappointed to the Board for another 3 year term.

b. Program Updates

- i. Wagner Peyser:
 1. Staff called 100 SNAP participants this month in a 3-step call back strategy to engage referrals;
 2. Staff hosted a hiring event and will partner with Hennepin County to host an in-person event in April;
 3. Staff are hosting monthly workshops with ABE;
 4. Bloomington supported 594 people Nov – Jan through calls, workshops, and 1:1 drop-in appointments.
- ii. Vocational Rehabilitation:
 1. VR currently has no wait list
 2. Discussing labor laws/youth paid work experiences and what this will look like in the future; guidance counselors no longer expose youth to careers.
 3. Project Search is expanding to more communities (Bloomington, Burnsville, Edina);
 4. VR is working on encouraging employers to access ADA funds.

c. Carver County

- i. Staffing Updates - Welcome Jennifer Kielas, Income Support Manager; Kate Probert was promoted to HHS Deputy Commissioner
- ii. Workforce Mobility Training Update: continuing to work with Scott County on ARPA initiative and Hennepin Tech: instructors training boiler operators in-person in Shakopee; pharmacy technician virtual training in Carver/Scott counties; TMA/CNA training began last week; May 2024 will see hybrid model; all in-person in Shakopee.
- iii. Quarterly Job Fairs: Chaska Government Center in Q2, Q3, Q4 in IT and manufacturing with 8-10 employers.
- iv. Summer Youth Work Experience Recruitment begins in March; new youth counselor recently resigned; referral resource is SNAP E&T program.

d. Hennepin County

- i. The WDA received TANF Youth in the amount of \$50K (serving youth receiving MFIP benefits); partnering with HIRED to identify Work Experience opportunities.

- ii. Workforce Leadership Council: Three areas of focus include Talent Pipeline, Technology, Barriers to Employment work groups.
 - 1. Help employers with workforce challenges. 5 companies selected for leadership/HR coaching & things that they can do more effectively to support their employees.
 - iii. Internship Project: More connected/align with HR for younger youth interns (increased flexibility, work experience and trying to get more youth interested in Hennepin Co.)
- e. Director's Report:**
- i. Coordinating RFP and Local Plan; next board meeting moved to April 3 to accommodate the local plan schedule.
 - ii. Brooklyn Park/MOU met on 12/18; requirements for lease agreement once approved; OSO RFP responsible for coordinating training partners for spring.
 - iii. WIOA reauthorization passed the house; specifics will be added to Basecamp.
 - iv. WDA Designation from DEED Submitted for approval.
- f. Other**
- i. Board members expressed interest in the next annual meeting including 'get to know you' activities.

5. Adjourn

Mission Statement

The Hennepin-Carver Workforce Development Board fosters individual and family economic well-being through the development of meaningful career pathways and employment opportunities, provides a skilled talent pipeline to our employer partners through the strategic investment of workforce development resources and the building of collaborative partnerships, and works alongside community organizations to identify and recruit community members to participate in workforce development services based on the workplace requirements expressed by our employer partners as well as the needs and interests of the community.

Vision Statement

The board works in partnership with all community members and employers to support and enhance an effective, efficient, and inclusive workforce development system which assures alignment between available talent and employer needs resulting in economic prosperity for all.

The Hennepin-Carver Workforce Development Board is a Proud Partner of the American Job Center Network and Minnesota CareerForce.

