



MEETING NOTES

April 3, 2024, 12:30 – 2:15 PM

CareerForce - Bloomington

4220 Old Shakopee Road W #200

Bloomington, MN 55437

Attendees: Nicole Mattson, Garfield Clark, Doug Muller, Sarah Gutzman, Emily Watts, Shannon Seaver, Rebecca Stearns, Melissa Scherer, Tim Mayer, John Hacker, Cynthia Larson, Kim Schrupp, Derrick Givens, Kim Schrupp, Cara Garrett

Absent: Elise Durbin, Johann Peterson, Brad Markwell, David Muscoplat

Excused Absent: Andrea Erickson

Guests: Commissioner Matt Udermann, Shannon Quigley, Sam Peterson-Etem, Steve Kolsinski,

Online: Nola Slagter-Johnson, Tara Munroe, Mark Mann, Avery Bardell, Adeswa Adesiji, Jeff Ambroz, Debbie Ferry, Becca Lopez, Nicole Linscheid

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

Call to Order- Chair Nicole Mattson

Items in red require a vote to move forward.

1. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Shannon Seaver

SECOND: Doug Muller

MOTION PASSED: 15 Yeas, 0 nays

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes (January 2024)

MOTION: Emily Watts

SECOND: John Hacker

MOTION PASSED: 15 Yeas, 0 nays

3. Board Business

a. Carver County Funding Recommendations (HCWDB Action Request #2024-2)

MOTION: Doug Muller

SECOND: Tim Mayer

MOTION PASSED: 15 Yeas, 0 nays

Discussion: Approval requested for agreement term 7/1/2024 – 6/30/2027; NTE \$1,115,330. Carver County to receive 11.91% of funds allocated to HC WDA 09 for WIOA Adult/DW/Youth, and State DW. No material changes from previous agreement. If either Hennepin or Carver County experiences a shift in program needs and/or performance, recommendations will be brought to the Internal Operations Work Group; resources may be transferred between counties with approval of the full HCWDB.

b. Regional Plan and Draft Local Plan (HCWDB Action Request #2024-3)

MOTION: Kim Schrupp

SECOND: Rebecca Stearns

MOTION PASSED: 15 Yeas, 0 nays

Discussion: Erik provided a State and Regional Plan level set and an overview of the team effort

of work groups, board, SMEs, and key stakeholders' involvement in the process of developing the Local Plan draft.

Key to the Regional Plan: visions of an equitable and competitive regional workforce; all residents have access and opportunities to chart their career paths; all employers have relationships with workforce partners to assist in solving their labor needs.

Regional Plan Goals: increase/deepen community partnerships; support workforce efforts; remove barriers to employment; outreach and promotion through hiring events; skills-based hiring; regional coordination to ensure increased access to services; deepen coordination with economic development partners.

Local Plan goal recommendations: ensure career pathways services and partnerships are in place to reduce barriers to employment; increase employers use of equitable and effective hiring and retention practices; increase awareness and use of workforce programs in historically underserved communities; ensure participants experience experiential opportunities in education and training that prepares them for employment in in-demand industries. These goals align well with work group strategies. Section B covers operations and service delivery; Section C covers how we're working together as a larger community.

c. Work Group Updates

- i. Program Design & Development: Kim Schrupp reported that the group has met to develop strategies around access to employment opportunities, support services, and career pathway credential programs and incorporated those strategies into the local plan draft; developed and implemented a plan toward their goal of engaging job program participants in terms of needs and bridging those gaps (food, etc.). Bri Steirer reported on Question of the Month model to garner more feedback from program participants and employment counselors; responses will be analyzed to inform adjustments. Nicole Mattson suggested inviting participants to join work groups/advisory boards.
- ii. External Relations: Tim Mayer reported that the group met with DEED's Tim O'Neill for Q3 LMI data insights to determine needs/gaps from an employer perspective; meeting with CABI; data can inform strategies and programming. This group will house career fairs and awareness efforts; Erik Aamoath mentioned regional teams could work together on strategy. Rebecca Stearns mentioned that a better job could be done to reach students about opportunities and enhance partnerships.
- iii. Data & Measurements: Melissa Scherer reported that they completed an inventory of data resources; analyzed shortcoming/benefits of data. Next steps: discussing future projects and accomplishment documents, working with other groups on data needs. Tim O'Neill's presentation is available on Basecamp.
- iv. Internal Operations: Erik Aamoath reported the group discussed funding, update on RFPs, funding for rest of providers and programs; discussed the Local Plan goals for their feedback. Local goals will be published soon.

4. Board Updates

a. Directors Report:

- i. Brooklyn Center lease signing is imminent. The current MOU goes through 2025; once the lease is signed, the construction timeline is 6 – 8 weeks.

- ii. One Stop Operator (OSO) procurement timeline: RFP out this spring/summer; partner selected will be responsible for bringing together outside parties to talk about areas of common interest. Bri reported that local plan goals of collaboration will be led by the OSO; funding level is to be determined by the Board.
- iii. MAWB is supporting legislation that will make changes by eliminating strict cost categories for the State DW program as well as eligibility requirements; providing more flexibility for people who wouldn't otherwise qualify.
- iv. Skills-based hiring initiative and IFA presentations in future meetings.

b. Program Updates

- i. Wagner Peyser Program: Cindy Larson reported that they served 738 people, Jan – March in Bloomington; 303 were served in Brooklyn Park, marking a 50% reduction due to lack of location. They are partnering with 6 HC Libraries; 469 job seekers served since 2022; 245 served just this year. Serving youth by partnering with MN Independent CC and high schools to provide a variety of services; 181 youth served in the last year. Upcoming hiring events in partnership with HC.
 - ii. Vocational Rehabilitation: Sarah Gutzman reported they are working with youth 14 – 21 to plan for summer activities; Consumer Financial Participation to provide relief for students and families. They're collaborating more with county case managers; building cohorts with schools; working on roles and scheduling; they're numbers are up to pre-covid levels. Erik suggested doing a deeper dive into vocational rehabilitation work in future meetings.
 - iii. Adult/Dislocated Worker: Nicki Hanson reported that contract negotiations for Adult DW begin in April; anticipate contracts with 4 CBOs who will be announced once contracts are fully executed; RFP for the upcoming term starts July 1 for PY24/25. They are 1 of 3 workforce development areas invited to participate in DEED's provider dashboard pilot developed to provide previously unavailable data, particularly wage match data.
 - iv. Youth: Bri reported that WIOA and MN Youth program contract negotiations are underway; they are writing a Local Unified Youth Plan with Carver County and selected providers and will make it available to the HCWDB. Note: DOL issued guidance on food as a support service for WIOA youth that will update the support service policy for board review.
- c. **Carver County**: Jennifer Kielas reported Carver is hiring; will be partnering with GWES and focusing on skills-based training; partnering with local non-profit car repair shop. Commissioner Udermann reported on Trades 360 where participants can be trained on 16 trades in 16 weeks via camper cabins to start. They are exploring food shelves to provide resources. Udermann encouraged the group to consider ways to bring human stories to future meetings of those impacted by workforce work.
- d. **Hennepin County**: Nola Slagter-Johnson reported that the Hennepin County Office of Workforce Development is leading the Blue Line workforce strategy for anti-displacement and will hire a person to oversee the effort to ensure we have talent to build and operate light rail; this person will lead the green jobs space in the county's climate action plan. MFIP employment services RFP is live. OWD will roll out Hennepin County Employment Growth & Opportunity (GO) Program to redesign internships and pathways; hired Sarah Garbis to oversee. Hennepin County was selected to participate in a Benefits Cliff Coalition. Nola suggested future board work could center around programs for people exiting homelessness. OWD is digging deep into data

dashboards to understand trends, etc. Nola confirmed that the board is in compliance and is doing great as a board entity.

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.

