



January 2025 Meeting Updates

Success Story

We want to take the time to share a few updates and successes regarding our newest DW provider, Minnesota Training Partnership (MTP), who the Board had an opportunity to learn more about during the November Board meeting.

- MTP currently has a small but mighty team. MTP's program manager, Raul, and counselor, NengJo, work very closely with one another to provide responsive and individualized services to participants. They are continuing to operationalize their services, build up internal working documents and policies.
- MTP is continuing to leverage their strong partnerships to promote State DW services with new and existing partnerships, including union affiliates, community-based organizations, businesses and Adult/DW providers across our WDA.
- MTP began enrolling participants in State DW program during the 2nd week of October & to date they have enrolled 18 participants.
 - They began enrolling participants in training services mid-November and to date there are 5 participants who have, or are currently enrolled in, training—all 5 are in IT.
 - They have exited their first two participants to employment, starting at the end of December. Participants secured in public accounting and as an IT manager. Employment Counselor, NengJo, supported participants with career planning, job search support (such as leads and conducting mock interviews).
- We are excited to have MTP as a part of our provider team to serve residents in suburban Hennepin County.
 - We also want to take this time to thank Avivo, Carver County, Goodwill, and HIRED for welcoming MTP along with their willingness to proactively connect and support MTP in joining our provider team to collectively serve WDA-09.

Program Updates

1) Carver County

- a. County career pathway funding is being used at this time on 2 projects (we will be working on more throughout 2025):
 - i. CDL for city employees – 7 employees from 5 Carver County cities have started training in January – hoping to finish by May

- ii. Trades 360 – our tiny cabin project for youth (Carver County working with SW Metro Educational Coop and Three Rivers Park District on this initiative) – using funds to purchase materials for the cabin build, and paying stipends to 44 youth as they move through training modules
- b. OSY recruitment push throughout 2025 – restarting tabling at Hennepin Tech (Eden Prairie campus), outreach to CBOs in the community, as well as ABE and school districts for referrals (in addition to our own Carver County departments which is ongoing)
- c. Summer WE applications will be available 3/1
- d. Skills Based Hiring on 1/28 at Carver County – we have 11 employers registered and we continue to market
- e. Quarterly Hiring Events at CareerForce Chaska – 1st is scheduled for March 4 and will be focused on health care industry – will share flyer when ready
- f. Re-establishing our work with Carver County libraries (this had been put on pause in 2024 due to our staff turnover situation) – we have 1st quarterly workshop scheduled at Chanhassen branch in March (advanced resumes) and I am meeting with library leadership to get our EC office hours restarted at various branches to expand access to our programs and services

2) Adult Basic Education (ABE)

Aligned with the local plan, I wanted to highlight the work happening at Metro South Adult Basic Education:

- a. Developing a Skilled Workforce:
 - i. Metro South recently hosted an online, statewide PCA (personal care attendant) training for 19 students. 17 of the 19 passed their state certification on their first attempt. Six of the participants were also able to complete their CPR certification and are now actively looking for work!
 - ii. Metro South has been piloting a Community Interpreter certification training course for multilingual students in the community. Students learn, among other things, the importance of confidentiality, how to handle protected conversations, how to interpret words versus how to interpret intent, and more. Two recent graduates of the course are now working as multilingual staff with Bloomington Public Schools.
- b. Creating employer partnerships:
 - i. A newly developing partnership! Metro South ABE recently met with a local trucking and transportation company to learn more about how they can support the newly hired employees in studying for their Commercial Driver's License permit.

3) Youth Programs

- a. We are anticipating receiving our 2025 TANF Youth Innovation allocation in the next month or so. These funds are used to provide young parents receiving MFIP benefits with internships and work experiences within Hennepin County or external employer partners.

- b. PY23/SFY24 monitoring for Youth sub-grantees is continuing. We anticipate monitoring will be wrapped up sometime in early Spring.
- c. Provider partners and program staff will be added to the new Hennepin-Carver WDB Sharepoint site after the 1/23 meeting with Adult/DW providers, during which Bri will provide an short training on using and navigating the site.

4) Adult/DW Programs

- a. Final reports were issued to the Adult/Dislocated Worker providers for PY22 grants.
- b. MN DEED updated their Monitoring and Oversight policy. Internal processes were updated to ensure compliance with the updated policy.
- c. A PY23 grant monitoring schedule has been developed and will begin shortly.

5) DEED Job Service/Wagner-Peyser

- a. CareerForce started serving customers on Dec 2, 2024, at the new Brooklyn Center CareerForce office location at 7051 Brooklyn Boulevard, Brooklyn Center, MN 55429 in the Northwest Family Service Center, 2nd Floor (within the Hennepin County office). Our office hours are:
 - i. Monday – Thursday: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM (onsite)
 - ii. Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM (virtual services)
- b. We are offering 4 scheduled 1:1 job search appointments most days and have the availability to meet with drop in customers also. We had 12 drop ins one day, but 3-4 per day is more typical.
- c. We started partnering with Hennepin Tech in Sept 2024 and have been holding workshops at their Brooklyn Park location about 1-2 times per month and also offering workshops 1-2 times per month at Bloomington.
- d. A look at some numbers of people served:
 - i. Bloomington Nov- Dec 2024: Number of people through 1:1 job search appointments, UI referrals, workshops, and drop in services = 449 Number of people who used the Career Lab 113
 - ii. Brooklyn Center Nov- Dec 2024: Number of people served through 1:1 job search appointments, UI referrals, workshops, and drop in services = 361
- e. January 2024 CareerForce for Bloomington and Brooklyn Center started reaching out to SNAP participants to share about the services CF offers. We continue to do that serving about 78 SNAP participants per month out of our location and about 500 SNAP participants per month throughout all the CF office.

6) Vocational Rehabilitation

- a. No Report

Work Group Updates

1) Internal Operations

- a. We are looking forward to hosting upcoming Board Meetings in the community. Possible locations include Northwest Family Service Center (Brooklyn Center) and Labor Union Hall (Minneapolis).
- b. There was a soft launch of DEED CareerForce's new location in Brooklyn Center December 02
 - i. There will be a local area meet and greet in January for building partners
 - ii. The county and DEED are looking at a larger "grand opening" event in the spring
- c. The OSO (One-Stop-Operator) process is moving forward
 - i. Applications have been reviewed
 - ii. There were interviews with the top scoring applications
 - iii. Hennepin County staff will finalize their decision and make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners
 - iv. Then contracts will need to be drawn up and MOUs created before a public announcement can be made
- d. The MOU/IFA is in process
 - i. The MOU will be signed followed by the IFA (infrastructure funding agreement); now that the BC CareerForce is open, updates will be done
- e. Open Board Positions
 - i. There are still a number of open board positions; especially in Labor and Business
- f. WIOA re-authorization is underway at the federal level; implementation would be planned for July 2026 based on any updates or changes that may show up in the re-authorization. One thing being watched closely is the percentage of participants who are intended to be in training programs
- g. Upcoming Board Meeting agendas
 - i. Review of the local plan
 - ii. Polar Semiconductor presentation
 - iii. **We are looking for other suggestions for presenters or speakers 😊**

2) Program Design & Development

- a. Question of the Month Survey
 - i. We continue to see excellent response rates on our Question of the Month survey – thank you to providers that continue to push this initiative forward!
 - ii. We have collected five months’ worth of data on trends regarding how residents learn about our services, what follow-up resources are most helpful after landing a job, what resources are most helpful when working with an employment counselor, as well as suggestions to improve the intake and enrollment process.
 - iii. We will plan to put together a presentation to share our learnings during either the March or May Board meeting.
- b. 2025 Priorities
 - i. At our December meeting we discussed what we would like to prioritize as a group in 2025.

- ii. We are looking forward to bringing on the new One-Stop Operator and working together to increase alignment and coordination among our local workforce programs.
- iii. We also discussed focusing on Work-Based learning partnerships and how upcoming benefits mandates may affect our programs and program participants.

3) External Relations

- a. [MN Job Quality Principles for Employers](#) discussion recap
 - i. New DEED BSR Armah Dabla Lansanah (Drive for 5 focus) and Robert Willis (vets), Doug Muller met with Robert to discuss recruiting and turnover.
 - ii. Cindy recommended inviting Liz Jennings to speak.
 - iii. Erik will invite Patricia Fitzgerald to speak about [Elevate Hennepin](#).
 - iv. Group focus: segmentation or which businesses and resources to focus on; Erik will explore with other directors.
 - v. Job Quality focus will be on workplace as a compliment to workforce (e.g. Workforce Leadership Council resources for employees.)
 - vi. Tim O'Neill and Erik will discuss data DEED LBI office data and definition on small/medium businesses.
 - vii. Patricia Fitzgerald Elevate Hennepin platform description, link, resources.
 - viii. Identify the target market, e.g. companies with HR generalists who are spread thin, companies without advanced processes in competency-based hiring.
- b. Skills Accelerator Workshops
 - i. How to resource those and ways to promote and support the effort; determine the right market.
 - ii. 1-pager current post in SharePoint (Bri will resend link to Doug.)
- c. 2025
 - i. Clarification from DEED on business needs and their focus and how it aligns with county and partners.
 - ii. Connecting recruiters with workforce centers; skill sets clarification.
 - iii. Drive for 5 Talent Hub information.
- d. Mohamed Malim overview of company that provided transport to and from employment for residents.

4) Data & Measurements

- a. No Report