



Mississippi Valley Workforce Development Board

Disability Access Committee (DAC) Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 24, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Cynthia Whalen, Lanae Greene, Chad Pratz, Travis Robinson, James Stout, Joy Szewczyk, Carolyn Farley, Erika Clark, Martha Bell, and Maria Gonzales

Members Absent: Eva Castillo,

Staff Present: Miranda Swafford, Executive Director and Phyllis Wood, Executive Assistant

One-stop Operator: Robert Ryan

Equus Staff: Shannon Weaver, Operations Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER

Whalen called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

QUORUM

The committee had a quorum to conduct business.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Farley made a motion to excuse the absence of Eva Castillo, seconded by Bell, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Bell made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Szewczyk, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Szewczyk made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes, seconded by Clark, the motion carried.

CENTER ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS/CONCERNS

Whalen asked if there were any accessibility concerns at the centers from job seekers or employers related to programmatic, physical, communication, or virtual accessibility needs or concerns. Clark shared an experience of making a referral to VR and there was a prompt response but then referred to IDB there was no clear-cut contact. She worked with Joell who informed her IDB uses a referral form on their website. Robinson confirmed the IDB referral through their website will allow their counselors to put together an application. Ryan explained that an internal Iowa *WORKS* referral form was in process and should be going live soon which should streamline the referral process between partners and he would follow up on referrals to be sure they are received and processed. Clark added the participant appreciated the yellow keyboard and another participant found the anti-glare screen to be very helpful when working at the computer.

ADA PHYSICAL/PROGRAMMATIC ACCESSIBILITY EVALUATION

Swafford indicated the board is working to condense the ADA evaluation packet to items relevant to the centers. Whalen will reach out to all members about participating in the evaluation and asked they set some time aside in April.

CENTER ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY NEEDS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Whalen reviewed a list of items identified as being helpful to have and the next steps would be purchasing and training staff. Swafford said there was no word back from the state on funding, but the procurement would not be a concern of DAC. Szewczyk offered she had heard really good feedback on the text to speech C-pens.

UPCOMING MEETING

Next meeting date will be April 18, 2022.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNED

Clark made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Pratz, the motion carried, and Whalen adjourned the meeting at 3:46 p.m.