



Mississippi Valley Workforce Development Board

Operations Committee Meeting

Thursday, August 19th, at 4:00 p.m., via Zoom

Members Present: Matthew Nicol, Kirby Phillips, Ryan Drew, Tim Gobble, Jeremy Ritchie, Carolyn Farley, Martha Bell, and Scott Schneider

Members Absent: None

CEOs Present: Rick Larkin

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

Service Provider Staff Present: Kendra Schaapveld – Project Director

Guest: None

CALLED TO ORDER

Nicol called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

None

QUORUM

The committee had a quorum to conduct business.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Schneider made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Phillips, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Drew made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes, seconded by Farley, motion carried.

TITLE III REPORTS AND IOWAWORKS CENTER UPDATES

Ritchie reviewed the Title III August 2021 report (data pulled 8/4/2021) which listed June unemployment rates for the counties in MVWA with Des Moines County highest at 6.8%. The report also listed the numbers in the labor force and unemployed for the MVWA as 189,690 in the labor force and 10,950 unemployed. The report summarized employment patterns and average weekly wages for the 1st Quarter of 2021 within employment sectors for the MVWA. As of August 4, 2021, Wagner Peyser Enrollments for previous 30 days were 50 for Burlington and 82 for Davenport. Future Ready Iowa (FRI) reporting 60.2% having completed education and training beyond high school with the goal to be at 70% by 2025. The pandemic interrupted the progress of FRI but the progress is still trending upward and likely to continue with the legislature funding programs like last dollar scholarships. Ritchie shared Scott County has been designated a Home Base Iowa community. The AJC in Davenport received a Veteran Incentive

Award for 2021. Farley shared a success story of an individual prospering after working with Re-Entry Career Planner and DVOP to gain skills for employment. Farley reported there had been eight recruiting events/job fairs in the MVWA during the last 30 days. The centers request at least a two-week lead time on these events to allow for outreach efforts which include email to UI claimants, social media campaigns, and flyers. Nicol reported the partnering with IWD is powerful and recommends business seek their service.

ADULT/DW/RR JUNE AND JULY REPORTS

Schaapveld reported that during the month of July there were 721 participant contacts and 392 contacts with potential participants. There was \$3,444 written for on the job training. 9 Adults, 18 DW and 18 NDWG were enrolled, the average case load was 30 for Adult and 20 for DW. No new inventory purchased in July.

TITLE III STAFF LOCATIONS

Ritchie explained that their Title III outreach person would be returning to working in the outlying counties so the conversation surrounding the reopening plan is whether to put this individual in the same or different locations/days/times at Title I staff. Ritchie believes having the Title III at the same location as the Title I but on different days would be ideal for the northern counties but seeking direction for the board. Farley shared pre-pandemic the Fort Madison location is not ideal due to poor wifi and being on the outer edge of town creates accessibility issues for job seekers and that their Keokuk location is no longer available and could utilize the Goodwill location secured by Title I. Drew asked about the Goodwill location. Schaapveld explained the location is downtown and within walking distance for many residents and have workstations for potential participants and would welcome Title III to come in for a day or so a week. Drew asked about signage for the outreach centers recalling in the northern sites pre-pandemic they had window decals, posters, and other signage. Schaapveld said they did not at this time but there is some Rapid Response money that could be used for signage. Nicol asked if the ability to exit or change locations was possible. Schaapveld said the locations are secured with an MOU with an expiration date and both sided have an exit clause.

ONE STOP CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

Swafford explained a WIOA requirement is for the board to certify the comprehensive job centers. The state is developing the criteria and checklist for center operations and the board is responsible for verifying compliance with the standards. The final document is not expected until October 2021 or February 2022, then the checklist will be created and then a trial run at a center. Nicol asked if this is new or a revamp of a previous certification for which Farley said they had discussed it in the past but hadn't gotten to implementation and Swafford explained it is new for WIOA compliances.

OTHER BUSINESS

Swafford announced the full board meeting is Monday, August 23 at 5PM. Nicol asked about if we had a location for the Dec 2 training for which Wood confirmed the Isle Conference Center in Bettendorf has been secured.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNED

Bell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ritchie, motion carried, Nicol adjourned the meeting at 4:56 p.m.