



Mississippi Valley Workforce Development Board

Operations Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom

Members Present: Matthew Nicol, Nick Flogel, Scott Schneider, Erica Lee (late), and Tim Snyder

Members Absent: Kirby Phillips (excused)

CEOs Present: Jean Dickson

Staff Present: Miranda Swafford, Executive Director, Andrea Taylor, Strategic Partnership Specialist, and Tyler Lanz, Communications Assistant

Service Provider Staff Present: Cherisa Price-Wells, Regional Director, Kendra Schaapveld, Project Director; Taylor Longstreth, Operations Manager; Shannon Weaver, Operations Manager, Tabytha Seigfried, Quality Assurance Specialist

One-Stop Operator: Nick Clayton

Guest:

**Items Requiring a Vote, ** Items Requiring a Roll Call Vote*

CALLED TO ORDER

Nicol called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

QUORUM

The committee had a quorum to conduct business.

***CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda included approval of the agenda, approval of previous meeting minutes, and approval of Phillips' excused absence. Flogel made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Snyder, and motion carried.

STANDING REPORTS

ONE-STOP OPERATOR REPORT

Clayton reviewed the numbers for September. Clayton highlighted the Southeast Iowa Job Fair which had more than 330 job seeker attendees and 70 employers. He also highlighted the upcoming Clinton Career Fair and two careers fair coming up at Southeastern Community College. Referral numbers dipped slightly in September, likely because most education programs have already started so fewer people are seeking tuition assistance at this time. The Customer Satisfaction rate fell to 83%. Clayton believes this is a result of not having enough surveys completed, highlighting that the higher satisfaction rate in August coincided with an increase in completed surveys. Clayton advised that progress is still being made on the MOU development process. Partners and board staff are also in the process of researching a new referral system that will hopefully streamline the referral process and ability to track data.

ADULT/DW/RR REPORT

Schaapveld reported they received 1 WARN notice in September for Sivyer Steel following a fire at their plant and worker information meetings were held in October. They were also brought in by the Illinois American Job Center to be a resource to those impacted by the John Deere Harvester Works layoff in East Moline. There was a discussion about hosting special job fairs for impacted workers as part of the Rapid Response efforts. Schaapveld advised that they are still gathering information and it may depend on whether Sivyer Steel designates it as a permanent or temporary layoff. Schaapveld also discussed that due to the high demand for skilled workers, many impacted individuals were able to obtain new jobs quickly. Flogel advised that he attended two job fairs hosted at John Deere Harvester Works, which he reports were attended by a small number of workers relative to the total number of layoffs. There have been 4 Adult enrollments and 0 Dislocated Worker with the Adult caseload currently at 78 active and 92 follow-ups. Dislocated Worker currently has 83 active with 57 follow-up. There were 2 OST started in September, 0 WBL, and there was a 96.34% customer satisfaction rate. Outcomes- 2 credentials, 3 unsubsidized employment, 0 measurable skills gain, and 0 WBL started. Swafford discussed that we should have received the 9-month funding on October 1, 2023 and have not received it yet. Due to the potential of a government shutdown, funding is up in the air. She advised that current work-based learning expenses will be fulfilled, but that no other funds will be obligated in order to maintain operations as long as possible. Depending on how long it takes to receive funding, deliverables may need to be reviewed and adjusted.

TITLE III REPORT

Snyder advised most of the services provided out of both centers for Title III are unemployment focused and make referrals for other services when appropriate. The Burlington and Ottumwa offices were selected to plan, organize, and execute a Re-Employment Pilot Project which will schedule customers into a bi-weekly in-person Job Club in an effort to re-engage them prior to exhausting their benefits. Snyder also highlighted the Southeast Iowa Job Fair held on September 21, 2023 and provided an overview of labor market information. There was a discussion about the impact of initiatives to bring employees back into offices and the reduction of remote opportunities. There was also a discussion about whether workers are delaying retirement or re-entering the workforce. Snyder advised that many individuals work past the age of 65, however we do not necessarily know the reasons behind it. Flogel gave an overview of a new rule developed by the union to address the worker shortage, which provided options for retired workers to return part-time.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY THRESHOLD

Swafford presented the current WIOA Title I Eligibility Policy and highlighted the Economic Self-Sufficiency section. Recently, a customer left their place of employment to enter a Registered Apprenticeship and took a pay cut in order to do so. The customer was deemed ineligible for Title I services because their income at their previous place of employment put them over the threshold. Board member Jacob Nye requested that the committee review the policy and discuss whether exceptions could be made to account for these circumstances. There was a discussion about the role of choice and control, as the customer voluntarily took that step

as opposed to workers who are impacted by an employer cutting hours or reducing wages due to operational necessity. Swafford highlighted the Exceptions section of the policy which states that exceptions must be approved by the board's Executive Director and the appropriate Committee Chair and advised that it is rare for service providers to exercise that option. After some additional discussion, there was a consensus to keep the policy as-is and not revise it to include exceptions when there is already an Exceptions clause.

PREDICTIVE REPORTS

Schaapveld presented the Q1 predictive reports. The credential rate and measurable skills gain metrics will be lower for this quarter because of the start of a new semester. Schaapveld advised they will likely see an increase in Q2 and Q4. Employment rate and median earnings data is limited and incomplete because they have to wait 3 months for it to be updated in the system, however some data exists if staff are in contact with and able to obtain paystubs from their participants to verify employment and wage data. Based on manual calculations, Weaver reports they anticipate meeting all deliverables for the Adult program and meeting credential attainment, measurable skills gains, and median earnings for Dislocated Worker program. They predict they will fall just short of the Q2 and Q4 employment rate.

MOU ATTACHMENTS

Swafford advised these will be coming up at a future committee meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Swafford discussed that registration information will be coming soon for the in-person 4th Annual Board Training being held in Burlington on November 30, 2023. Nicol requested to double check that Lee is added to the meeting invites and distribution list.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNED

Flogel made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Snyder, and the motion carried. Nicol adjourned the meeting at 5:09 p.m.