



Mississippi Valley Workforce Development Board

Youth Committee Meeting

Monday, October 18th, at 5:00 p.m., via Zoom

Members Present: Jacob Nye, Heather Halbrook, Regina Matheson, Rebecca Ruberg, Carrie Nudd, Andy Sokolovich, and Ron Schaefer

Members Absent: Tasha Beghtol and Patrick Stock

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

CEO Present: Chad White and Shane McCampbell (late)

Equus Staff: Cherisa Price-Wells, Kendra Schaapveld, and Tabytha Seigfried

One-stop Operator: Robert Ryan

CALLED TO ORDER

Nye called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

QUORUM

There was a quorum to conduct business.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Schaefer made a motion to approve Beghtol and Stock absences, seconded by Sokolovich, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ruberg made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Matheson, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Nye offered the minutes be amended to reflect Schaefer had made the second instead of Stock in the excused absence section. Schaefer made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes with the amendment, seconded by Sokolovich, motion carried.

EQUUS SEPTEMBER YOUTH REPORT

Schaapveld reported that there were 206 contacts with potential participants in the month of September, with \$2,899 spent on WEX and \$890 on incentives. There were 1 ISY and 4 OSY enrollments during the month of September, and the average caseload is 32. Outcomes included one measurable skill gain and one unsubsidized employment.

OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT POLICY

Schaapveld explained that youth are required to take an assessment at entry into the program. The policy would dictate acceptable assessment tools. TABE and CASAS are in the policy and each has its issues and benefits and having both allows for flexibility. The MOU with EICC includes CASAS testing but SCC did not have the bandwidth to provide testing to Title I participants. Seigfried added the NCRC is also nice because it allows

participants to earn a credential as well. Sokolovich motioned to approve the Objective Assessment Policy as written, seconded by Schaefer, motion carried.

FUTURE READY IOWA SUMMIT UPDATE

Matheson reported approximately 700 people attended this year's summit. Matheson summarized that there is a very clear gap in workforce with high demand but a shortage of qualified workers. There are fewer female and people of color in the labor pool. Technology has changed more in the last 10 years than any other industry in the past 130 years. Skills necessary for the workforce include problem solving, agile, flexibility and adaptability. Cybersecurity has huge demand and externships, internships, and work-based learning opportunities exist to grow the labor pool. COVID-19 disrupted everything but the impact to workforce was surprising with women and people of color checking out and millennials leaving because of no work-life balance. Jamie Merisotis wrote a book called the Human Work in the Age of Smart Machines which offers insight and understanding of the new workforce dynamic.

MENTORING UPDATE

Swafford met with Cassie Gerst. Gerst had provided a very large publication with regard to starting a mentoring program. There are no mentoring providers in the southern area of the MVWA to contract with to provide these services. Swafford had reached out to IWD for guidance on meeting the mentoring requirement. IWD is reaching out to Region 5 DOL. Since we have requested technical assistance, we can table the mentoring component until such time as the state is able to provide direction.

OTHER BUSINESS

Swafford reminded the committee the next in-person training is December 2 and registration information would be coming soon.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nye asked that we keep the workers on strike in our thoughts.

ADJOURN

Schaefer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Matheson, motion carried. Nye adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.