



# Mississippi Valley Workforce Development Board

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## **Youth Committee Meeting**

Monday, June 13, 2022, at 5:00 p.m., via Zoom

**Members Present:** Jacob Nye, Heather Halbrook, Regina Matheson, Carol Reynolds, and Rebecca Ruberg

**Members Absent:** Patrick Stock, Ron Schaefer, and Andy Sokolovich

**Staff Present:** Miranda Swafford, Executive Director, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Associate Director, and Phyllis Wood, Executive Assistant

**CEO Present:** Shane McCampbell

**Equus Staff:** Shannon Weaver, Operations Supervisor, Taylor Longstreth, Operations Supervisor, Tabytha Seigfried, Quality Assurance Specialist, Brett Schwoebel, Youth Career Planner, and Kendra Schaapveld, Project Director

**One-stop Operator:** Robert Ryan

### **CALLED TO ORDER**

Nye called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

### **QUORUM**

There was a quorum to conduct business.

### **EXCUSED ABSENCES**

Reynolds made a motion to approve Stock and Schaefer absences, seconded by Matheson, the motion carried. Sokolovich was an unexcused absence.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Reynolds made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes, seconded by Matheson, the motion carried.

### **\*CHAIR/ VICE CHAIR ELECTION**

Nye noted the vice chair role was suggested so meetings could continue in the absence of the chair. Ruberg nominated Nye for the chair role and Nye accepted. Nye nominated Ruberg for the vice-chair role, and Ruberg accepted. Halbrook made a motion to approve the nominations into their respective roles, seconded by Reynolds, the motion carried.

### **VIRTUAL REALITY/ YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCE**

Schaapveld spoke about the use and functionality of the virtual reality headsets. They offer the opportunity to test an occupation without fully committing the resources and time of an organization or

the participant. The plan is to purchase 20 headsets and the full suite of applications available which will include access to the healthcare suite when it is released later this year. Schaapveld shared they would be getting training on the headset utilization and software to track participation progress on June 22. Once Equus has a better understanding of the training process, they will write policy to guide participation and use of the headsets. Swafford created the materials in the packet to justify the expense to IWD. It does show some success stories from other areas and goals for the program. We are shaping the model of VR use in the workforce system in Iowa. The utilization that allows us to bill to the work experience program must be the priority use of the headset but when the headsets are not in use for a WEX they could be used for outreach and career exploration.

### **REVIEW OF PY22 BUDGETS**

Swafford reported we did get our program budgets from the state and with an estimated carryover MVWDB will have approximately \$1.9 million for program year 2022. Part of the reason the virtual reality concept became a proposal was due to the available funding. We must spend at least \$670,000 by June 2023 or we will lose money back to the state. We are interested in hearing innovative ways to serve youth.

### **PY21 Q3 PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES**

Swafford reported this is the first quarter MVWDB has had enough data to be provided feedback from the state on our performance outcomes. Schaapveld explained the measurable skills gain is a real time measure and low enrollments will bring these numbers down. The basic skills test we administer requires a learner to improve an educational functional level which is up to the equivalent of three years of education to count towards measurable skills gain but testing can only be conducted once every 90 days. Schaapveld discussed solutions of incentivizing the testing by modifying the Youth Incentive Policy. The policy would be modified to include the testing stipends. Swafford said the July agenda for the Youth Committee meeting will include proposed adjustments to stipends. Nye and Ruberg felt the proposed stipends would need to be higher. The committee will discuss in depth next month.

### **YOUTH AMBASSADOR**

Schaapveld said this is Brent Schwoebel's brainchild to tap into one of the 14 youth requirements. Schwoebel said the youth will share events and activities on their social media, they would gain leadership skills but would receive no preferential treatment. The youth ambassador would get Financial Economic Opportunity credits for attending the youth committee meetings and will add valuable experience for their resumes. Nye likes the idea but will proceed with caution. Schwoebel looking at 6-8 ambassadors to try and get one from each county. Nye asked how many ambassadors will be attending a youth committee meeting. The process has not been looked at, but Swafford and Rodriguez will meet with Schwoebel to discuss the committee meetings attendance policy. The committee is encouraged to send any concerns or ideas to Rodriguez to incorporate.

### **EQUUS APRIL & MAY REPORT**

Swafford asked the committee to provide feedback to her about the reporting out of youth activities as far as items they either don't find valuable or would like more information on. Schaapveld reported on April and May program numbers. There were 517 contacts with participants, with \$1,618 spent on WEX wages, \$5,350 paid out in incentives/stipends, and \$8,578 on support services. The WEX percentages are below 20% but should come up as the new enrollees continue beyond orientation into work experience opportunities. Getting the WEX wages up will also help improve this number. There were 1

In-School Youth and 28 Out-of-School Youth enrollments during April and May, which has them above enrollment goals for the year but no plans of slowing down. The average caseload size is balancing out because Equus is fully staffed. The iLegacy course had a total of 7 participants complete the course in April and May. Legacy in Action customer satisfaction survey was at 95.53%. Challenges include the complexity of the enrollment process.

### **PY22 MEETING SCHEDULE**

Wood presented the meeting schedule for the youth committee. The committee discussion concluded with the March 13 meeting would be the in-person meeting. Wood will poll the committee to determine where the location will be.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business discussed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **ADJOURN**

Ruberg made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Matheson, the motion carried. Nye adjourned the meeting at 5:57p.m.