



# Mississippi Valley Workforce Development Board

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## **Youth Committee Meeting Minutes**

Monday, November 13, at 4:00 p.m., via Zoom

**Members Present:** Jacob Nye, Rebecca Ruberg, Andy Sokolovich, Carol Reynolds, Heather Halbrook, and Martha Bell

**Members Absent:** Regina Matheson (excused), Charlene Fitzgerald (excused)

**Staff Present:** Andrea Taylor, Strategic Partnership Specialist, and Tyler Lanz, Communications Assistant

**CEO Present:** None

**Equus Staff:** Taylor Longstreth, Title I Operations Manager, Tabytha Seigfried, Quality Assurance, Dashawn Banks, Outreach Specialist, and Shannon Weaver, Title I Operations Manager

**One-Stop Operator:** Nick Clayton

### **CALLED TO ORDER**

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

### **QUORUM**

There was a quorum to conduct business.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda included approval of the agenda, approval of previous meeting minutes, and approval of Matheson and Fitzgerald's excused absences. Ruberg made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Sokolovich, and motion carried.

### **EQUUS OCTOBER YOUTH REPORT**

Longstreth reviewed current outreach strategies and highlighted some recent events that they attended, including the You Choose industry sector event in Clinton which was attended by 76 youth! Longstreth reported 8 out-of-school youth enrollments, 2 entered Occupational Skills Training, and 3 entered into Work-Based Learning. 16 stipends and 29 incentives were paid out in October. Longstreth also reported outcomes: 1 CNA, 2 HiSED, 10 unsubsidized employments, 1 ISY WEX started, and 1 OSY WEX started. The customer satisfaction rate was 93.06% with 24 surveys completed.

### **VIRTUAL REALITY METRICS REPORT**

Longstreth presented the VR metrics report. She reported that 15 people participated in Career Exploration, completing 47 simulations. She advised that the report may not have accurately measured the amount of people who used the headsets at the Clinton You Choose event because the headsets were not shut down and restarted in between participants. 3 Youth students used the Virtual Training Facility, completing 32 simulations. Longstreth reviewed the mastery details for the Virtual Training Facility, sharing that 87.5% of youth successfully mastered the skills in the simulations.

## **COMPETENCY-BASED MODELS**

Lanz reviewed the competency-based models and building blocks aimed at increasing alignment between education, training, and industry to develop more well-rounded and better prepared workers. The foundations of the model are Personal Effectiveness, Academic Competency, and Workplace Competency, which then branch out into industry-specific skills and competencies. Board staff and Nye recently met with the superintendent of West Burlington schools to discuss how their goals for how these competency-based models can be used, especially as the local workforce boards are taking on the convener role for industry sector boards. Sokolovich advised the new superintendent of Clinton schools has experience implementing the competency-based models and the Portrait of a Graduate program. Reynolds shared about recent efforts in the Muscatine area to increase workforce preparation and apprenticeships in their schools.

## **WCA UPDATES**

Lanz presented the draft action plan for the Workforce Communities of Action initiative. The main themes identified involved adapting our current outreach strategies to incorporate more story-telling, humanizing programs, and emphasizing relationships with both youth and employers. Board staff recently met with Phalanx Outreach Solutions, who submitted a proposal for a video campaign. Nye inquired about next steps in this process and Lanz advised that finalized action plans will be submitted to Workforce Communities of Action and Jobs for the Future, who will select an organization to receive seed funding.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Nye advised that it is National Apprenticeship Week.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sokolovich asked whether any committee members have undertaken advocacy efforts or had any experience regarding the cost per pupil discrepancies between school districts across the state of Iowa. There was a discussion regarding the impacts of school vouchers, cost per pupil, and declining enrollment in rural school districts. The committee discussed the shortage of teachers and educators and Lanz advised there are some districts in the MVWA who have gone through the process of developing the Teacher-Para Registered Apprenticeship and that EICC is working on developing plans and partnerships with larger universities to fuel teacher education. Reynolds discussed an initiative in Muscatine surrounding community-based childcare and creating a talent pipeline from those staff.

## **ADJOURN**

Sokolovich made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Reynolds, and motion carried. Nye adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.