



Mississippi Valley Workforce Development Board

Youth Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 12, 2024 at 4:00 p.m., via Zoom

Members Present: Jacob Nye, Rebecca Ruberg, Andy Sokolovich, Regina Matheson, Carol Reynolds, Heather Halbrook, Martha Bell, Charlene Fitzgerald

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Tyler Lanz, Strategic Partnership Specialist, Miranda Swafford, Executive Director, Mandy Tripp, Compliance Officer and Louise Butherus, Communications Assistant

CEO Present: None

Equus Staff: Cherisa Price-Wells, Regional Director, Taylor Longstreth, Title I Operations Manager, and Shannon Weaver, Title I Operations Manager

One-Stop Operator:

CALLED TO ORDER

Nye called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

QUORUM

There was a quorum to conduct business.

CONSENT AGENDA

There was a quorum to approve the consent agenda.

ENGAGE BY CELL DEMO

Dave Asheim, founder of EBC discussed the benefits and technical aspects of the platform geared towards bettering the way we engage with the youth group. Lanz and Reynolds questioned the opt out aspect to which Asheim confirmed the solution would be to use different numbers for different lists. Swafford commented of all the organizations met regarding text, EBC provided the most tailored platform for Workforce. Price-Wells, Weaver and Nye expressed their concerns about price to which Swafford commented the potential for a 30 day trial from last year. Lanz is researching to see if the option is still available.

EQUUS JANUARY YOUTH REPORT

Weaver reviewed current outreach strategies and highlighted some recent events that they attended. Weaver reported 2 out-of-school youth enrollments, 0 in-school youth enrollments, 5 entered Occupational Skills Training, and 0 entered into Work-Based Learning. 28 stipends and 24 incentives were paid out in January. Weaver also reported outcomes: 2 HiSET, and 3 unsubsidized employments and 8 measurable skills gains. Weaver shared several success stories in which a 17 year old completed work experience and has a tentative job offer, a 20 year old out-of-school practiced interviewing with the staff at Vocational Rehab and received a job offer, his parents reached out to personally thank the

team and a 19 year old received his high school equivalency after 1 year. The customer satisfaction rate was 96.11% with 18 surveys completed.

VIRTUAL REALITY METRICS REPORT

Weaver presented the VR metrics report. She reported 9 unique users and 14 career sims started this month with varying occupations. Weaver highlighted use at the Louisa/Muscatine Job Fair with more usage towards the end of the month. Weaver also commented that February numbers will be interesting as the units have been at 3 events so far this month with more to come.

***LOCAL PLAN QUESTIONS**

Lanz discussed draft of answers to questions pertaining to Youth Services. Bell commented that on pg. 67, Title II eligibility needs to be updated from EDU to Ia Workforce. Lanz commented that she would look into it.

Weaver commented that the governor had applied for a waiver which would require that 50% of funding to be spent on In-School Youth rather than the current ratio of 75/25 and provided an overview of the impacts that would have on youth programming. Bell wanted a full understanding of the waiver and suggested the wording be amended from “will” to “may”. Weaver confirmed that the board determines the expenditures. Nye questioned why the 50/50 waiver is being included in the local plan and Lanz explained that it is just declaring our option to ‘opt-in’ if approved. Nye offered to entertain a motion to approve the local plan as amended. Matheson motioned to approve and Reynolds seconded. Motion carried.

IOWAWORKS MOBILE UNIT

Tripp discussed the mobile has been delivered to the state and they are working on IT now. Tripp mentioned that Mississippi Valley has preference and priority and discussed events in July that have been identified as potential uses. Tripp also commented the unit must be stored in a secure location with a plug in. Tripp commented that a Burlington location has been confirmed but still trying to confirm a Davenport location. Nye suggested contacting Bergfeld for storage options.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

Nye requested a motion to adjourn. Reynolds made a motion to adjourn Ruberg seconded. Nye adjourned the meeting at 5:12 p.m.