

**Northern Middle TN Workforce Board Meeting
November 10, 2020
11:30 a.m.
Virtual Meeting**

Present Members:

Carol Puryear
Charles Story
Chris West
Dan Caldwell
Dan Rutledge
Dan Ryan
GC Hixson
James Harper
Jennifer Hobbs
John Alexander
John Zobl
Jon Hunter
Keith Carnahan
Kristi Spurgeon
Lynn Seifert
Mark Peed
Richie Brandon
Tony Adams
Tylesha McCray

Members Absent:

Howard Bradley
Brian Simms
Seth Thurman
Bo Callis

Staff & Guests:

Andrea Dillard
Bethany Sullivan
Christel Brown
Christina Dusenberry
Ellen Gomez
Ellen Zinkiewicz
Freda Herndon
George Phillips
Ginger Fussell
James Starns
Jennifer Saladis Moscoso
John Watz
Joseph Johnson
Marla Rye
Mayor Kerry McCarver
Mayor Robin Brandon
Mayor Rogers Anderson
Mayor Stephen Chambers
Meagan Dobbins
Melissa Baisden
Paul Webb
Renea Rosson
Renee Hollis
Roe Falcone
Ryan Pruitt
Trish Farmer

The Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Development Board met virtually on Tuesday, November 10 at 11:30 a.m. A quorum was present.

The meeting was called to order and Chairman John Zobl made opening remarks. Marla welcomed everyone to the meeting including the county mayors that were in attendance. John Zobl asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mark Peed made the motion to approve and GC Hixson offered the second. The minutes were approved unanimously. Paul Webb, CPA was introduced to the group as a

soon to be member of the board as he had been recommended by the Williamson County Chamber of Commerce and Mayor Rogers Anderson.

In honor of Veterans Day, Marla asked that all veterans raise their hand and recognized them with a virtual round of applause. Marla recognized the NTWB members and partners in action during the quarter including Mayor Stephen Chambers, Ellen Gomez, G.C. Hixon, Carol Puryear, John Alexander, Mayor Hutto, Mayor Hutto and Mayor Brandon. She review the latest unemployment numbers for the nation, Tennessee and local counties in Northern Middle. John Zobl asked about the Davidson County unemployment numbers.

Chairman Zobl informed the Board that all committees met since the last meeting in August and reviewed and approved the procurement recommendations. He stated that the Executive Committee met on November 2 to ratify the actions of each of the committees which finalized the procurement process. He then recapped the selection of the new career service providers and asked for each to introduce themselves. Dr. Cynthia Croom from the Metropolitan Action Commission updated the board on their plans as the youth services provider in Davidson County. Ellen Zinkiewicz offered her excitement to rejoin WIOA as a youth service provider. Christina Dusenberry and Roe Falcone provided an overview of EDSI including a video which highlighted their workforce development efforts. James Harper asked about the EDSI open house and incumbent employee meetings. Ms. Dusenberry provided details on the virtual meetings.

Chairman Zobl asked about the transition timeline. Marla informed the group that EDSI and MAC would be taking over as of January 1, 2021. She explained that the board staff would provide training in December and early January for the new team members. Chairman Zobl noted that MCHRA would retain the one-stop-operator contract. Charles Story asked about reporting from the new providers. Marla stated that she would ask that the providers update the Board at each quarterly meeting.

Strategic Priorities-Manage Board funds to support Career Pathways-

Ginger Fussell provided a financial overview of the quarter including a budget against actual expenditure review. She stated that we have expended 22.7% of the budget in 25% of the year. She stated that MCHRA's September CSP expenditures were the highest on record during their contract, yet the OSO contract was well under budget. She thanked MCHRA for enrolling clients when the centers reopened. She reviewed the MPCR and stated that in September, MCHRA's MPCR was above 50% in every funding stream after not achieving the MPCR in any funding stream during July and August. She highlighted Campbell Strong's MPCR and the one-year extension approval to September 30, 2021. Overall, our MPCR was at 45.7%. Highlights of the quarterly monitoring were covered during the presentation. She stated that some improvements were made but she was still concerned with performance, especially credentialing. She stated that we had modified our monitoring guidelines to reflect the changes made at the state level. Jon Hunter acknowledged the great work of John Watz and thanked the team for securing the extension for the Campbell Strong Workforce Partnership.

Connect People with Career Opportunities-

George Phillips reviewed the AJC quarterly report including active cases and traffic counts. He stated that AJC traffic was up from the previous two quarters. He highlighted the new Premier Virtual job fair platform. He concluded his report with a summary of the key performance indicators in Northern Middle.

Andrea Dillard provided a recap of the CARES Act funding including distribution of 750 laptops to adult education students and virtual learners. She also summarized the New Skills November classes that are being offered to individuals effected by COVID-19. Andrea recognized Northern Middle Board member, Lynn Seifert for assisting with the Adult Education computer giveaway. Marla also recognized several post-secondary institutions, which helped with the CARES Act training. Specifically, Nashville State Community College, TCAT Dickson, Murfreesboro and Hartsville, Lockhart Trucking and APSU have been instrumental in New Skills November.

Train Workforce to Fill Employer Needs-

Freda Herndon provided a list of business that have received CARES Act funding for incumbent worker training and layoff aversion. She explained that small business were given priority for most of the funding. She gave examples of the types of innovation and creativity that small business have deployed to survive during the pandemic. She stated that it has been a rewarding project to administer. She also provided an overview on a new virtual job fair platform.

Improve Efficiency and Effectiveness of Training Programs-

Renee Hollis reviewed and summarized the Credential Attainment Guidance, Youth Eligibility Policy, Monitoring and Oversight Policy and Grievance and Complaint Resolution Policy. She explained that the Tennessee Department of Labor had provided guidance on corresponding state policies. She stated that the Innovation Committee met on October 30 and reviewed each policy and recommended approval to the full board. GC Hixon made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Innovation Committee and approve all policies. Mark Peed made the second. The motion carried without opposition.

Old Business-

Marla provided a brief update on the Nashville Chamber of Commerce Workforce Study. She explained that the study would be released in January 2021 and that a separate virtual meeting would be held to discuss the study.

John Watz concluded the meeting with positive news as the next day would be Veterans Day. He provided an overview of the Campbell Strong Workforce Partnership and the one-year extension that was granted by the United State Department of Labor. He state that Tennessee's congressional delegation had offered strong support for the program.

John Zobl thanked the members for attending virtually and stated that he hoped we would be able to meet in person soon. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.