



Approved on
May 6, 2021

**Northern Middle TN Workforce Board
Special Populations Committee Meeting:
October 29, 2020
2:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

Members Attending	Members Absent	Staff & Guests Attending
John Alexander	Carol Puryear	Marla Rye
George "Bo" Callis	GC Hixon	Christel Brown
James Harper	Christopher West	Freda Herndon
Lynn Seifert	Jennifer Hobbs	Ellen Gomez
John Zobl		

The Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Special Populations and Innovation Committees met on October 29, 2020, at 2 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

Andrea Dillard, Vice President for Workforce Services, welcomed all to the Special Populations Committee. She asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Lynn Seifert made a motion, and James Harper made a second. With no further discussion, the minutes were approved. Andrea then opened with a comprehensive explanation of an in-depth Federal Monitoring Report and review that was conducted over numerous months by Youth representatives out of the U.S. Department of Labor office in Atlanta. This was an extensive review in numerous Local Workforce Areas across the state, both in-person and electronic file review. Federal monitors conducted a numerous day in-person review of Northern Middle going over processes and functions and comparing our youth activities to the requirements and intent of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Additionally, they reviewed guidance and direction from the state level down to sub-recipients via state policies governing Youth. Corrective actions were made throughout the review when necessary. However, Northern Middle was not compliant in one specific area. It is required under WIOA that a youth participant or at least a youth who is eligible for WIOA services attend Workforce Board meetings and advise or contribute information from a youth perspective on effective outreach to Youth and increase the

effectiveness of programs for Youth. Andrea recommended that we immediately include eligible Youth in the future special population's committee meetings and all future Board meetings. This could be accomplished through the current youth providers nominating those Youth who could contribute the best information depending on Board topics and the agendas. John Watz then described the Campbell Strong Workforce Partnership status and especially the extension of the grant. The grant has successfully met its two-year goal of enrolling 1440 soldiers being discharged from Fort Campbell and spouses qualified as Dislocated Workers. Additionally, the two-year grant came well under budget due to efficiency and spouses not needing as much financial assistance as planned. A request to the state from the Federal U.S. Department of Labor went forward. The Garrison staff and our sister Western KY Workforce Board, and government officials such as Senator Blackburn were highly supportive. On September 30, 2020, Workforce Essentials received approval to continue servicing its military customer base for an additional year. This grant extension shows how extremely successful this DOL/DOD project has been. Additionally, Installation Management Command is using this partnership as a best practice. The current grant will continue using funds, at no additional cost, through September 30, 2021. We will be working with the state and our partners to take this highly successful project and obtain permanent funding.

Marla then gave an update as to AJC COVID actions and Cares Act review. She stated that all centers were open and that they were obeying local government guidance with the AJCs maintaining social distance and PPE Protocols. Temperature scanners were being installed in all centers. CARES Act funding was providing laptops and iPads to over 750 people, primarily A.E. students and Title 1 students, so that they could attend virtual classes. Companies were also being reimbursed for COVID expenses with CARES Act funding through the United Way. Fifty-four businesses have applied for that funding which must be spent by the end of December. Thirty-eight companies have applied for IWT funding. In another grant, over 90 people with a National Emergency Grant were being served to help people get back to work. They are mainly providing PPE COVID cleaning assistance to other agencies, primarily school systems across our region. These separate funding streams are happening simultaneously along with normal operations, COVID protocols, and new service provider procurement. It is a very busy time.

Andrea Dillard and Marla Rye then reviewed the process the Board had been on with the Third Party Administrator (Thomas P Miller- TPM) to procure a new One-Stop Operator (OSO) and Career Service Provider (CSP), which could include Youth. TPM was procured in August. Working with Board staff, they developed the scope of work and released an RFP mid-September via the internet and direct distribution to 117 companies. Two proposals were received for OSO and five for CSP. The procurement recommendation was delivered to Marla on October 23. All proposals were very good; thus, scores were close in most areas. Marla began to summarize the TPM recommendation report specifically focusing on the scoring table. TPM recommended that Mid Cumberland Human Resource Agency should be the One-Stop Operator. Due to state policy, this eliminated MCHRA from any other bid. EDSI was recommended to deliver Adult and Dislocated worker services in all counties. Proposing Youth sections were specifically reviewed by staff to the Board. EDSI had experience in other states working with Youth. However, within the 13 county workforce area, Davidson County has the

preponderance of Youth with barriers, and the highest potential Youth was greatest in Davidson County. Discussion from Special Populations Board members began immediately, reflecting their concern with an outside agent starting new programs in the largest geographic area containing Youth when other agencies had solid track records and vast experience in the area. Discussion continued to possibly split service levels, and a motion was made by James Harper and seconded by Lynn Seifert to award EDSI the Youth contract for 12 counties and award Youth in Davidson County to the Metropolitan Action Commission. The staff was asked if this was possible and were there any pitfalls. Marla and Andrea both agreed that this would be the best possible scenario. With that, the vote ensued and was unanimous in recommending to the entire Board that MAC serve Youth in Davidson County and EDSI serve Youth in the remaining 12 counties of the NMTWDB.

With that final vote on Youth providers, the meeting was adjourned.