



Approved  
October 29, 2020

**Northern Middle TN Workforce Board Committee Meetings:  
June 4, 2020  
1:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

The Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Special Populations and Innovation Committees met on June 4, 2020 at 1 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

The first item on the agenda was to approve the minutes. Bo Callis motioned and Chris West. The minutes were approved with no opposition. Marla thanked everyone who was in attendance to the committee meeting. Marla gave an update about the unemployment insurance. She stated that unemployment has taken over since COVID-19 pandemic began. In Tennessee, there has been 561,000 claims so far and it continues to increase daily. This is also reflected in the state unemployment numbers, Northern Middle went from a 2.6% unemployment rate to 14.8%. Marla gave an update on AJC operations. She explained that we are the only area that is in phase two. Marla stated that most of the areas are still in the planning and appointment phase. Northern Middle opened the doors to the public on May 26, and are seeing clients in the centers. The next step will be on June 8<sup>th</sup>, we will open our doors and still observe social distancing but continue to see clients at full capacity. She states we need the doors open now more than ever. It is our job to serve and help individuals who have lost their jobs.

Andrea gave an update on the monitoring report for the youth program. She stated that the youth program lacked structure and framework. She explained that the youth program needed to contain 14 elements for delivering services. Based on the audit, we were informed that the board needed to take action and establish partnerships with service providers that could help assist in youth development. Andrea attached a chart to the handouts that explain each of the 14 elements. She has also identified a partner that can deliver each of the services. She also expressed that there is a mandate to have youth and parents of eligible youth participate in planning meetings. She requested that all providers and board members share board information and invite them to meetings.

John Watz gave the committee an update on the Regional and Local Plans. He stated in April we received guidance from the state concerning the formulation of both plans. Both of these plans are due to the state by June 30<sup>th</sup>. The regional plan consist of Northern Middle, Upper Cumberland, and Southern Middle. In April these areas met virtually to divide duties and responsibilities to complete the plan in a timely manner. The areas put together a draft plan and it was sent to the Department of Labor in early May. They gave us feedback on the regional plan, and we made adjustments and began to finalize. This draft plan will be posted

on the Northern Middle website for public comment. John explained that at the same time, Northern Middle has also been working on the Local Plan. He continued that both of the plans have to be submitted to the state no later than June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Andrea explain the NEG Grant and how it is going to assist with the pandemic. She stated that the money that is available to assist government and public entities and their recovery efforts. Many of the dislocated workers have been hired to work in county offices to clean after visits and to take temperatures at the door. This grant allows businesses to have access to individuals to help with the influx of people coming in to take care of their business.

Marla stated that the Adult Education contract was awarded on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. She explained that we bid on 12 of the 13 counties. We had previously been serving Sumner County, but Volunteer State expressed interest in the program. Marla explained that we did not want to compete with someone who we consider a valuable partner. The grant was awarded to Workforce Essentials for both Adult Education and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education. Marla asked for questions, and with none the meeting was adjourned.