



Approved on
November 2, 2021

**Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Board
Innovation Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2021, via Zoom 9:00 AM**

Members Attending	Members Absent	Staff & Guests Attending
Seth Thurman	Dan Ryan	Marla Rye
Anne Fugate	Beth Duffield	Freda Herndon
Tony Adams	Richie Brandon	Andrea Dillard
Tylesha McCray		John Watz
John Alexander		

The Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Board Innovation Committee met via Zoom on August 3, 2021. Attendance was taken, and a quorum declared. Seth Thurman, committee chair called the meeting to order.

Seth called for approval of the minutes, with Tylesha McCray motioning and Anne Fugate seconding. With no other discussion, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Career Service Provider-Performance Review

Marla updated the committee on the performance of the CSPs. Both contractors had met their performance goals and MPCR goal set for June. While they met the goals and objectives set by the board for June, they did not meet cumulative performance goals and are deficient in their work experience and in-school youth requirements. The Executive Committee met to give them feedback on meeting their goals and what their new objectives will be moving forward. Chairman Zobl sent a letter outlining goals to achieve for the quarters ending September 30 and December 31. They must continue meeting their enrollment goals, MPCR, and achieve the 40% in-school youth requirement and the 25% work experience requirement.

Both contractors have been asked to attend the board meeting on August 11 and be prepared to continue their corrective action plan and inform us specifically on how they are going to improve their youth services.

Eligible Training Provider Requests

Freda presented programs for approval as an Eligible Training Provider. She then reviewed the list of new programs and their courses, requesting approval to be added to the list. Then she reviewed the programs requiring approval for a cost increase. Marla explained that some programs cost more than the funding amount allowed. When a student picks that course, they are informed that they get a certain amount of money for the class, but they are responsible for the remaining balance. Freda then clarified that programs removed from the list have to be off for a year, but if there is a reason they need to be added prior to the end of that year, then the board could make that decision.

Seth then asked for a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the Eligible Training Providers List. John Alexander made the motion, and Tylesha seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the board voted in favor unanimously.

Justice-Involved Individuals

John Watz communicated to the committee that we have been conducting an Industrial Readiness training with the Houston County Jail for the past two weeks. The students have been attending classes on a variety of topics taught by Nashville State. Some of the men have also received their HiSet. Once this training is over, another one will take place with the women in the Houston County Jail, and women from the Steward County Jail will be brought in as well. Then the Industrial Readiness Training will be moved to the Stewart County Jail for a male training program. The next step is to work with both sheriff's departments on a work-release program trying to get the students employed in the area utilizing their training. Marla added that a pre-apprenticeship program had been conducted in the Dickson and Davidson County Jails. The classes have been linked together through a virtual instructor providing the training program.

Innovative Concepts

Marla updated the committee about the American Rescue Plan, which is being awarded to county government. She has been in touch with many of the county mayors to see if we can use this to create workforce programs that will allow us to expand the eligible populations that we serve.

Marla then informed the board that she and Beth Duffield put in a grant through the Department of Education for an Innovative High School Grant. It was awarded and is set to kick off this fall. The plan is to put an American Job Center inside a couple of the high schools in Rutherford County (Riverdale and Laverne), enabling EDSI to be inside the school to capture youth who really need our services and allow us to focus on work experience.

Adjourn

With no other questions, Seth Thurman adjourned the meeting.