



Approved on
August 3, 2021

**Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Board
Innovation Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2021, via Zoom 1:00 PM**

Members Attending	Members Absent	Staff & Guests Attending
John Alexander	Anne Fugate	Marla Rye
Tylesha McCray	Tony Adams	Freda Herndon
John Zobl	Richie Brandon	Sherry Maynard
Seth Thurman	Dan Ryan	John Watz

The Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Board Innovation Committee met via Zoom on May 6, 2021. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established. Seth Thurman, committee chair calling the meeting to order.

Thurman called for approval of the minutes with John Alexander motioning and Tylesha McCray seconding. With no other discussion, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Andrea Dillard presented four policies the committee for consideration. Three are policy amendments, and one is a new policy. The Adult Priority of Service policy is a requirement of WIOA. The state made changes, so the proposed policy is aligns with the state changes. The point of entry definition was added to include people contacting the AJC through virtual means. The Grievance and Complaint Resolution policy was updated to include forms to use when filing a complaint and a reporting timeline. The Supportive Service policy has been updated to allow the Board to reimburse a contract service provider if they are required to pay sales tax. The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Co-Enrollment is a new policy. This policy allows a client to fill out supplemental paperwork in order to be co-enrolled in TAA and WIOA, which is now a requirement. The policy is to promote efficiency and save the client time from filling out two separate enrollment packets. John Alexander asked if we are above the 75% threshold. Andrea responded that we serve over 75% from the priority populations with barriers. Seth called for a motion to approve the policies. John Alexander made the motion, and Tylesha 2nd the motion. With no further discussion, the committee voted for the motion unanimously.

Andrea then reported on the McGruder Center Access Point, which she visited with Marla and John Alexander. This is a family resource center in Nashville in an area that has the highest rate of incarcerated individuals across the nation. This center has asked to be an access point for the American Job Center, meaning there would be individuals at this center during certain days or times so clients could have access to services there. They would also have electronic access as well. This center already has specialized training, classes, and apprenticeships with companies. She stated that the Special Populations Committee approved the expansion to the McGruder Center earlier.

Freda presented providers to the board for approval. She started with concerns about the flight schools. She explained that there were getting applications mainly from military members or transitioning military members who are getting funding for the courses and receiving their license, but it is not leading to employment. Concerns were brought up that this could be used to support a hobby and not a career. Freda presented an idea that if someone was receiving their commercial license within a year, that could be supported since it would more likely be used to move into a career position. Freda reported that about 12 individuals had gone through the program, and there was one positive exit who went straight from private pilot to flight instructor and obtained a job at the school where he was trained. Freda recommended a compromise of approving the flight schools as a provider but only approve courses directly tied to employment and not approve the private pilot course. John Alexander made the motion to approve the flight schools

that are 18-24 months and would result in employment. Tylesha McCray made the 2nd. With no other discussion, all voted in favor of the motion.

Freda then presented to more programs for approval at Austin Peay that would result in a credential. These are an EMT program and a Project Management Professional. There were two other programs presented that had no previous WIOA candidates, but the college felt they would. Freda recommended they be approved for one year to see if they get anyone. The two programs are a certified nursing assistant program at Nashville General Hospital at Meharry and a phlebotomy program at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin. The final program presented was from Nashville State Community College. It was a soft skills suite online course that does not result in a credential. Seth called for a motion to approve the two Austin Peay programs, the two healthcare programs for one year, and to disapprove of the soft skills suite online course because it did not lead to a credential. Tylesha made the motion. John seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was approved.

Next, Freda updated the committee on the monitoring of the Eligible Training Provider List. The list of eligible programs was reduced from over 1,300 to 584. Freda said this was a more accurate and manageable number of appropriate WIOA programs. Most programs are short-term attainment which could happen in less than two years. Virtual calls have been done to help facilitate the review, and zoom workshops have been held with providers. Renea Rosson and Freda were working to complete the full review by June 30, 2021.

Andrea then updated the committee on Key Performance Indicators. She reported that they will now be measured on a fiscal year from July to June. The KPIs are considered hard targets, and there will be penalties associated with not meeting these targets.

Lastly, Andrea updated the board regarding the new career service providers. She informed them that the contractors are struggling to meet objectives. The CEO of EDSI, Kevin Schneider, and the president from MAC, Dr. Cynthia Groom, will be attending the next board meeting to present their corrective action plan as to how they are going to improve performance. She reported that they have weekly meetings with EDSI and MAC and both providers are aware of their standing. Board Chair John Zobl encouraged the committee to ask questions of each provider at the board meeting on May 12.

With no other questions or discussion, Seth Thurman adjourned the meeting.