



APPROVED  
January 31, 2022

Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Board  
Innovation Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
November 2, 2021, via Zoom 3:00 PM

Members Attending	Members Absent	Staff & Guests Attending
Seth Thurman	Richie Brandon	Freda Herndon
Anne Fugate	Tylesha McCray	Marla Rye
Tony Adams	Dan Ryan	Andrea Dillard
John Alexander		Meagan Dobbins
Greg Jones		John Watz
		Sherry Maynard

The Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Board Innovation Committee met via Zoom on November 2, 2021. Attendance was taken, and a quorum was declared. Seth Thurman, committee chair, called the meeting to order.

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

Marla started off the meeting by introducing and welcoming Greg Jones back to the board. Greg then told the committee a bit about himself.

#### **Career Service Provider-Performance Review**

Marla started off with a review of the contractors' performance. She reported that EDSI is trending in the right direction. Their enrollment goals are up, and hopefully, by the end of December will have met 100% of their goal. Their adult and dislocated worker positive placement rate is at 89% but their youth rate is at 75%. The youth rate is an area of concern. Placement wage goals have been exceeded. We have a goal of achieving a 40% in school youth benchmark, cumulatively EDSI is at 9%.

MAC continues to struggle with its targets. Their enrollments are improving, but their exit rates are very concerning. Low exit rates also mean their caseloads are growing, and clients could potentially not be getting the services they need. They met their MPCR for the third quarter; however, they are 50% of the way through their contract and have only spent 24% of their budget. The executive committee requested that Marla meet with Dr. Croom. She explained that if their numbers were not where they needed to be by the end of December, they were in danger of having their contract terminated early.

Marla then reported to the committee that the executive committee awarded \$500,000 in adult/dislocated worker to EDSI.

Andrea informed the board that while MAC has had staffing issues for the last few months, they have filled all the open positions and will be fully staffed by November 15. Andrea spoke about MAC's arrangement with the Nashville Public School System to help them recruit youth clients. Meagan Dobbins reviewed MAC's files, and 88 of them did not have the appropriate documentation. A corrective action report was sent, and most of the files have been corrected. Approximately 11 files remain to be updated. After a technical assistance meeting, Andrea feels hopeful that the paperwork load will be reduced.

### **Eligible Training Provider Requests**

Freda Herndon presented the ETPL and updated the committee regarding changes to the list. Approval for new programs and price increases were requested. Some were recommended for a one year extension due to performance, and some for two years if they met all of the performances. The limit for awarding scholarships is \$6,000. If programs exceed that amount, the individual would need to find other grants to cover that cost.

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

### **NMTWB Policy Considerations**

Andrea Dillard presented two policy changes to the committee for approval. The first request is to change when retention incentives are awarded. The change would align the incentive benchmarks to coincide with follow-up quarters. The second request is to add six additional barriers to the eligibility list, which would hopefully allow more young people to be identified and served.

Tony Adams made a motion to approve both policy changes. John Alexander seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to approve the changes.

### **Innovative-Grant Opportunities**

Marla updated the board about grant opportunities and what grants the board staff has applied for.

### **Adjourn**

With no other questions, Seth Thurman adjourned the meeting.