



APPROVED
February 8, 2024

**Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Board
Special Populations Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 4, 2023, via Zoom at 11:00 a.m.**

Members Attending	Members Absent	Staff & Guests Attending
Chris West	Corey Johns	Marla Rye
Dr. Lynn Seifert	James Harper	Andrea Dillard
George "Bo" Callis		Meagan Dobbins
Ginger Jarrett		Kim Rye
Dr. Arrita Summers		Ginger Fussell
Kristi Spurgon		Sherry Maynard

The Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Special Populations Committee met via Zoom on May 4, 2023, at 11:00 a.m..

After a quorum was established, Lynn Seifert requested a motion to approve the minutes. Bo Callis motioned, and Ginger Jarrett seconded. With no further discussion, the minutes were approved.

Career Service Providers

Andrea Dillard began by updating the committee regarding the contractors' performance. EDSI achieved its enrollment goal for adult/dislocated workers and youth cumulatively. Because of the high carryover numbers, the contractors got when they took over, they were given the exit goal that 80% of total new enrollments need to be exited. EDSI did not meet the exit goal throughout all four quarters. While they did well enrolling participants, they were not timely exiting them to employment. This could be attributed to the large turnover with staffing. They met the adult/dislocated worker exit goal cumulatively but not the youth exit goal. The adult/dislocated worker exit goal was probably met because of receiving the NEG grant. They aimed to enroll 61 NEG workers, and they enrolled 313. The contract ended on June 30. When the grant ended, these participants were exited. Only 60-65 of 221 exited were placed in employment. 92 were carried over into the regular program. They did not meet the Positive Exit Rate goal for adult/dislocated worker or youth. Exiting participants positively to employment continues to be an issue. They exceeded the placement wage goal for both categories.

Andrea went on to review MAC's performance. Cumulatively MAC has met their enrollment and exit goals for youth. Of 132 exits, 99 of them were positive. This gives them a placement rate of 75%, which does not meet the 80% goal. Andrea expressed that she felt they could continue working and meeting the goals set for them.

Federal Performance Measures

Andrea informed the committee that all WIOA Federal Reporting Score Card performance measures have passing scores of either 90% or 100%. Quarter 4 shows the estimated scores that will be finalized, and those are all passing. A predictive report was run for the first quarter of the new fiscal year and shows passing scores. These scores are from participants who exited the program a year ago. The current issue of having high caseloads with participants who need to be exited and may not be working will affect our performance outcomes in the future.

Business and Industry Service

Andrea reported that the Incumbent Worker Training Grant trained 332 participants, and of the \$300K funds designated, \$214K was expended. Just over \$194K was designated for Apprenticeship Training, and all funds were spent training 114 employees. Several employers have already requested funding for the new year. Marla asked the committee for their support in giving priority is to first-time applicants. She felt this would give other companies a chance for upskilling their existing workforce. The interest in IWT is growing. The interest in apprenticeship programs is growing as well. The programs are evaluated for their effectiveness. The committee expressed their support in giving new applicants priority.

Target Grants

Andrea then updated the Board regarding the Summer Youth Employment Program, which is state-funded. This employment opportunity is for youth ages 14-24. Phase 1 ends on August 30, 2023 and phase 2 end on August 30, 2024. Phase 1 has 124 youth enrolled and phase 2 has 228 for a total of 328 youth enrolled in the program. Northern Middle are serving more youth than the other eight workforce areas combined. Enrollments have paused for now so there will be money available for employment during the spring and summer of 2024. It was pointed out that Houston and Humphreys County have 34 kids working in each county, which is a lot for those small counties. The youth have been placed in both public and private sectors. About 100 youth are working in Montgomery County in both public and private sectors. Efforts were made to match youth with their interests.

WARN Reports

Andrea shared with the committee the WARN Notice which details closures/layoff activities of businesses in the Northern Middle Workforce Area. The notice presented happened between January and July of this year. Almost 1,300 workers have been affected. In previous years advanced notice has been given but currently notice might happen the day of the layoff which doesn't leave time to meet with employees.

Andrea then informed the committee that the flood grant for Humphreys county is ending. She felt the grant was a big help to the county as well as individuals. Some participants in the grant were moved into permanent employment.

Adjourn

Marla reminded them that the next Board meeting would be on August 9, 2023, at the Highland Crest Center in Springfield. Lynn Seifert adjourned the committee meeting.