



APPROVED  
February 3, 2022

**Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Board  
Special Populations Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
November 2, 2021, via Zoom 1:00 p.m.**

<b>Members Attending</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>Staff &amp; Guests Attending</b>
Carol Puryear	Jennifer Hobbs	Freda Herndon
GC Hixson		Andrea Dillard
Christopher West		Marla Rye
Lynn Seifert		Ginger Fussell
George "Bo" Callis		John Watz
James Harper		Sherry Maynard
John Alexander		Ellen Gomez

The Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Special Populations Committee met on November 2, 2021, at 1 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

Carol Puryear called the meeting to order. Marla called roll, and a quorum was declared. Carol requested a motion for approval of the minutes. Chris West made the motion to approve the minutes. Bo Callis seconded the motion, and with no discussion, the minutes were approved.

**Contract Service Provider Performance Review**

Marla reported that EDSI is trending in the right direction. Their cumulative goals are met or very close to being met. They do still struggle with their Youth Positive Placement Rate, Youth Work Experience, and In-School Youth.

Marla went on to say that MAC had a good second quarter, but their progress slowed during the third quarter. An area of concern is the number of exits. They are enrolling clients but not exiting them as they should. This grows their caseloads. The placement rate for those exiting needs improvement as well. While they met their MPCR for the third quarter, the cumulative MPCR needs improvement. Budget expenditures should be at 50% since we are halfway through their contract, but they are at 24%. Paid Work Experience and In-School Youth needs improvement as well. The board requested Marla speak with Dr. Croom about MAC's performance. She carried this out, explained MAC's current standing, and stated that while she can't speak for the board, she felt that their contract could be terminated for lack of performance if the numbers weren't on track by the end of December.

Marla was asked if the Summer Youth Program affected MAC's number. She reported that it did not as they didn't participate in that program since they were struggling. Marla was also asked what would happen to the school programs MAC has set up if their contract was terminated in December. Marla explained that they were asked to get letters of support from the schools along with firm dates of expected enrollments. Marla also explained that enrollments are needed now, and the promise of future enrollments might not be that helpful to the current situation. Andrea added that MAC has staffing issues, but Tanya has worked on filling the positions and should be fully staffed by November 15 and ready for training. Meagan Dobbins also monitored the files and found many of them did not have the proper documentation, so they have also been working on correcting that.

### **Youth Policy Consideration**

Andrea Dillard presented two policy changes to the committee for approval. The first request is to change when you are awarded retention incentives. The change would align the incentive benchmarks to coincide with follow-up quarters. The second request is to add six additional barriers, hopefully allowing more young people to be identified and provided with services. Carol Puryear asked for a motion to accept these changes. GC Hixson made a motion. James Harper seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the committee voted unanimously to accept the changes.

### **Youth Spotlight**

Andrea told the story of John Nicholas Seay, who was enrolled in the Out of School Youth Program and attended TCAT in Clarksville for industrial maintenance. While he was in high school, he struggled with grades but was a very respectful and kind young man. He was proud to tell his career coach that while he didn't do well in high school, he was graduating with honors from TCAT and maintained a 4.0. He attained employment with Bridgestone and was to start about a week after he graduated. Tragically, just days before he was to graduate, he was killed in a recreational vehicle accident.

### **Youth Standing Committee**

Marla reported to the committee that a Youth Standing Committee was created out of the concern that there is difficulty with both contractors in identifying eligible youth and meeting the required eligible enrollment numbers. This committee will bring together different community agencies and youth representatives so that a better connection can be made for our youth providers. This will also be a committee that will help the contractors be better prepared for challenges and have another outlet to run ideas by that are youth related. Ellen Gomez helped set up this committee. Ellen reported that some folks who couldn't join in October would be joining in November. They will be identifying the five program areas that would be the most impactful for them to support, and they will meet again in December to hammer out more concrete proposals for funding.

### **TANF Opportunity Planning Grant**

Marla updated the board about the TANF Opportunity Planning Grant. This is a grant that will assist in providing support to individuals and help transition them out of poverty. A guest

speaker from the Atlanta Federal Reserve has been asked to attend the Board meeting on November 10.

**Adjourn**

Carol Puryear adjourned the committee meeting.