



**APPROVED**  
**November 3, 2022**

**Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Board  
 Special Populations Committee  
 Meeting Minutes  
 August 4, 2022, via Zoom 2:00 p.m.**

| <b>Members Attending</b> | <b>Members Absent</b> | <b>Staff &amp; Guests Attending</b> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Carol Puryear            | GC Hixson             | Marla Rye                           |
| Christopher West         |                       | Freda Herndon                       |
| Lynn Seifert             |                       | John Watz                           |
| George “Bo” Callis       |                       | Sherry Maynard                      |
| James Harper             |                       | Andrea Dillard                      |
| Ginger Jarrett           |                       | Jody Powers                         |
| John Alexander           |                       | Meagan Dobbins                      |
|                          |                       | Jerry Jones                         |
|                          |                       | Ginger Fussell                      |
|                          |                       | Deidra Matthews                     |

The Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Special Populations Committee met on August 4, 2022, at 2 p.m. via Zoom.

After a quorum was established, Carol Puryear called the meeting to order and requested a motion to approve the minutes. Bo Callis made the motion to approve the minutes, and Chris West seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the minutes were approved.

Next, Marla introduced Ginger Jarrett as the new board member and committee member. She represents Cheatham County and owns Murrell Tank and Vault.

**New Youth Career Service Provider-Introductions**

Andrea Dillard introduced the three new Youth career service providers. The participating providers are Jerry Jones with Jobs for TN Graduates, Deidra Matthews with Monroe Harding, and Jody Powers with Liberty Station. Each representative gave a brief overview of their program.

Jerry Jones with JTG stated they received a \$100K grant to provide services to 24 students from seven different schools. They continue to follow up with their participants for 12 months after they graduate, and previously, they have had a high success rate of students getting placed in jobs.

Deidra Matthews with Monroe Harding reported that they serve young people through the age of 24 who have been in the foster care system or lack supports to be a successful adult. They

plan to serve 26 In-School and Out-of-School Youth with various programs and move them into a paid work environment. Monroe Harding has been around since 1893 in a variety of services.

Jody Powers with Liberty Station stated that they plan to serve 23 out-of-school youth who are teens and adults with disabilities who need job experience and training. Liberty Station will be a food truck and coffee café that trains teens and adults with disabilities in a variety of roles in paid internships.

### **Reentry**

Then Andrea updated the committee regarding programs and grants. The AJC formed a partnership with Nashville State Community College to provide Industrial Readiness Training to justice-involved individuals who are close to being released from the Montgomery County Jail. Three of the four released have been placed in jobs in Montgomery County. As the others get released, they will also receive job placement assistance.

Andrea went on to talk about American Prison Data Systems. They are conducting pilot programs around the country where they provide secure tablets with preloaded programs to provide education and job training to current inmates. Within the next couple of weeks, these tablets will be provided to Rutherford County inmates after finding out what workforce positions are available and what education is needed. Having these tablets in all 95 counties across Tennessee is a goal. Andrea reported that the Adult Education program is also working on a reentry program with justice-involved individuals in jails in each of our 13 counties.

Next, Freda Herndon gave the committee a summary of apprenticeship training grants. A large state apprenticeship grant of \$221,000 was received, and all was spent except \$1,200 due to a participant dropping out. Local money was added to this grant. Freda stated that there were more requests this year than last year and feels that the public is becoming more aware of the availability of apprenticeship programs.

### **National Dislocated Worker Grant Modification**

Andrea talked about the COVID-National Emergency Grant. She stated that approximately \$800,000 was left to be spent within a year. There is a developing plan to use the money for transitioning soldiers at Ft. Campbell and provide more training opportunities.

Andrea went on to talk about the CNA training that was recently conducted. NHC in Murfreesboro partnered with the AJC in Rutherford County and The American Red Cross to provide training to individuals interested in pursuing a career as a CNA. It was a two-week program where they did online training, then a week and a half of skill labs. Ten individuals graduated from the program, will soon take their state exams, and have had job offers.

Marla informed the committee that the Williamson County TCAT has a lack of LPN students and won't be able to hold their fall classes. After making some calls to Ascension Health and NHC, an arrangement is in the works where their current CNAs are sponsored so they may attend the LPN class and upgrade their skills.

**Youth Programs**

Finally, Andrea updated the committee about the received Youth Career Exploration Grant. She stated that they elected to purchase 25 TransFr Virtual Reality Headsets. These have programs that contain virtual career training and exploration exercises. These were used with students from the Houston County School System successfully. In the future, there are plans to partner with other school systems and other programs that work with youth who need to have career exploration opportunities.

Carol Puryear shared about a possible partnership with Lebanon Academy, similar to an alternative school. They are helping students get their HiSet, and TCAT would like to assist them in getting their OSHA and NCCR certifications. This would feed back to the Electrical Plumbing Program at TCAT, and they would have completed their first trimester and have two more to go.

**Adjourn**

Carol Puryear adjourned the committee meeting.