



APPROVED
May 4, 2023

**Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Board
 Special Populations Committee
 Meeting Minutes
 February 2, 2023, via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.**

Members Attending	Members Absent	Staff & Guests Attending
Chris West	Corey Johns	Kim Rye
Lynn Seifert	James Harper	Marla Rye
Bo Callis	Ginger Jarrett	Andrea Dillard
Arrita Summers		Meagan Dobbins
John Alexander		Ginger Fussell
		Sherry Maynard

The Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Special Populations Committee met on February 2, 2023, at 10 a.m. via Zoom.

After a quorum was established, Lynn Seifert requested a motion to approve the minutes. Arrita Summers motioned, and John Alexander seconded. With no further discussion, the minutes were approved.

Career Service Providers

Andrea Dillard began by giving an update on the performance of EDSI. EDSI is exceeding their enrollment for Adults and Dislocated Workers. They exceeded their youth enrollment goal last quarter but have not met it for Quarter 2, which ended December 30. They continue to struggle with exits which makes their caseload extremely high. They were given specific exit goals to meet in order to manage the caseloads. For the last two quarters, they have not met their exit goals. Of the participants they have exited in Adults/Dislocated Worker and Youth, they are exiting at a positive rate which means they are working. EDSI is meeting the placement wage goal as well as MPCR for Adult/Dislocated Worker. They didn't achieve their Youth goal for MPCR. They have met the Youth Work Experience and In-School Youth Ratio goals.

MAC did not meet its enrollment goals for the first quarter but exceeded them for the second quarter ending December 30. They exceeded their exit and positive exit goals, but of the number of actual exits achieved, many of them are not going to work. MAC needs to improve on exiting their participants to employment. They are meeting their placement wage goal but not meeting their MPCR. They exceeded their work experience goal but did not meet their in-school youth ratio goal.

Andrea moved on to update the committee regarding the three new youth contract providers. Jobs for Tennessee Graduates has exceeded their enrollment goal. Monroe Harding has increased their

enrollments since the last meeting was held. They are struggling with expenditures and allowable costs. Liberty Station is improving. They increased their enrollments and have a better understanding of expenditures and allowable costs. These contractors do not have any exits that need to be monitored yet.

Federal Performance

Next, Andrea reviewed the Federal Performance measures. She brought to their attention that last quarter the 4th Quarter after Exit measure was failing, but when it was finalized, it rose to a passing score. The same measure for the second and third quarters is passing at 100%. All other measures have a passing score of either 90% or 100% of the goal. Currently, the chart says we are failing the measurable skills gain, but this is the only performance measure added to throughout the year, and confidently said that it would be passing by the end of the quarter due to data being updated throughout the quarter.

Bo Callis asked when these particular participants would have entered the program. Andrea stated that these participants would have exited the program around two to two and a half years ago. Meagan added that the only real-time data is the measurable skills gains. Andrea stated that these participants are followed up with quarterly. Marla added that it is a delayed measuring system.

Target Grants

Marla informed the committee that an \$80K justice-involved grant was applied for and awarded. We plan to partner with Vol State Community College and Nashville State to provide industrial readiness training in Sumner County. The program is set to start on March 13, 2023, with 20 individuals. They are working on getting employers involved on the front end and agree to hire individuals once they graduate and give the participants a smooth transition. Dr. Arrita Summers shared how they were already working in the jails and conducting a welding class. She also mentioned they were adding a correctional officer program that would work to build a system for justice-involved individuals.

Marla went on to tell the committee about the Automotive Technician Development Training project. Multiple dealerships across middle Tennessee have worked together to start the training program. The automotive industry is currently a growing sector. To fill needed positions with qualified candidates, they want to create training to expedite technicians through the certification process. It is starting with Ford, but they want to open it up to all brands of vehicles. A pilot project is being developed, and the state will be asked for funding. This will be completed through the Tennessee College of Applied Technology.

Marla moved on to the Adult Education Program and the changes happening. The state is limiting the number of counties that agencies can bid on. They are looking for more agencies to handle a smaller number of customers. Agencies can now bid on only six counties. The RFP will be released on March 1, 2023.

Marla informed the committee that after meeting with the executive committee, it had been decided to ask the state to run a pilot project that focuses on employment first. This plan has a work-first approach where the AJCs would act as a temporary staffing agency, and the Board staff can interact more directly with the service providers and the county mayors. Since this will be a labor-intensive project, they will also ask to waive the minimum participant cost rate. This is a strategy to increase the staff at the AJCs in the four lowest counties to act more as a direct placement mechanism. A regional OSO will provide some firewall protection. They would be there for the career service provider employees to report to if

there is an issue, and the regional OSO would report to the Upper Cumberland Board and not the Northern Middle Board. Upper Cumberland would have to rebid for a regional OSO. If the state approves this contract, then EDSI and MAC would be renewed for one year with the option to renew for another year based on their performance. Changing contractors makes meeting the state's guidelines difficult because of the time for them to get their bearings, and it would be too much to implement a pilot while assisting new contractors. Additional funding will not be requested but appropriated through the normal allocations. If this pilot project is successful, we would want to deploy this model through all counties.

Adjourn

Marla reminded them that the next Board meeting would be on February 8, 2023, in Williamson County. Lynn Seifert adjourned the committee meeting.