



**APPROVED
FEBRUARY 2, 2023**

**Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Board
Special Populations Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2022, via Zoom 2:00 p.m.**

Members Attending	Members Absent	Staff & Guests Attending
Lynn Seifert	GC Hixson	Meagan Dobbins
George “Bo” Callis	Chris West	Marla Rye
Ginger Jarrett	James Harper	Andrea Dillard
Arrita Summers		Sherry Maynard
Kristi Spurgeon		
John Alexander		

The Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Special Populations Committee met on November 3, 2022, at 2 p.m. via Zoom.

After a quorum was established, Lynn Seifert (acting chair) called the meeting to order and introduced the newest member, Dr. Arrita Summers, who is replacing Dr. Carol Puryear. Arrita gave a short introduction of herself.

Lynn requested a motion to approve the minutes. Bo Callis made the motion to approve the minutes, and Ginger Jarrett seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the minutes were approved.

Career Service Providers

Andrea Dillard then updated the committee regarding the CSP performance as of the end of the first quarter, which ended in September. EDSI achieved their enrollment goal for Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth. Their exit goal has been raised in an effort to lower the caseloads, but the contractor is struggling with achieving the goal. Even though the exit goal is not being met, of those being exited, their placement rate is positive. EDSI’s placement wages are high and they have met their MPCR goal. However, they continue to experience a shortage of staff, which is why the caseloads need be reduced.

MAC is behind on its enrollment goals. It is possibly due to their loss of a case manager, and Metro Public Schools failed to include MAC in their work-based learning meetings. Tanya and

her staff continue to work with other schools they have partnered with, but put them on a slow start. MAC has met its exit goal for the quarter. Of those exiting, they have been placed into employment, meeting their positive placement rate goal. Their placement wages are high too. While they have met their Work Experience goal, they are behind on their In-School Youth goal due to the slow start.

Andrea went on to talk about the three new youth providers. Jobs For Tennessee Graduates have already exceeded their enrollment goal. Monroe Harding is on track for the end of the first quarter. Liberty Station is behind on its enrollment goal. They have lots of community support but struggle with the paperwork and enrollment process. If there is no substantial progress by the end of December, the contract might need to be ended early.

Federal Performance

Meagan Dobbins updated the committee regarding the Federal Reporting Score Card. She mentioned we failed the 4th Quarter after Exit Employment Rate for the 21-22 fiscal year, but we are trending upward and are on track to achieving this goal for the next fiscal year. For the 22-23 fiscal year, we failed the Employment Rate 4th Quarter after exit for the first quarter, but we are passing the second quarter at 90%.

The Federal Reporting Score Card runs almost two years behind due to the state having to capture UI wage data. Since the Employment Rate 2nd Quarter after exit in the previous fiscal year was passing at 90%, it's an indicator that we will pass 4th Quarter after exit in the current year. Meagan also mentioned that this was a negotiation year and that some of the goals with the state were lowered for the current fiscal year. Finally, Megan mentioned that the Measurable Skills Gains is the only performance measure that is tracked in real-time. Quarter 2 Measurable Skills Gains looks like we are currently failing, but more data will be added over the quarter and year. She stated that she believes will be at 100% by June 30, 2023. She went on to say that Measurable Skills Gains is not an exit-based measure, but rather tracking progress that the client is making.

Re-Entry

Marla Rye informed the committee that the state put out a new RFP for justice-involved individuals (JII). We will apply for an \$80,000 grant to develop a program to assist in helping the JII attain measurable skills gains toward a credential so when they are released, they are more likely to secure employment and become a productive citizen. This may also help reduce recidivism. Similar programs were held in select jails last year. There are challenges due to not knowing their release date and not having the paperwork that WIOA requires.

Target Populations

Andrea Dillard updated the Board regarding the Incumbent Working Training and Apprenticeship Training Grants. Available funds designated by the Board for the IWT is \$300K, and close to half has been obligated in the first quarter. It is projected that there will be no

problem spending the rest of the funds in the allotted time. The Apprenticeship Training program has \$194,415 allocated from a state apprenticeship grant, with \$146K being obligated.

Marla talked about a training held for the AJC staff by Nashville International Center for Empowerment to educate them regarding refugees and immigrants. The focus of the meeting was paperwork required to legally enter into employment. The Urban League of Middle Tennessee spoke regarding Workforce Equity and a blueprint for action. The USDOL has allotted an \$80M grant package to address the nursing shortage. It targets the marginalized and underrepresented population in workforce training programs. We may apply for this grant with the goal of increasing nursing instructors and training frontline workers.

Adjourn

Marla reminded them of the next Board meeting will be on November 9 in Wilson County. Lynn Seifert adjourned the committee meeting.