



**Northern Middle TN Workforce Board Committee Meetings:
February 12, 2020
10:00 a.m.
American Job Center 118 Seaboard Ln, Franklin, TN 37064**

The Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Special Populations and Innovation Committees met on February 12, 2020 at 10 a.m. at the American Job Center in Franklin, TN.

The meeting was called to order by Marla Rye. Marla Rye thanked everyone for attending and stated that we have combined two committee meetings. She stated one of the most important things to discuss today is the WIOA youth program. Andrea explained that Carla Garrett was in attendance to give a brief overview of the federal monitoring that took place in September, 2019. Carla shared information on the findings in the monitoring report. She stated that most of the issues stem from lack of youth program framework established from the board and that it was the responsibility of the board to provide guidance to the career service provider on the framework of the youth program. Carla did state that the findings are not unique to Northern Middle or even the state, these are issues that the monitors are finding across the United States.

Carla stated that for the Northern Middle to have a clear framework, the State will provide guidance as to the objectives of the youth program. She stated they are working on the framework for writing an MOU so that it will help to clarify the State's position. John Zobl asked the metrics for servicing youth? Carla responded with Northern Middle has a good understanding of the WIOA performance metrics. Marla mentioned that the state sent out second quarter performance yesterday and the state as a whole is meeting the performance measures.

Andrea provided the committee with findings and recommendations from the monitoring report. She stated that the Board will need to provide more detail and structure for youth services. She stated that findings 1, 2, and 3 on the report are directed towards the state and will be addressed on a statewide approach. Andrea continued to explain how some of the findings are repetitive and related to the Memorandum of Understand (MOU) document. In finding number 6, it mentions that not all 14 elements are made available to WIOA youth. The current career service provider has developed some partnerships such as for mental health, the CSP would refer youth to Centerstone. Andrea explained that all of the established partnerships must be formalized and added to the MOU.

Andrea stated that the design we are now using to do quarterly monitoring with our CSP is within the state's guidelines. Marla invited Curtis Thomas, Program Manager for the Envision

Center, to explain their plans to open a center to serve the community as a one stop shop for success. He stated that this would be a great opportunity to combine some of the services into one building to serve the local community. Marla mentioned the state has put together two grants one around work-based learning, and one around career exploration. She stated it would be great to have an event at the Envision Center after school is out to reach this special population. Marla said this plan aligns with our efforts to open another location in Davidson County due to the volume of clients we can serve. Marla also stated that she has also been contacted by Goodwill Industries on Herman Street and they are looking at making that space available to non-profits. Marla and John Alexander will be meeting with them to explore those options as well.

Freda Herndon stated there are some new programs for the ETPL that need approval. She explained that the credential requirement is something we need to research further to decide if we will continue to fund programs that are not meeting credential standards. All of these programs have a high outlook and job placement rate and need board action to approve these programs for ETPL. John Zobl made a motion to approve the new programs. GC Hixson seconded the motion and the vote was passed unanimously.

John Watz addressed the committee regarding efforts being made to reach state facilities for special population inmates. He explains that two employees recently visited Core Civic in Hartsville and spent two hours trying to get through security to meet with inmates and assist with job search. A decision has since been made to explore a partnership with Project Return to help us with the framework to assist the individuals after their release. In partnership with Project Return, we will be able to reach a special population that we do not currently have expertise to serve. Marla mentioned that the idea of collaborating with Project Return was an agenda item at the budget committee on November 30. The budget committee approved the funding for the pilot project, and we wanted to bring it to the special populations committee so you would know the work that is being done. This pilot program would be six months and reevaluated at the end of that contract. John Zobl made a motion to approve the budget committee's action to move forward with partnership with Project Return. John Alexander seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Renee Hollis stated that the AJC certification review team went to Trousdale to conduct a site visit. The only issues found were stripes in the parking lots, and handicap signage. Marla thanked everyone for their participation in the committee meetings and with no questions or comments the meeting was adjourned.