



APPROVED
August 4, 2022

Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Board
Innovation Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2022, via Zoom 2:00 PM

Members Attending	Members Absent	Staff & Guests Attending
John Alexander	Richie Brandon	Marla Rye
Dan Ryan		John Watz
Seth Thurman		Freda Herndon
Tylesha McCray		Andrea Dillard
Greg Jones		Meagan Dobbins
Kristi Spurgeon		Sherry Maynard
Tony Adams		

The Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Board Innovation Committee met via Zoom on January 31, 2022. Attendance was taken, and a quorum was declared. Seth Thurman, committee chair, called the meeting to order.

Seth called for review and approval of the minutes, with John Alexander motioning and Tylesha McCray seconding. With no other discussion, the minutes were approved unanimously. He turned the meeting over to Marla Rye.

Career Service Provider-Performance Review

Marla started with a review of the contractors' performance. She reported that the contractors have now had a complete year of operations within the Northern Middle region. They did not get off to a good start but have improved their enrollment numbers. EDSI met their cumulative exit goals, which means they are moving people through the system and putting them to work. They have also met their cumulative positive placement rate goals.

However, Marla mentioned that the federal performance measures are trending downward possibly due to COVID since the federal reporting lags behind. She stated that on the positive side, placement wages are above goal. They still struggle with MPCR, although they are trending upward. They also continue to struggle with the in-school youth ratio.

MAC worked very hard during their fourth quarter and have caught up their cumulative enrollment goal. However, they are not meeting their exit goals, so their caseloads are increasing. The placement rate is below their goal, but they met their placement wage goal is above average. Their cumulative MPCR is not at goal. They have only been able to meet their MPCR goal one quarter out of four. They have not met their work experience goal but have the potential to get there. They have met their in-school youth ratio goal during their fourth quarter.

Marla informed the committee that the Board would need to decide whether to continue their contract or find a new provider. Marla interjected that she felt that starting over with a new provider would add to the problem. Other regions that haven't changed providers seem to be doing better. It might be beneficial to allow the contractors to continue to improve over time. Seth Thurman expressed the same feelings. Marla explained to Greg Jones that she felt their slow start was due to EDSI being an out-of-state contractor and not having management on the ground in Tennessee. They also had to learn Tennessee's way of doing business. Dan expressed that extending another six months might be helpful since it is currently a difficult time for employers.

Eligible Training Provider Requests

Freda Herndon presented the ETPL and updated the committee regarding changes to the list. She reviewed programs that were being added and making changes. Marla clarified that it is being requested that three of the program get approval while two of them are removed. Then Marla questioned the TCAT Murfreesboro programs since they don't lead to a credential. Freda suggested they be included as a non-WIOA option. Greg Jones expressed that the skills from these two classes are needed by employers when hiring individuals. Andrea suggested the classes could be entered as support and not a training activity.

Freda stated that what is recommended is the approval of the lab for training, approval of Vol State, and approval of the nursing program. Seth Thurman asked for a motion to approve these programs. Dan Ryan made the motion. John Alexander seconded. With no further discussion, the motion passed.

Seth Thurman then requested a motion to approve the price change for the administrative assistant and medical coding programs and deactivate them for one year. John Alexander made the motion. Tony Adams seconded. With no further discussion, the motion passed.

Seth Thurman asked for a motion to approve the two TCAT Murfreesboro programs as non-ITA programs. Greg Jones made the motion. Tylesha McCray seconded. With no further discussion, the motion passed.

Innovation-Programs and Grants

John updated the committee regarding the Fort Campbell transition program. John discussed an idea that he and Anne Fugate regarding servicing transitioning soldiers utilizing Dislocated Worker funding through EDSI. It would provide a person to work at an office on Ft. Campbell to serve transitioning soldiers and spouses. Anne Fugate expressed her support for this idea and commented that she felt being on post is an asset for the service, and the focus should be on the younger soldiers as they might need more help transitioning.

Marla then updated the committee on other programs, funding, and grants being utilized or applied for to offer assistance.

Adjourn

With no other questions, Seth Thurman adjourned the meeting.