



APPROVED
JANUARY 31, 2023

Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Board
Innovation Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2022, via Zoom 2:00 PM

Members Attending	Members Absent	Staff & Guests Attending
Seth Thurman	Anne Fugate	Marla Rye
Tony Adams	Richie Brandon	Andrea Dillard
Jessica Largen	Tylesha McCray	Ginger Fussell
John Alexander		Meagan Dobbins
Greg Jones		Kim Rye
		Sherry Maynard

The Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Innovation Committee met via Zoom on November 3, 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. John Alexander motioned, and Jessica Largen seconded. With no other discussion, the minutes were approved unanimously. He turned the meeting over to Marla Rye who then asked Andrea Dillard to give a service provider update.

Contract Service Provider Update

Andrea Dillard began by giving a brief overview of the first quarter, which ended in September. EDSI exceeded its enrollment goal for the first quarter but has not met its exit goal. The number of required exits has been increased because their caseloads have gotten very large. EDSI continues to have staffing issues but hopes to increase its exits as they fill its open positions. The participants who are exited are positive exits, and they are exceeding their placement wage goal. EDSI has met MPCR, Work Experience, and In-School Youth ratio goals.

Andrea went on to update the committee regarding MAC performance goals. MAC did not meet its enrollment goals. This could be due to losing a career coach, and MAC was not invited to the school system discussion with their transition to work-type programs. MAC is meeting its exit goal, positive placement rate, placement wage, MPCR, and Work Experience. They are not meeting their In-School Youth goal.

Jobs for Tennessee Graduates have already exceeded their enrollment goal. Monroe Harding is almost where they need to be at the end of the first quarter. There are some concerns about Liberty Station. The paperwork and eligibility criteria seem to be an issue. They have lots of community support, but they need to be monitored and decide if their contract needs to be terminated 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% so far and most likely won't fail.

The Federal Reporting Score Card runs almost two years behind. 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 it is most likely that this will end with a passing score. She went on to say that Measurable Skills Gains is not an exit-based measure but rather tracking progress that the client is making.

Eligible Training Provider Requests

Andrea Dillard presented the ETPL to the committee. She explained that new providers request to be added to the list or current providers request to add new programs every quarter. This quarter, Trotter Luster Academy is requesting to become a provider. The required steps have been completed. Three new programs are asking to be added by Trotter Academy, and they do result in a credential. TCAT Nashville, APSU, and Volunteer State are requesting new programs be added. Nashville State Community College is requesting to reactivate two programs that were previously removed because there had been no enrollments for a period of time.

Marla mentioned that there are six targeted sector strategies that are in demand in Northern Middle. She questioned the committee about only having programs related to the six sectors or do they want to train participants in other areas. Greg Jones expressed feelings about staying with the six sectors and agreed that there should be further discussion about what sectors should be included on the ETPL and are there other sectors that need to be identified and included. It was expressed that all programs should and do lead to a credential. Tony Adams mentioned that maybe we need to keep the ultimate goal of getting people to work in mind. Andrea stated that for a provider to be added to the list, there must be a bright outlook for that career both locally and nationally. Marla added that some programs are hard to track the end result if the participant chooses to operate as self-employed, but they want to be sure that good programs that will make the participant complete the program, get a job, and be successful are on the ETPL.

Marla recommended that the committee approve the programs as they are presented because they all have a bright outlook and have completed the steps in the process. She also mentioned they could save the conversation about parameters for being on the list for later. Seth Thurman asked for a motion to approve the programs as presented. Greg Jones made the motion. Tony Adams seconded. With no further discussion, the committee voted unanimously to approve the list as presented.

Innovation-Programs and Grants

Next, Marla updated the committee regarding programs and grants. The state of Tennessee is issuing each workforce area up to \$80,000, and they have to devise a way to utilize the funding. Current proposals for utilizing the funds will benefit justice-involved individuals. Marla mentioned that Persevere would be attending the next Board meeting. They have a \$17M grant through EDA and Good Jobs Challenge to train offenders in IT occupations. Since they are in our area, we should do what we can to work with them and provide funding where needed.

Marla mentioned that there are still Incumbent Worker Training funds that are still available and encouraged committee members to refer any employers who may want to upgrade the skills of their current employees. She mentioned that there is a little bit of money left for apprenticeship start-ups as well.

The USDOL has issued a proposal for a grant to address the shortage of nurses by increasing the number of nursing instructors, frontline nurses, and paraprofessionals. She also mentioned creating an HBCU Partnership with educational partners and healthcare providers to provide services to historically marginalized and underrepresented populations.

Adjourn

With no other questions, Seth Thurman adjourned the meeting.