



**Northern Middle TN Workforce Board Meeting
November 13, 2019
Springfield, TN 37172**

Present Members:

John Zobl, Chair
John Alexander
Howard Bradley
Dan Caldwell
Charles Story
Tylesha McCray
G.C. Hixson
Jon Hunter
David Rutledge
Kristi Spurgeon
Chris West

Members Absent:

Adam Adkisson
Keith Carnahan
Gealita Greenhill
Mark Peed
Amanda Russell
Brian Sims
Seth Thurman
David Dunlap
Dan Ryan
Bo Callis
Carol Puryear

Guest and Staff:

Mayor Billy Vogle
Mayor Kerry McCarver
Mayor Stephen Chambers
Mayor Anthony Holt
Renee Hollis
Andrea Dillard
Marla Rye
Ginger Fussell
Joseph Johnson
Kathryn Bonecutter
Ginger Hausser
John Watz
Kenyatta Lovett
Steve Playl
Freda Herndon
Jimmy Johnston
Kyle Johnson
Erin Lilly

The Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Development Board met on Wednesday November 13, 2019 at 12:00p.m. at the Stokes Brown Library in Springfield, TN.

The meeting was called to order and opening remarks were made by Chairman John Zobl. He thanked the mayors for their attendance and welcomed them to attend all future meetings. John Zobl asked for a motion to approve the minutes. G.C. Hixson made the motion to approve. Howard Bradley seconded and the vote was unanimous.

John Zobl spoke about the labor market study funding request at the August board meeting. He recommended that all future funding requests be submitted through the operations/budget committee before the full committee considers funding.

Board Member Recognition:

Marla recognized Dan Caldwell and Carol Puryear for hosting the state workforce board meeting at the TCAT in Smyrna. Caldwell has been working with Kathryn Bonecutter to get an ESL class established for Nissan employees. Marla stated that one of her goals, along with Chairman Zobl, is visit all the mayors in the upcoming months. Marla stated this quarter that they visited Robertson County Mayor, Mr. Billy Vogle. She also recognized Trousdale County Mayor, Stephen Chambers for working so diligently to identify a location in Hartville to open an American Job Center.

Strategic Priorities:

Chairman Zobl introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Kenyatta Lovett, Assistant Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Improve Efficiency & Effectiveness of Training Programs:

Dr. Lovett mentioned that the Northern Middle board had an excellent reputation and was an example of how to positively adapt and react to change.

Dr. Lovett presented a snap shot of workforce development at the state level, local level and within his division. He addressed the Governors priorities including apprenticeships and rural development. He also spoke about the criminal justice reform, stating the governor is making efforts for the state and local reentry and making investments into our facilities and the services we can provide to those citizens. Dr. Lovett stated that Steve Playl is leading the development of the Perkins state plan and how important that it was to align Perkins and workforce development. He commended the Board for having Mr. Playl at the meeting. Dr. Lovett stated that he thought the next level of innovation in workforce development as it pertains to youth is the development of American Job Centers in local high schools.

Concluding, Dr. Lovett spoke about the importance of economic development and the alignment with workforce development. He touched on the Business Services Unit led by Mike Needel. He asked for the board to keep him accountable and help him build the relationships to improve the workforce area. Chairman Zobl thanked Dr. Kenyatta Lovett for taking the time to speak to the board and informing them of movements happening at the state level.

Connect People with Career Opportunities:

Chairman Zobl introduced Steve Playl, Senior Director of College and Career Experiences for the Tennessee Department of Education. He spoke to the Board about the Perkins Act which featured vocational and technical trades in our education system. Mr. Playl stated that one of the goals for the next four years for Perkins is to implement STEM programs at all the middle schools. He believes this will be one of the best ways for students to obtain work experience.

He reviewed the requirements of Perkins and fielded questions from Board Members regarding roles and responsibilities under Perkins.

Train Workforce to Fill Employer Needs:

OSO Report: Susan Cowden provided the Board with a One-Stop-Operations reports. She reported on enrollment targets and where the service provider stood at this time. . (See Northern Middle TN Workforce Development Board AJC Report) Susan asked for feedback on the report and what changes the board members would like to see. Mr. George Phillips also presented information on AJC activity.

Ms. Freda Herndon reviewed the latest apprenticeship information and contracts awarded to include Empower Electric. Herndon stated that a total of 27 men and women enrolled in the program, and up to \$136,346 will be provided to cover the tuition component of the program at approximately \$5,000 per apprentice. Freda shared information about an upcoming apprentice opportunities.

Manage Board funds to support Career Pathways:

Ginger Fussell presented the 2020 budget review and monitoring update. She recapped funds from the prior year and the new 2020 allocations. Fussell also reviewed the quarter one data and how we can improve these percentages where expenditures are below schedule. . (See PowerPoint handout for charts.) Fussell requested approval for the budget report to include the following new funds: RESEA \$244,000, Rural Initiative \$52,000, and Apprenticeship Grant at \$33,000. She also mentioned that she concurred with Chairman Zobl that any new requests for funding must be presented to the operations/finance committee before going to the board floor. Mark Peed also commented that this should be the standard practice moving forward. Fussell recommended to the Board to ask the State for an additional \$300,000 to use for incumbent worker training funds. Mark Peed motioned to approve the budget reports and to submit request to the state for additional IWT funds. Howard Bradley seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Charles Story requested a summary page accompany the fiscal report at the next meeting to highlight the significant details of the budget review.

Policy Update: Renee Hollis requested a modification to two local board policies. The first is an exception to Policy # 7 Individual Training Accounts and Support Services. She explained that we are needing to update the policy for the Campbell Strong Workforce Partnership participants to increase the maximum funding from \$10,000 to \$15,000 on an as needed basis. Marla Rye explained that with transitioning soldiers that some required stackable credentials such as educational training and an on-the-job training. This requires increasing the cap on training funds. Howard Bradley motioned to approve the policy as presented. G.C. seconded the motion. With no opposition, the motion passed. Hollis also explained the Adult Eligibility and Priority of Service policy needed to be modified to further define the priority of service per the handout. . Howard moved the motion as presented, Mark seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Old Business:

Marla Rye updated the AJC location search in Nashville. She said it was a slow process and the recent developments with the Hickory Hollow Mall property would further delay the search. However, she committed to continuing the efforts to identify a new location. Marla highlighted that the Northern Middle Board was the only workforce board in Tennessee that received a GIVE grant from Governor Lee. This grant was submitted in partnership with TCAT Dickson and would be used to serve individuals from Montgomery, Stewart and Houston County which is designated as an at-risk county. The grant will address the entry level, advanced manufacturing workforce pipeline.

New Business:

Committee Structure Update- Rye recommended a change to the Northern Middle bylaws regarding the committee structure. She recommended that we should have an Executive, Finance, Special Populations (including youth) and Innovations. This committee structure would closely align with the state workforce board. Charles Story asked about the Diversity/Underserved populations. Marla clarified that the Diversity/Underserved committee responsibilities would now be included in the Special Populations. She stated that she felt this would make committee work more meaningful and efficient moving forward. Rye stated that she had a Board manual for all members today. The manual included information such as: the local WIOA plan, regional plan and valuable resource information. The manual will serve as an orientation manual and have updated committee structures at the next meeting. John Zobl asked for a motion to approve the structure change to the bylaws. Charles Story moved to approve and Mark Peed seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

Marla Rye confirmed future meeting dates. With no other business Chairman Zobl adjourned the meeting.