



NEMO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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NEMO Workforce Development Board (WDB) Access Committee Meeting June 12, 2020

Members Present

Kara Berlin-Bates
Janice Robinson
Mandy Rose
Erin Dennis

WDB Staff

Diane Simbro

Members Absent

Lisa Randolph
Lydia McClellan
Wendy Hays
Stephanie Cooper
Shyla Brauch
Joe Gildehaus

Guests

Sheree Prebe
Dana Keller
Erica Davis
Bryan Trappe
Janet Hickey
Amanda Sizemore
Elaine Henderson
Chelsea Zabski
Rachel Meuser
Polly Matteson

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairperson Kara Berlin-Bates called the NEMO WDB Access Committee Meeting to order at 2:00 pm. The meeting was conducted electronically through Zoom.

ROLL CALL

Four Committee Members participated and a quorum was established. Ten guests and the WDB Executive Director, Diane Simbro, also participated. Everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

This was not completed.

COMMITTEE AND GUESTS INTRODUCTIONS INCLUDING SOMETHING USEFUL OR INTERESTING LEARNED DURING COVID-19 SHUTDOWN

Everyone introduced themselves and provided information regarding their agencies and something useful or interesting they learned during the COVID-19 shutdown. Some of the things they learned are listed below.

- How grateful they are for their children's teachers

- How to use Zoom and other electronic meeting software
- How to patiently wait for funding for COVID needs
- That showering every day isn't necessary
- That people are willing to adjust to change when necessary
- That it's possible to work remotely and it saves dollars
- That there is a real need for internet access in the rural communities
- That the colleges were able to adjust to an online campus very quickly
- How to be flexible
- That interviewing for a new job and learning and training others online is very possible
- How to successfully provide services to individuals electronically
- That attending school and social functions is important for child development
- That they are very happy to have been able to continue to work and earn a paycheck through the pandemic

RESOURCES AND IDEA FOR A GROUP PROJECT

Diane provided the following websites as links to helpful resources:

1. <https://www.peatworks.org/staff-training/digital-accessibility>
2. <https://www.workforcegps.org>
3. <https://ion.workforcegps.org>

She also provided an article from AskEARN.org regarding employer assistance and resources for increasing disability inclusion. She asked the group to review the article and to consider how the Committee might work to develop a database to be used as a resource for job seekers who need accommodations and employers seeking a way to provide those accommodations. She said everyone was currently busy addressing the response to COVID but this may be a project they could work on at a later date.

Virtual job fairs, reverse or otherwise, and how they might be provided was also discussed. Diane said she hoped to learn more about how these were being conducted and she would share what she learned with the group. She mentioned that the Springfield area had conducted a Parking Lot Job Fair. It was also mentioned that ZOOM allows breakout rooms that could be used to conduct job seeker / employer interviews.

Video resumes and the need for people to learn how to interview virtually so they can gain self-confidence and better sell themselves to employers was discussed. Diane said OWD was developing some videos that may be helpful and she would check on those. It was mentioned that people with disabilities and justice involved individuals were adjusting to online training. Diane said Lincoln County had purchased some chrome books for individuals to use for training individuals while incarcerated.

It was mentioned that many older workers that were lacking computer skills had been forced to file UI claims for the first time due to COVID. Diane said the WDB had purchased Teknimedia which is a software program to assist individuals in learning and upgrading computer skills. This program is available at the Job Centers and NECAC offices. Janice said the computers and Teknimedia software that the WDB had placed in their offices was very helpful.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Kara said the last time the Committee met they established a goal to conduct a reverse job fair. Due to COVID, the planning had stopped. She felt today's discussion about training for interview skills and hosting a virtual job fair was very promising. She said some of the new trends put in place due to the pandemic would remain even after the COVID issue was resolved. Kara encouraged everyone to be thinking about how the Committee could be a resource for job seekers and employers regarding accommodations. She said there was a gap in knowledge about accommodations that isn't realized until a need is encountered and there needs to be an intermediary that can help with that. She asked the members to be thinking about ways to make this work for our area and to bring their ideas to the next meeting.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SPEAKERS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Diane asked anyone who may be interested in providing a presentation regarding their agency's services or any special project they were involved in, to please let her know and she would put them on the agenda.

NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME

The next Access Committee meeting was scheduled for July 13, 2020 at 2:00 pm.

ADJOURN

Janice Robinson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Dana Keller seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned.