



***NEMO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD***

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**NEMO Workforce Development Board (WDB)  
Access Committee Meeting  
February 11, 2019**

**Members Present**

Kara Berlin-Bates  
Janice Robinson

**Guests**

Alyssia Long (phone)  
Howard Clark (phone)  
Dana Keller  
Sheree Prebe  
Erica Davis (phone)

**WDB Staff**

Diane Simbro  
Sharon Hillard

**Members Absent**

Amanda Rose	Lisa Randolph
Janis Miller	Shannon Moore
Lydia McClellan	Corey Mehaffy
Sheryl Ferguson	Cyndi Johns

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chairperson Kara Berlin-Bates called the February 11, 2019 Access Committee Meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. at the Hannibal Job Center in Hannibal, MO.

**ROLL CALL**

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting. Roll call was taken and a signature sheet was signed by those attending. Two committee members were present, and a quorum was not established. A total of nine individuals attended.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Janice Robinson moved to approve the agenda. Dana Keller seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

**CHAIRPERSON REPORT**

Kara said this was her first time attending the Access Committee Meeting so she didn't have anything specific to share.

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## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Diane said Local Workforce Board Directors and Chairs had been invited to attend a meeting to discuss workforce needs with Senator Blunt and US DOL Secretary Acosta on February 21<sup>st</sup> in St. Charles, MO. She noted that Workforce Development was a priority of the Governor and the President and she had been asked to share the needs of Missouri's Northeast Region. This was a wonderful opportunity to present the region's workforce development needs and she would like to have as much information as possible. She asked committee members to email her their thoughts regarding needs (funding, policy changes, etc.).

### **ROUNDTABLE-MEMBERS SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT AGENCIES**

Howard Clark said his agency was very interested in working with a facility outside of Moberly with pre-release individuals. They had initiated contact with two individuals at a facility but had not heard back from them. They were trying to develop a relationship with the Chaplin and the Advanced Coordinator at the facility. He said they have a pre-employment program and their Fatherhood Program that they would like to share. He said they were working to develop the employment piece of their program. He noted that a lot of individuals who come to them are lacking work skills, education and an employment history and they are working to build their program around them so they can supplement the workforce. The pre-release program benefits employers by preparing those individuals who have no work experience or lack the skills to maintain employment. Diane said the SkillUp Program could assist any eligible individuals he may have. He thought they may 10 to 15 eligible individuals. After further discussion, it was decided to arrange a meeting with the participants to present to the SkillUp Program.

Kara Berlin-Bates said Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) was still operating with a wait list. Their summer work experience program will continue this summer. They are working to make sure youth that had been referred to or applied for VR were released from their wait list by April 1<sup>st</sup> so they can still participate. Their wait list in the recent past has been about five months long. Individuals (including youth or adults seeking employment) applying up to April 1<sup>st</sup> would be released by June to participate in their services. Those applying after April 1<sup>st</sup> would probably be waiting longer than six months to access their services. She said their waiting list is based on the significance of the individuals' limitations. Category 3 is defined as a person with a disability. Category 2 is a person with a significant disability and category 1 is a person with a most significant disability or limitation. Category 1 individuals will not wait. Category 2 individuals will wait at least six months. Everyone in category 2 must be released from the wait list before category 3 can be served. Individuals are encouraged to continue to apply and they still want referrals to get the individuals on the wait list. They want to meet these individuals and get their needs met. They are thankful for the partnership with the Job Centers and other local organizations.

Kara said there was no specific age for students participating in their summer work experience program. They want the students to gain some real work skills the summer before they transition out of high school so most of them would be in their junior year. Diane said the region would be getting TANF funds again this upcoming summer for the Summer Jobs League (S JL) Program. She asked that youth completing the VR summer work experience program be referred to the Job Centers for additional summer work experience opportunities.

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Sheree said last year some of the youth in Randolph County were enrolled in SJL after completing their VR summer work experience and some of the youth in Hannibal were placed in the BEST program. However, regardless of location, eligible youth could be placed in the SJL program. She provided an update regarding the youth that were in the BEST program last year. She said they have five youth planning to go into the program next year. They have several funding sources they can use and the work experience hours have been increased. Diane said the BEST program was very successful last year. She shared the video of the program and State Equal Opportunity staff was very impressed.

Sheree said Elaine Miller was planning to retire in March and Gamm is grooming Katlyn to take over her position. Katlyn is excited about the opportunity. Elaine plans to continue to work one or two days per week in Clark and Lewis Counties.

Dana Keller said Gamm/DESE didn't need to beat on any doors to find participants and hadn't had any trouble spending the funds. Those that weren't most in need were put on a waiting list. Diane said the networking with the employers, other agencies and the Job Centers was critical.

Janice Robinson said NECAC was still implementing the SkillUp Program. However, the numbers weren't coming in as fast as she would like. She said it was very difficult to get people to return their calls and keep their appointments so they are planning to step outside of the box and do some outreach. They had helped two people find employment. They had been working with Diane, Connection to Success, economic development, probation in parole in Lincoln County and the sheriff's office to do some career readiness and employment and training with incarcerated individuals. They have two classes. The first class will have 30 individuals and the second will have 11 women. She wasn't sure how that was going to evolve, but they were very interested and were asking questions about how to acquire skills and starting their own businesses. She said Connections to Success had a success rate (90 to 95%) for employment. She said they were trying to provide something similar in other counties and had made connections with St. Charles Connections to Success regarding partnering.

Diane said each Job Center was sent a list of approximately 800 people to contact. NECAC and the community colleges had lists of their own to call as well. Staff had been making the calls but weren't getting a lot of response. She said per the discussion at the Partner Convening Meeting they believe the funding will be available next year. ~~and they aren't going to require the phone calls going forward.~~ They were going to reach out to all of the current agencies operating the SkillUp Program to see if they were interested in providing the program again next year. She knew MO Extension had done it previously and had decided they didn't want to continue, and she wondered if the community colleges would want to continue. Janice said the MO Community Action Network had been asked if they would be interested in providing the program next year and they said yes.

Janice said they also had funds available for rent, utilities, mortgage and some transportation money. She thanked the Job Centers, Gamm and the WDB for all the help they had provided to them. She said the MO Association had hired a contact person who used to work in workforce development and they had been leaning on her a lot for answers to their questions.

The upcoming MoJobs update was discussed. Diane said she would send the email regarding the update to Janice so she could notify her staff.

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## **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Disability Reverse Job Fair was discussed. Kara said the tentative date for job fair is June 6<sup>th</sup> at the Hannibal LaGrange University (HLG) Roland Fine Arts Center. The date and location still needed to be confirmed. Another room would be needed for the employer panel. They felt there would be 4 people on the panel and approximately 10 students. The Boot Camp to get participants prepared for the event needed to be defined. Kara said individuals at Pike County were interested in participating next year. The business outreach team provided her with pictures they could use when talking with employers. The next steps should be to confirm the date and location and define the Boot Camp. Marketing the event and a name for the event was also discussed. Diane said Kara could use the flyer they used in St. Charles. Kara asked that Diane email her possible dates for a planning meeting that she could present Erin Davis and Stephanie. Everyone said they would like to help with the event. It was said that they should work with the employers regarding the areas of focus and that it may be good to provide someone from IT if there was any interest. Kara said Erin had reviewed their case load data to determine their most requested job interests and this would be helpful as they start contacting employers.

Diane said a Youth Summit was going to be held March 5<sup>th</sup> at HLG. Polly Matteson was organizing the event and her focus is on career pathways for primarily 7<sup>th</sup> graders. She was having difficulty getting the schools to commit. The schools sending students would be from Ralls, Monroe City, Paris and maybe Lewis County. They were trying to set up a manufacturing site tour but they keep running into issues with that. She is going to talk to Randy Potterfield today to see if she can get him to bring a truck so the kids could see what was involved in trucking. All the employers will have hands-on activities for the students to do. They will hold another Youth Summit in Kirksville on March 27<sup>th</sup>. They hope to take these events to other locations as well.

## **SET NEXT MEETING DATE / TIME AND LOCATION**

The next meeting was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Monday, May 13, 2019 at the Missouri Job Center-Hannibal in Hannibal, Missouri.

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting be adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.

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