



NEMO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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**NEMO Workforce Development Board (WDB)  
Access Committee Meeting  
September 9, 2019**

**Members Present**

Kara Berlin-Bates  
Janice Robinson

**Guests**

Stephanie Cooper

**Staff**

Diane Simbro Sharon Hillard  
Belinda Ames Sheree Prebe  
Erica Davis Belinda Ames  
Erin Dennis Bryan Trappe

**Members & Guests Absent**

Amanda Rose Lisa Randolph Polly Matteson Sherry Nelson  
Janis Miller Shannon Moore Amanda Sizemore Kevin Knickerbocker  
Lydia McClellan Corey Mehaffy Howard Clark Katie Lynch  
Randy Lane Kim Cull Lon Little Janet Hickey  
Mandy McClanahan

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chairperson Kara Berlin-Bates called the September 10, 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 eleven individuals attended.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Belinda Ames moved to approve the agenda. Bryan Trappe seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

**DOUGLASS COMMUNITY SERVICES (Presentation) Stephanie Cooper**

Douglas Community Services CEO Stephanie Cooper said the not for profit agency was started in 1969 by area churches that saw a need to bring people of different walks of life together to help address problems in the community related to prejudice and poverty. Douglass Community Services now has an approximate budget of \$10 million, is located in eight counties, and employs approximately 200

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individuals. She presented information regarding the services/support programs offered by Douglass Community Services. Some of those included the following:

- Head Start programs to prepare children for kindergarten, teach them to work well with others, support health and nutrition needs, etc.
- Court Appointed Special Advocates for children (CASA) that advocate for children in the foster care system
- Kids in Motion and Teens in Motion that teaches teens and pre-teens to value work, their community and their future
- Show Me Healthily Relationships
- Nutrition, mental health, physical services
- Housing assistance
- Community outreach programs including: RSVP, Toys for Tots, Senior Food Boxes, USDA meals programs and Senior Expo
- Foster Grandparents Program
- A thrift store which earned about \$55,000 last year to help support the programs
- Partnered with Gamm, Inc. last year to provide youth summer work experiences and soft skills training

Stephanie said they appreciated partner agency referrals, and they would be happy to assist other agencies in setting up some of these services in their areas.

### **CHAIRPERSON REPORT**

Kara provided an update regarding the Disability Reverse Job Fair held at Hannibal LaGrange University last spring. She said 17 job seekers and 27 employers attended the event. As a result of the job fair, eight individuals were now employed. The job seekers said participating in the event had increased their confidence and motivation. Employers said the job fair was a good use of their time.

Erin Dennis with Vocational Rehabilitation said she was looking forward to beginning plans for the next Reverse Job Fair. It was noted that a Reverse Job Fair was also being planned at the Capitol.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Diane said WorkforceGPS (<https://www.workforcegps.org/>) was a good resource for those working with justice involved individuals, veterans, etc. The website also has a link to the Innovation Opportunity Network (ION) that provides a lot of good information.

Diane said the WDB was partnering with Lincoln and Pike Counties regarding the re-entry program. She said justice involved individuals are being enrolled into the Connections to Success program to equip them with the tools and resources to progress toward their personal and professional goals.

Erica provided an update of the twelve individuals that had participated in the Connections to Success program through the Hannibal Job Center. The program addressed issues such as confidence and direction, communication and soft skills, mock interviews and networking opportunities, professional clothing and connections with employers. She said the change in the individuals, witnessed at their

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graduation from the program, was remarkable. She said one of the individuals will be released with a job. Additional occupational training will be provided to the remaining individuals to make sure they have the resources they need.

Diane said plans are to place a Job Center at the Northeast Correctional facility. There is already one in Tipton, and Lincoln County plans to hire someone to work with re-entry individuals.

It was noted that the Hannibal Job Fair is scheduled for October 10, 2019.

**DISCUSSION AND PLANNING OF REVERSE JOB FAIRS AROUND REGION**

Plans for Manufacturing Day events throughout the region were discussed. The members also discussed meeting to plan Reverse Job Fairs for Warrenton, Kirksville and Moberly in the early spring. Erin said she would be happy to meet with staff to discuss planning the events. Diane said she would set up a time with Erin to meet with the Kirksville Job Center staff to begin the planning.

Belinda said Kirksville's next job fair would be held in October. They plan to have another job fair around the third week of April next year.

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

The next meeting was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Monday, November 4, 2019 at the Missouri Job Center-Hannibal in Hannibal, Missouri.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:20 a.m.

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