



NEMO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

111E. Monroe • Paris, Missouri 65275 • www.nemowib.org • (660) 327-5125 • Fax (660) 327-5128

**NEMO Workforce Development Board (WDB)
Employer Engagement Committee Meeting
June 4, 2019**

Members Present

Jim Kolve
Bryan Barnes

WDB Staff

Diane Simbro
Sharon Hillard

Members Absent

Corey Mehaffy
Diane Noah
Dennis Gill
Mac Wilt
Stephen Garner
Darin Arnsmeier
Glenn Eagan
Annette Sweet
Les Barber
Gabe Suddrath

Guests

Sherri Henderson
Janet Hickey
Dana Keller
Bryan Trappe
Don Smith
Belinda Ames
Rita Brown

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairperson Jim Kolve called the June 4, 2019 Employer Engagement Committee Meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. at the Missouri Job Center-Kirksville in Kirksville, MO.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken and a signature sheet was signed by those attending. Two committee members were present and a quorum was not established. Eleven individuals participated in the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dana Keller moved to approve the agenda. Belinda Ames seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dana Keller moved to approve the April 9, 2019 Meeting minutes. Belinda Ames seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

INTRODUCTIONS OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Everyone introduced themselves.

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BUILDING A STRATEGY FOR EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT

Diane provided a handout she felt would help the Committee build a strategy for employer engagement and the Committee spent a great deal of time focusing on the following steps.

- Step 1 – Define Strengths / Weaknesses

Some of the strengths identified were the following:

- Room for expansion and parking
- Reasonable cost of land, utilities and labor
- Great staff and resources to travel
- Partnership with Vocational Education Schools
- Willingness to partner

Some of the weaknesses identified were the following:

- Need to communicate with employers
- Poor internet access
- Lack of public transportation
- Educating employers regarding entering required job seeker skill sets in MoJobs
- Low ratings of most school systems
- Travel distance to access needs and entertainment

- Step 2 – Define the skills gap for local employers

Some of the skills gap identified by employers were as follows:

- Soft skills
- Basic math
- Better interview skills
- Problem solving skills

The following ideas were discussed:

- Having the same message when speaking to employers
- Developing an employer best practice list
- Tapping into justice involved, disabled and older workers
- Finding marketing dollars
- Area Face Book pages (Job Centers, etc)

- Step 3 – Define the training needs of the employers and who will deliver the training

Due to the lack of time, the Committee decided to focus more on the Employer Engagement Strategies at the next meeting.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Jim provided three articles he felt may be of interest to the Committee members. They were MERIC information for the Northeast Region that included industry projections and top job outlooks, the Missouri Real Time Labor Market Summary and an article from the *Business Insider* regarding the inability of up

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to 3-million older Americans being able to find high-paying jobs and the barrier they face that no one is addressing. Due to the time, he asked that the WDB staff email the articles to the Committee members for their review.

EMPLOYMENT PROJECTS UPDATE

Diane said Chris Gamm has been instrumental in bringing a group together in Pike County that is going to be focused on creating opportunities for justice-involved individuals. We plan to get the apprenticeship with Northeast Correctional Center in Bowling Green kicked off in July. This will be a work-release program with the Pork Producers, and we will be training in swine management. The registration/enrollment process will begin soon. We are continuing to work with the Justice Center and Sheriff's Department in Lincoln County to establish apprenticeships for inmates as well as employment opportunities for those on probation and parole. It was mentioned that to do the Work Keys testing with these individuals an email address would be necessary and that staff email addresses could be used.

NCRC-UPDATE ON COUNTY PROGRESS

Rita Brown was unavailable. Diane said Work Keys testing was continuing in several areas and testing in the correctional facilities. Lewis County was completed and Shelby County may be completed by fall. A complete list of the counties certified could be found on the CWRC website.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

It was mentioned that Manufacturing Day was October 4th. Diane said if we could hold the Manufacturing Day sometime in October it wasn't necessary that it be on the 4th. Janet Hickey said a Manufacturing Day would be held at Warrenton in October. Diane said there would be a Manufacturing Day in October at Hannibal as well. She was unsure about Kirksville, but they would try to have one there as well.

Diane said Health Care events would be planned for some time in the future.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

The next meeting was scheduled for September 10, 2019 at the Warrenton Job Center.

ADJOURN

The meeting be adjourned and the meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00 noon.

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