



NEMO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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NEMO Workforce Development Board (WDB) Access Committee Meeting July 13, 2020

Members Present

Kara Berlin-Bates
Shyla Brauch
Erin Dennis

WDB Staff

Diane Simbro
Sharon Hillard

Members Absent

Lisa Randolph
Lydia McClellan
Wendy Hays
Stephanie Cooper
Janice Robinson
Mandy Rose
Joe Gildehaus

Guests

Sheree Prebe
Donny Carroll
Erica Davis
Bryan Trappe
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

Three Committee Members participated and a quorum was established. Seven guests and two WDB staff also participated. Everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

Erin Dennis moved that the Agenda and June 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes be approved. Shyla Brauch seconded the motion and they were unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION – CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS

Rachel Meuser, Director of Special Projects, and Business Development and Chelsea Zabski, Project Coordinator for the Columbia and Troy Area, provided a presentation regarding the services offered through their agency Connections to Success. Connections to Success is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to inspire individuals to realize their dreams and achieve economic independence by providing hope, resource and a plan. Connections to Success currently offers programs in five cities: Kansas City, KS; Kansas City, MO; St. Charles, MO; St. Louis, MO; and East St. Louis, IL. They also provide peer

support services in Jefferson City/Columbia and Troy, MO. Since their creation in 1998, they have served nearly 25,000 people through their locations in KS, MO and IL thanks to the support of their donors, partners, volunteers and staff. Currently, they are providing a 3-week virtual Professional Development class for justice involved individuals. The Professional Development class includes services regarding goal setting, communication, resumes and mock interviews. They start with building confidence. They want the individuals to realize they are worth something so they can sell themselves to employers. It was stated that the best part of the program was seeing the individuals begin to love and believe in themselves. Connections to Success also provides wrap-around services and they work with individuals on learning to take responsibility and understanding the consequences of the choices they make. Individuals are provided interview clothing (suits for the men and appropriate dress for ladies) and they host a graduation ceremony at the end of the training where the individuals are issued a certificate of completion. Connections partners with several agencies including the Workforce Development Board and WIOA staff to ensure that individuals have all the resources they need to be successful. More information can be found on their website at <https://connectionstosuccess.org/>.

REVERSE JOB FAIR – VIRTUAL

The members discussed the possibilities for hosting a Virtual Reverse Job Fair. Chelsea shared information regarding the work they were doing virtually using Zoom and provided information on what was available. Diane said the WDB had a paid Zoom account that provides more functionality. Some ideas mentioned were:

- Zoom break out rooms for interviewing
- Zoom waiting rooms to hold individuals waiting to be interviewed
- Resume development
- Sending resumes to employers in advance so they could decide who they wanted to interview
- Possibility of using several Zoom accounts and conducting the Job Fair by career choice
- Multiple areas hosting a job fair at the same time

Chelsea said she would send Diane some information regarding how they were using Zoom. Several individuals mentioned that they would like to see how the Zoom features works so they would be better able to answer employer questions. It was stated that the committee may want to host a mini, mock job fair to become more familiar with the features. Chelsea reminded everyone that they should expect to have some technical issues that would require their patience. Chelsea and Rachael invited committee members to volunteer as mock interviewers on August 17 from 10:00-12:00 to see how Zoom works. Diane said the State was working to host their own job fairs and they were going to use a platform from Colorado. The State plans to purchase its own platform in the near future. The State would like for each region to host at least one job fair per month.

SET DATE FOR JOB FAIR

The tentative date set for the job fair will be early September. Diane will send some possible dates to the members to see what day works best for everyone.

RESOURCES AND IDEAS FOR GROUP PROJECT – DISCUSSION OF TOPIC

file:///C:/Users/diane/Documents/ACCESS/EARN_2019_Centralized_Accomm_Programs.pdf

Erin Dennis moved to table the issue of the group project until the next meeting. Shyla Brauch seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SPEAKERS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Diane asked for suggestions for speakers for future meetings. Kara mentioned GE Healthcare as a possible speaker. She will email Diane when she has more information. Diane said it may be good to ask them to present to the Employer Engagement Committee as well. Members were asked to email Diane or Kara if they thought of anyone they would like to present at a meeting.

ROUNDTABLE – SHARE AGENCY HAPPENINGS

Polly Matteson said she works with the Regional Professional Development Center which is with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. She covers Northeast MO and works with the 17 counties and 49 schools within that area. She works with teacher externships and as well as opportunities for primarily middle school students to do career education/career development. Both the teachers and the students traditionally go outside of the school to visit businesses etc. for these so they have the opportunity to travel and experience everything firsthand. However, since we don't really know what the fall is going to look like with school, we are working to make these experiences virtual. One of the things she has been working on is with Moberly Area Community College (MACC) at their different sites partnering with some of their different programs to do some virtual tours. She would like to be able to provide hands-on activities that the teachers can learn and then take back to their classes. She hopes to provide them with a real life experience.

Diane provided an update for the re-opening of the Northeast Region Job Centers. She said they hoped to have all of them re-opened to the public by the end of July.

Shyla said they have had to switch their duties for the last three months doing pandemic EBT benefits. So they are kind of shifting through different projects right now. They are going to start helping the Department of Human Health and Senior Services with COVID entry.

Kim said they were looking forward to getting everything ready for the re-opening of the Hannibal Job Center. Erica said she has been working to get ready for the fall new-student enrollments.

Sheree discussed developing better coordination with Connections to Success regarding participant contacts as performance is critical for WIOA. Rachael said she had been encouraging the individuals to reach out to the WIOA staff. She provided an update regarding several participants. Rachael said she felt they could share their contact information with the WIOA staff. Diane said they are planning to have a once-a-month catch up call to make sure everyone is on the same page and discuss the challenges of keeping the information flowing between Connections and WIOA staff. Rachael said up to this point Connections did not have a paid staff person to remain in touch with the individuals. Now

they have Chelsea who is their Peer Support Specialist and they will have more regular contacts with these individuals.

NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME

The next Access Committee meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2020 at 2:00 pm.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.