



NEMO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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NEMO Workforce Development Board (WDB) Access Committee Meeting March 22, 2021

Members Present

Kara Berlin-Bates
Erin Dennis
Janice Robinson
Shyla Brauch
Stephanie Cooper

Members Absent

Mandy Rose
Lisa Randolph
Wendy Hays
Mandy Rose
Joe Gildehaus
Lydia McClellan

Guests Present

Janet Hickey	Amanda Steele
Melissa Cline	Erica Davis
Pam Shannon	Melodie Brigman
Chelsea Zabski	Rhian Beldon
James Smith	Shirley Aviles
Mandy McClanahan	Sherri Henderson
John Zerbonia	

WDB Staff

Diane Simbro
Sharon Hillard

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairperson Kara Berlin-Bates called the NEMO WDB Access Committee Meeting to order at approximately 10:00 am. The meeting was conducted electronically through Zoom.

ROLL CALL

Five Committee Members participated and a quorum was established. Thirteen guests and two WDB staff also participated.

REVERSE JOB FAIR

Diane said the Committee had a Virtual Reverse Job Fair that would be open to individuals with all barriers to employment planned for April but it was cancelled. Through the planning, we discovered that it takes a lot of time and knowledge of technology to do all the things necessary to put a Virtual Job Fair together. As a result, she felt it would be better for both the job seekers and employers to conduct the job fair in person. It was the consensus of the Committee that the Reverse Job Fair be an in-person

event. Possible locations were discussed which included Hannibal LaGrange University in Hannibal, MACC campus at Kirksville, the VFW Hall, the fairgrounds or Knights of Columbus in Lincoln County and Pike Lincoln Technical Center at Eolia. It was decided the members would check on the availability of locations and possible dates and bring this information to the next meeting for discussion. Mandy McClanahan and James Smith agreed to check on the availability of MACC campus at Kirksville, Kara agreed to check on the availability of Hannibal LaGrange University and Sherri Henderson agreed to check on the availability of dates at Pike Lincoln Technical.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Janice Robinson with NECAC said NECAC had hired an Employment Coordinator and she would like her to be involved in the upcoming job fair. She said there had been some changes at the State level and NECAC would be moving their unit under Workforce Initiatives. She said NECAC had received a lot of COVID Emergency Solution funding. Some of the things the funds could be used for were rent, mortgage, hygiene needs and utilities. Janice said their SkillUP program had been slow compared to last year and they were working on new ideas for outreach. She said NECAC was also looking to hire more people for their Expand Your Employability Program.

Erica Davis said the Hannibal Job Center reopened fully last week and Job Centers statewide would be open fully beginning next week. Erica volunteered to help with the Reverse Job Fair. She said they had 25 individuals enrolled in training activities; most were participating in CDL and LPN training. They are also working with a couple of employers to develop some OJTs.

Rhian Beldon with Vocational Rehabilitation said they were working with Learning Opportunities with their Summer Work Program. They had several participants lined up for the program but they still had openings. The program would be open to youth going into their senior year. This would be part-time work at minimum wage (20 hours per week for 6 weeks for a total of 120 hours). She asked that anyone who knew of kids that might be interest to contact her at the Hannibal VR office. Rhian said she would also be happy to help with the Reverse Job Fair. Diane asked that VR refer youth that may be interested in additional summer work experience opportunities to the Job Centers.

Janet Hickey provided an update for the Warrenton Job Center. She said they would be enrolling a couple of individuals at BCI (Boone Center Inc.) this week. They had enrolled a couple of Dislocated Workers and they would be open to the public on the 15th. Due to social distancing, only three individuals at a time would be allowed into the job center.

Mandy McClanahan said the Kirksville Job Center was opened to the public today. They were looking for enrollments for their pilot project. Kirksville would be conducting a drive-through Job Fair this Friday, March 26th from 11:00 until 2:00. She will send a flyer for the Job Fair to Diane to distribute to the group.

Chelsea Zabski provided an update for Connections to Success. She said their focus is on employment and education and they work mostly with justice involved individuals. Their next class with start in April. She works in the Lincoln, Warren and Columbia area but Connections does offer services elsewhere. Chelsea said she would appreciate any employer information.

Stephanie Cooper with Douglas Community Services said the Hannibal Regional Economic Development Council (HREDC) Workforce Development Committee would be holding a hybrid Workforce

Development Summit focusing on small business and youth April 29. From 9:30 to 11:30 there would be an outside panel discussion regarding the trends of graduating youth. From 1:00 to 4:00, there would be a virtual discussion where the speakers would be talking about small business concerns, marketing your business, and what COVID 19 means for employers. Attendees would be given a swag bag. Event tickets are \$15.00 and individuals can register for the event on Eventbrite or on Facebook. Stephanie said Douglas was going to be re-opening to the public April 12th. She said their food distribution was continuing. They have been selected to do Veterans Food Security Program starting in April which would provide food and personal supplies. They would also be receiving some additional funding for food distribution within the next few months. Stephanie said Douglas has been expanding throughout COVID and their programs had expanded as well. As a result, they will be hiring a full-time Workforce Development Director sometime in April. The position will be posted on their social media and Indeed.

Diane said she just submitted a grant application for an Pre-Apprenticeship Program. Employers involved will be NECAC, with a focus on weatherization, and Landesign LLC in Lincoln County. There will be a Pre-Apprenticeship that will lead to a Registered Apprenticeship. The Pre-apprenticeship will involve employability skills and safety training. Individuals who pass this portion will receive a credential. Then they will move on to hands-on, on-site training for approximately one week. Individuals will be guaranteed an employer interview. Both of the companies plan to hire approximately 40 people each. She said the grant is focused on women in non-traditional roles, justice involved individuals, minorities and individuals with disabilities. The award date of the grant is April 1. If the grant is denied, they plan to go forward with the project at a more graduated pace and partners would be asked to provide referrals. Diane said the 2019 Manufacturing Day was a success. However, we were unable to hold a Manufacturing Day in 2020. Therefore, the HREDC Committee wanted to hold a Virtual Manufacturing Day focusing on career pathways for students. Area teachers then expressed a desire to have a video and curriculum that could be used in the classroom. Therefore, the Committee is working with a local production company to develop that video. They are going to do a pilot and get this into the schools early fall. They also plan to have employers to present (in-person or virtually) to provide additional information and to answer student's questions. Diane said last Thursday (UMOS) United Migrant Opportunity Services provided a training for Job Center staff. She may ask them to provide a presentation to the Committee at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME & ADJOURNMENT

The next Access Committee meeting was scheduled for June 14, 2021 at 10:00 am.

ADJOURN

Stephanie Cooper moved that the meeting be adjourned. Erin Dennis seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 am.