

SE MN Workforce Development Board

December 5, 2019, 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Workforce Development, Inc.
Rochester, Minnesota

Minutes

Members Present: Jinny Rietmann, Cheryl Gustason, Laura Link, Rick Gnemi, Vicki McKay, Joy Watson, Jeff Custer, Phil Sayles, Geoff Smith, Rob Van Craenenbroeck, Aaron Benike, Kristy Ruble, Jeffery Boyd, Jim Kingsley, Guy Finne, Marvin Urias, Sheldon Steele, Nadine Holthaus, Marleen Lundberg, Shelly Caldwell, Dan Nelson, Brad Meyer, Kenneth Johnson, Mark Schultz, Teri Dose

Others Present: Emily Wessing, Sonji Davis, Desirae Dyke, Becky Zoubek, Susan Boehm, Mike Postma, Beth Christensen, Anisha Zak, David LeGarde, Wanda Jensen

A quorum was present, and Cheryl Gustason called the meeting to order. Introductions were made. **Cheryl Gustason motioned for consent of the December agenda; Rick Gnemi moved, Guy Finne seconded, and the motion passed. Cheryl Gustason motioned for consent of the November minutes; Guy Finne moved, Jim Kingsley seconded, and the motion passed.**

Program Reports

Management Committee – Laura Link

- Laura Link shared the *Management* report. We received the Otto Bremer grant for \$100,000. This grant will support healthcare initiatives in the region. The Associated Milk Producers competitive bid discussed in last month's dislocated worker report will not go forward. American Anesthesiology of Minnesota's Owatonna location will be closing in February; this closing is expected to be permanent. Stacy Mason began working as the Youth Career Planner in the Albert Lea and Austin offices. We've interviewed several candidates for the Youth Career Planner position that is open in Rochester.

One Stop Operating Partners – Nadine Holthaus

- Nadine Holthaus shared the *One Stop* report. Wanda Jensen provided labor management information for review. Marleen Lundberg is going to give a presentation in January on the CareerForce website. We reviewed grants in progress across the region. Wanda Jensen and Jakki Trihey are working on their local plan, and partner information was shared. Ms. Holthaus concluded her report.

Taskforce and Work Group Reports

- David LeGarde shared the *Emerging Workforce* report. We discussed what we foresee the role of the committee to be. It's a broad topic, so we brainstormed a few ideas for targeting out-of-school youth that aren't in the workforce and focusing on in-school youth and efforts to prevent them from becoming out-of-school youth. We discussed what sorts of action items we'd like to leave with every month.
- Guy Finne shared the *Career Pathways* report. We decided that our subcommittee will be a think tank, resource solution committee that will help support small taskforces that have spun off. For example, we have Bridges to Healthcare, and we're looking to spin off and grow that program in other parts of southern Minnesota. This committee will be a resource to help identify resources, best practices, etc. for getting those sorts of initiatives started. We want to diversify our focus as well. We need to recruit a committee chair. We need to recruit more members and more diverse members as far as economic sectors go. Standing agenda items include awareness of current career pathway work within WDI's region, members bringing forward best practices on a quarterly basis, funding opportunities and strategies to support this work, and strategies to engage various workforce demographics. Two goals for January include working on membership and securing a committee chair.
- Mike Postma shared the *Employer Engagement* report. We had a great talk about our vision for the committee and what should we be working on going forward. We discussed the workforce shortage and how we can target that specific problem in our area. We want to work with the newly created Employer Outreach Specialists team within WDI and collaborate on outreach and engagement strategies. We want to share monthly best practices as well. We talked about upscaling and/or training individuals on our funding streams, grants, programs, etc. We want to highlight businesses and discuss challenges. There was brief discussion regarding the new subcommittee structure and possible overlap, etc.
- Guy Finne and Dan Nelson shared the *MaxAbility* report. We had a great year – numbers went up. It can be difficult trying to engage businesses, as there are many small businesses that don't have the resources to devote to our initiatives. They're short-staffed, and we're trying to figure out how to help them with that. International Day of Celebration for People with Disabilities happened recently and was a huge success; around 150 people were in attendance. MaxAbility's strategy in 2020 is to take it to the streets. We want employers to come to us and are working to engage a larger population.
- Guy Finne shared the *Salute Southern MN Veterans Network* report. The leadership team will be meeting to begin the discussion and reevaluation of the committee's priorities soon.

- Teri Dose shared the *Previously Incarcerated Individuals* report. One of our greatest successes from the past year was our career fair held inside the Olmsted County Jail. We had 75% of detainees attend that were able to. We had nine employers and three community-based agencies in attendance. On the off-months, we will do community-based organization fairs to share and provide resources for detainees when they are released. A success story was shared. We are looking for a champion from the board for the upcoming year. We will meet again in January to discuss our goals for 2020.

Labor Market Information – Mark Schultz

Program Spotlight: SteeleCoWorks – Sonji Davis, Anisha Zak and Brad Meyer

Director's Report – Jinny Rietmann

Ms. Rietmann shared that we are going to have a new slate of officers come July 1st. Currently, we have openings for Vice President and Second Vice President. We will be calling for nominations in January. Additional director's report information will be shared via email.

Other Area Activity/Upcoming Meetings

- Other Area Activity/Upcoming Meetings
 - January 9th – 2:30 p.m.
 - Topics for January:
 - Apprenticeships
 - March 5th – 2:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Cheryl Gustason; Guy Finne moved; the motion was seconded by Jim Kingsley. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Wessing
Workforce Development, Inc.