
Rural Minnesota CEP, Inc.
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING
803 Roosevelt Avenue, Detroit Lakes, MN
January 21, 2025

Members present: Carol Anderson, Jerry Arneson, Terry Blake, Ed Bolas, Kathy Cottew, Amanda Hanson, Troy Haugen, Amy Johnson, Darrell Lende, Julie Sachs, and Tammy Schatz, Leigh Shebeck, and Sandy Voigt

Members excused: Jeff Bjornson and Nick Heisserer

Members unexcused: Duane Johanning

Staff present: Stacy Belen, Heather Bergseid, Arlyce Cucich, Char Hirte, Tina Jaster, and Chrys Kirschbaum

Guests: Curtis Anderson, Workforce Impact

MINUTES

Business Committee Meeting – Arlyce Cucich

Ms. Cucich reviewed the reports for the month ending December 2024. This included the Program Progress, MFIP/DWP County Performance Standards, SNAP and Ticket to Work reports. Updated WIOA Performance Standards reports were not available at the time of the meeting.

Program Progress

Ms. Cucich reviewed all current programs. Overall, there are no concerns.

MFIP/DWP County Performance Standards

- MFIP:
 - Entered Employment: 12 counties are exceeding and 3 are meeting goal.
 - Successful Placements: 8 counties are exceeding and 5 is meeting goal.
 - Wage at Placement: All counties are exceeding goal.
- DWP: Enrollments are at 416.

WIOA Performance Standards

Updated Performance Standards reports were not available at the time of the meeting.

SNAP Slots

- Region IV is at 3 of 41 slots enrolled.
- Region V is at 1 of 29 slots enrolled.

Ticket to Work

There are currently 18 active enrollments with 66 cumulative enrollments. Revenue to date (DEED and ADEN) is \$400,613.43. Remaining Ticket to Work funds are \$153,477.34.

Call to Order – Carol Anderson, Chair

Ms. Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Agenda Additions: None

November 26, 2024, Minutes – Ms. Anderson

Moved by Ed Bolas and seconded by Leigh Shebeck to approve the minutes from November 26, 2024, meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Youth Council Report – Troy Haugen

Mr. Haugen reported on the January 13, 2025, Youth Council meeting. The main topic of discussion was the 2025 Youth Key Priorities. Several RMCEP Youth Services Coordinators joined the meeting to provide input. The final priorities will be brought to the Workforce Development Board in February for approval.

Service Highlight: Incumbent Worker Training – Stacy Belen

Ms. Belen, RMCEP Dislocated Worker Program Coordinator, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Incumbent Worker Training program. The program is intended to train or upskill an employer's existing employees to aid with retention. Topics included outreach, program qualifiers, intake, and examples of funded trainings. Questions were answered as they arose. Members were encouraged to contact Ms. Belen for further information or referrals.

MFIP Updates – Char Hirte

Legislative changes to the MFIP program were presented by Char Hirte, RMCEP Operations Specialist/Ticket to Work Coordinator. Topics included: Exclude Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Payments at or below Supplemental Security Income Level; Six-Month Budgeting; Diversionary Work Program Repealed; and MFIP Sanction Reform. Updated information on the "Work Will Always Pay...With MFIP" bulletin released on January 1, 2025, by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) was also provided.

WIOA Updates – Tina Jaster

The A Stronger Workforce for America Act (ASWA) bill was not passed prior to the Presidential election. With the change in administration, the WIOA Reauthorization amendment will be reassessed. Ms. Jaster will provide updated information as it becomes available.

Discussion ensued on the Federal formula used to assess funding allocations. The Agency will see a reduction of 10% in WIOA funding (Adult and Dislocated Worker) in the upcoming year.

Director's Report – Ms. Jaster

Ms. Jaster provided an update on Recent Accomplishments and Current Activities, Staffing, and Agency Outreach Efforts.

Regional Planning/Career Advising – Chrys Kirschbaum

Regional Planning

- The Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards (MAWB) Regional Planning Grant was submitted on January 10 with the hopes of being refunded for 2025.
 - Information was provided on future efforts and activities planned for the Regional Workforce Alliance.
 - Ms. Kirschbaum is currently attending a Labor Market and AI training module through the University of Wisconsin.
-

Member Updates – Roundtable Contribution

Ed Bolas: DyCast Specialties is still operating on three days a week. Moving to four days a week is a possibility in February. Suppliers and customers remain cautious.

Terry Blake: Central Harvest States recently purchased West Central Ag Services and has now closed the Ada grain elevator.

Darrell Lende: Construction season has been slow. Interest rates have somewhat had an effect.

Jerry Arneson: The continuing resolution has added some dollars to the ag industry. Payments per acre for corn, wheat, and soybeans will be made. Reductions in capital purchases are anticipated.

Celebrate Wins – Ms. Jaster

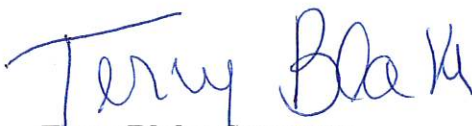
Success Stories were shared in the packet.

Adjourn – Ms. Anderson

A motion was made by Terry Blake, seconded by Ed Bolas, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Ms. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Terry Blake, Secretary
Workforce Development Board