
Rural Minnesota CEP, Inc.
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING
803 Roosevelt Avenue, Detroit Lakes, MN
November 26, 2024

Members present: Carol Anderson, Jerry Arneson, Jeff Bjornson, Terry Blake, Ed Bolas, Kathy Cottew, Amanda Hanson, Troy Haugen, Nick Heisserer, Amy Johnson, Julie Sachs, and Tammy Schatz, and Leigh Shebeck

Members excused: Darrell Lende and Sandy Voigt

Members unexcused: Duane Johanning

Staff present: Heather Bergseid, Arlyce Cucich, Tina Jaster, Chrys Kirschbaum, and David Smith

Guests: Curtis Anderson, Workforce Impact; Don Hickman, Initiative Foundation; Martin Jennings, Northwest Indian Community Development Center

MINUTES

Business Committee Meeting – David Smith/ Arlyce Cucich

Mr. Smith and Ms. Cucich reviewed the reports for the month ending October 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

Mr. Smith reviewed all current programs. Overall, there are no concerns.

MFIP/DWP County Performance Standards

- MFIP:
 - Entered Employment: 11 counties are exceeding and 4 are meeting goal.
 - Successful Placements: 10 counties are exceeding and 1 is meeting goal.
 - Wage at Placement: All counties are exceeding goal.
- DWP: Enrollments are at 369.

WIOA Performance Standards

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

SNAP Slots

- Region IV is at 0 of 41 slots enrolled.
- Region V is at 1 of 29 slots enrolled.

Ticket to Work

There are currently 18 active enrollments with 63 cumulative enrollments. Revenue to date (DEED and ADEN) is \$388,811.43. Remaining Ticket to Work funds are \$148,970.76.

Call to Order – Carol Anderson, Chair

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

Agenda Additions: None

October 22, 2024, Minutes – Ms. Anderson

Moved by Leigh Shebeck and seconded by Amanda Hanson to approve the minutes from October 22, 2024, meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Guest Speaker, Anthony Schaffhauser (DEED)

Anthony Schaffhauser, DEED Labor Market Analyst, shared an “Opportunities and Challenges” presentation providing updated information on WDB 2 Labor Force Trends. Topics included:

- Looking back to November 2023
- Slightly Higher Unemployment, but Labor Market is Still Tight
- Labor Force Growth Continued
- Long Term, Labor Force Growth Slowing
- More Labor Force Growth in the Future
- Increased Population Growth from Net In-Migration
- Net In-Migration Grows Labor Force
- Amenities, Lower Cost of Living, and Work from Home
- Demand for Workers: Job Vacancies Back to Pre-Pandemic Levels
- Demand for Workers: Employment by Industry
- Manufacturing Employment Surpasses Prior 2019 Peak Unlike after the Last Two Recessions
- Year Ending 2nd Quarter 2023 and 2024 Employment Change by Industry
- Employment Projections: Future Demand for Workers Compared to Supply
- WDB 2 Worker Inflow and Outflow, 2022
- Wage Growth Is a Major Positive Trend of Past Decade
- Employment by Age and Sex, WDB Area 2
- Employment by Race or Ethnicity, WDB Area 2
- What’s new from last year? And what are the significant trends? (Presentation Summary)

The presentation spurred good conversations and Mr. Schaffhauser answered questions as they arose.

Grants – Tina Jaster

County Consolidated Funding Contracts MFIP/DWP

Ms. Jaster reviewed the MFIP/DWP County Consolidated Funding Contracts for CY 2025.

Proposed Budget: \$4,131,682
Operating Period: January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025
Funding Sources: MN Department of Human Services

Moved by Julie Sachs and seconded by Ed Bolas to approve the CY 2025 County Consolidated Funding Contracts for MFIP/DWP as presented. Motion carried.

PY22 Reallocated Funds

RMCEP had the opportunity to request excess PY22 WIOA Dislocated Worker and Adult funds.

- WIOA Adult Program
Planned Participants: 5
Budget: \$40,376
Operating Period: November 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025
Funding Source: DOL – WIOA

- WIOA Dislocated Worker Program
Planned Participants: 8
Budget: \$34,493.00
Operating Period: November 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025
Funding Source: DOL – WIOA

Moved by Terry Blake and seconded by Amanda Hanson to approve the PY22 Reallocated WIOA Dislocated Worker and WIOA Adult Funds. Motion carried.

Youth Council Report – Troy Haugen

Mr. Haugen reported on the November 25, 2024, Youth Council meeting. Topics included:

- Approval of the 2025 Youth Council Meeting schedule.
- The Youth Services Coordinators will provide input on the 2025 Key Priorities.
- Planning to hold the January Youth Council meeting at M-State in Moorhead.

Local and Regional Plan Approval – Ms. Jaster

Ms. Jaster shared that the official approval of the Local and Regional Plan has been received. The agency was also (re)approved Subsequent Designation.

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

Career Advising

- Career Advising is progressing well, with 13 of the 14 contracted schools beginning to receive services.
- Ms. Kirschbaum is working on the RC3 quarterly report.

Regional Workforce Alliance (RWA)

- CWIC: Recruiting for Community Workforce Inclusion Council membership.
 - I-WE: There are currently 20 designated employers. Ms. Kirschbaum will connect with all 20 for updates.
 - Assisting with M-State PATH Van outreach/promotional activities.
 - Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF) training for RMCEP and Inter-County Community Council staff is going well.
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Member Updates – Roundtable Contribution

Carol Anderson

- The Central Lakes College meat cutting program will be ready for Spring semester. An additional section will now also be provided.
- The new Little Falls daycare will be open in March 2025.
- A 50-unit housing project in Little Falls is in the TIF process.

Jerry Arneson

- DigiKey has transitioned positions to India.
- 300 acres east of Moorhead was recently purchased by the White Earth Band of Ojibwe.
- Doral Renewables has been contacting farmers for solar field easements.

Ed Bolas

- DyCast Specialties continues on the Work Share program and is planning a minimal workforce in 2025.

Amanda Hanson

- Ms. Hanson attended the Regional Workforce Alliance event in Thief River Falls and reported that it had a great panel and speaker.
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Celebrate Wins – Ms. Jaster

Several Success Stories were shared in the packet.

Adjourn – Ms. Anderson

Ms. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Terry Blake, Secretary
Workforce Development Board**