**Operations Committee**

**January 9, 2017**

**Mankato WorkForce Center**

**Present:** Carrie Bendix, Heather Gleason, Nancy Haag, Connie Hines, Diane Halvorson and Christine Olson

SLEDS 101

Carrie Bendix reported that there will be a Statewide Longitude Education Data System (SLEDS) Training on January 24th from 9 – 11:30 a.m. at MVAC. SLEDS takes data from pre-K through post-secondary education and workforce.

Marnita’s Table

Carrie Bendix reported that DEED is requiring a gathering in each of the regions to engage diverse populations. The event titled Marnita’ Table is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 2017 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The goal is to have over half of the attendees from communities of color. The Marnita’s Table will be handling the logistics but we may need assistance with invites, volunteers and team workers for the evening.

Rural Career Counseling Coordinator Annual Report

Carrie Bendix distributed and reviewed the rural career counseling coordinator annual report. The report outlines demographics of the region and highlights best practices and opportunities for improvements in the following:

* understanding the needs of the region
* connecting job seekers, education, employers and partners
* services to job seekers
* asset and gap analysis of the region
* how the RC3 in Greater Minnesota working together
* Recommendations

Diane Halvorson added that although the report is finished, the employer tracking will need to continue to meet our regional goals to increase engagement. We are also planning to reach out to legislators to coordinate visits at each of the WorkForce Centers. Carrie will find out the legislative calendar to see when they are scheduled on a break.

Labor Market Infographics

Carrie Bendix reported that we have been working on developing labor market infographics to share with schools, students, parents, job seekers, and stakeholders. A draft was distributed and reviewed. It is scheduled to be released very soon.

Training Day

The Training Day on February 9th has been cancelled but will be rescheduled.

CPR/First Aid/AED Classes

Heather Gleason reports that CPR/First Aid/AED classes have been scheduled for January 18th and February 3rd. Both classes are full. It appears that all staff that have reached out for training are scheduled so unless we hear otherwise these will be the only classes scheduled.

Workforce One Updates

Heather Gleason reported that there will be changes to Workforce One due to reporting requirements for WIOA. Some changes were made in December the bulk of the changes will take place in March.

VRS Staffing Update

Two temporary counselors will be hired for Vocational Rehabilitation Services in Mankato and Fairmont. They will be working with high school students to set up work experiences. There was discussion about coordinating with MVAC counselors.

Cyberian Update

Reggie Worlds reports that Cyberian will replace the CRS system and has been piloted in Mankato for the past 2 weeks and will be unveiled statewide in February.

MN Works

Reggie Worlds reported that MN Works will be able to track staff assisted services. There will be a webinar training.

DEED Staff Update

Reggie Worlds was promoted to Regional Manager.

Classes at Taylor Library

Reggie Worlds reported that a resume class was held at Taylor Library and was very well received.

Imperial Plastics

Reggie Worlds reported that Imperial Plastics will be having a job fair tomorrow. In the future, all job fairs that involve DEED need to be approved by the Deputy Commissioner.

Youth Performance

Nancy Haag reported that performance measure guidance released by DOL may impact how youth are recruited.

Senior Community Service Employment Program

MVAC provides Senior Community Employment Program (SCSEP) in all but 3 counties; Le Sueur, Sibley and Waseca. Experience Works was the service provider in those three counties but now Senior American Indian Council will be the provider in those counties as well as other counties across the state.

Higher Education Career Advisor Project
Youth counselors have been going in to high schools to provide career guidance information for the Higher Education Career Advisor Project (HECAP).

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

South Central received a grant to provide support services to SNAP participants focusing on low-income, communities of color and youth.

Energy Assistance

Nancy Haag reported that energy assistance is available. Applications are down and there is no waiting list.

Workforce Talent Summit

Greater Mankato Growth developed a taskforce to look at workforce issues. The taskforce is focused on 4 goals including; demographics of the region and talent base, workforce development programs/initiatives, innovation to retain workers, and making sure wages are within the cost of living for the region. The Talent Summit will take place on January 17th and there will be subcommittees under each of these key areas.

Safety Update

Reggie Worlds is working with the landlord on costs of updates to the WorkForce Center. Brenda Tuma from DEED will be providing safety training for staff. More information will be available when a date has been scheduled.

Meeting Schedule

The Operations Committee will be meeting on the 4th Monday.