

## **Operations Committee**

**July 22, 2024**

Present: Heather Gleason, Sara Carrigan, Sarah Longtin, Mary Shumski, Sheila Koenig, Christine Hendrickson, LeRoy Kiecker, and Margy Hendrickson

### **I. Member Updates**

#### **Heather Gleason:**

Our area's Regional Analyst, Amanda, offered training on labor market information or DEED's data tools. Feedback from managers expressed that refresher are welcomed and updated area statistics, especially related to employers, could be useful. The Workforce Development Board reviewed the Regional and Local Plans, the next step in the process is that Sonji Davis, and others, will meet with the directors to ask questions. Annual ADA review of CareerForce locations are due in the next 30 days. It was requested that VRS Staff help with the ADA portion of the assessment. The South Central WorkForce Council received a subgrant from SWPIC for the Drive for Five grant. The one year grant will focus on careers in healthcare, manufacturing, construction, IT, and education. The funds will be used to pay for training leading to credentials as well as paid work experiences and internships. As of today, we are awaiting signatures to receive money for On Ramp, Bridge, ITP, WESA and Support Services for the new program year. The next fund review will be on August 6<sup>th</sup> with an anticipated time change.

#### **Sara Carrigan:**

The Training Team is beginning to plan the fall Partners' Training Day. The team is considering health and wellness topics relevant to both staff and jobseekers. It was requested by the team to raise the cost from \$30 to \$50 cover food and speakers. Feedback from managers is appreciated. One agency expressed hesitance due to the high number of staff that attend, other programs mentioned funds would most likely be available if staff choose to go. Still looking for Training Team representatives from Job Service and Life Works Planning. Monitoring will begin in Fairmont and continue throughout the end of summer and into fall. Our area was awarded the federal grant, Equitable Transition Model. We are currently finalizing contracts, and the work plans. More info will be shared at a later date. The new demand occupation list is effective July 1<sup>st</sup> with the new program year. Staff provided feedback that the demand occupations list is a helpful resource.

#### **Sarah Longtin:**

Scrubs camp had 58 high school students attend. Career Passport videos are posted once per week and engagement outcomes are tracked. Currently working to adopt Labor Market Infographics in Somali. Tour of Manufacturing date is still to be determined. Construct Tomorrow will be held November 12<sup>th</sup>.

**LeRoy Kiecker:**

Sarah McDonald will be starting with the Job Service team on Wednesday morning. There are six new positions, Employer Engagement Representatives, to conduct employer outreach throughout the state. A new DEED organization chart was released to reflect the additional positions as funding for the new position is for two years with plans to fund the position long-term. An update was provided on the employee seminars at SCC with the first one attended and no registrations for the following two. LeRoy recently connected with Dublin Crossing to provide outreach to residents on resumes and to support them in their employment goals. There have been challenges presented to the Mankato CareerForce location due to flooding and construction, patrons have been having a difficult time locating the services. In addition, there have been troubles surrounding computers after the Microsoft outage (Marshall and Worthington locations). Rapid Response layoffs at Alumacraft and Itron were addressed and need to be followed up.

**Mary Shumski:**

Fairmont's CareerForce location is fully staffed but spread thin. Dislocated Worker staff have been spending time at Nortech and provided a job fair with high engagement. Mary reports limited interaction from Alumacraft thus far, but estimated enrollment is six participants with more receiving help from CareerForce. Many Dislocated Worker sessions were provided to Itron to serve members from all shifts. Mary estimates 8-10 completed packets, with potential to receive more after upcoming visits. Layoffs at AgCo in Jackson will be a topic of discussion as many employees live in the Fairmont area and commute. Camping World did not have interest in a Dislocated Worker session due to staff transferring to Owatonna, however information and pamphlets were provided. Fairmont staff is assisting with overflow from Minneapolis North and South regarding CareerForce services. Mary reiterated positive administrative vibe with another productive gathering with open floor discussion.

**Margy Hendrickson:** MVAC is hiring for youth positions and interviews have started. The Get Started class format has been received well by families and students. Students work on the class in the morning and transition to working in the thrift store in the afternoon. There has been a request to provide the same format in August. The Senior Program was recently told in a monitoring session they are only allowed to pay minimum wage, this will be a decrease to wages of those in the program.

**Christine Hendrickson:** A virtual intake unit is still in the process of being set up to handle referrals and interest surveys. Over 1,500 calls came into their virtual line so there are plans to expand the unit. The VR Techs will be accountable for setting up meetings and ordering medical records. There is an additional position in Worthington posted, as well as a job opening for Mankato counselor. The Arlington Nursing Home is closing and VRS is seeing a trickle of those that work there coming for support.

**Sheila Koenig:** Both Anna Nelson and Megan Wendt are working out of Mankato area via telework. Youth services students are very engaged in their programming, especially excited for the two-night camping trip to the Boundary Waters in August.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The meeting adjourned.