

## Operations Committee

September 23, 2024

Present: Heather Gleason, Sara Carrigan, Mary Shumski, Christine Olson, LeRoy Kiecker, Margy Hendrickson, Karla Tauer, and Sarah Longtin

### I. Staff Updates

**Margy Hendrickson:** Margy shared that MVAC will be switching their staff and seniors to a new payroll system, Paycom. MVAC plans to meet with VRS to discuss mutual clients and overlapping services.

**Heather Gleason:** Heather shared that she will be sending out a Doodle to reschedule the MOU/IFA meeting to discuss the updated language, map, and spreadsheet that reflects additional space for VRS. Heather noted the open positions for VRS and the announcement that Dr. Annette Parker, President of South Central College, will be retiring in June 2025.

**Sarah Longtin:** The Tour of Manufacturing will be held on October 3rd and 5th, with most tours open to the public. Staff and clients are encouraged to participate, and tour locations can be found on the South Central Tour of Manufacturing website. The event magazine will be sent to partners once it's published. Sarah shared that she has presented *Skills for Success* sessions in High Step classrooms in Blue Earth, Madelia, and Waseca, focusing on health sciences labor market information and elevator pitches. Briefly discussed the MSU Career Expo taking place on Tuesday, October 8.

**Sara Carrigan:** The CareerForce Partners Training Day will be October 29<sup>th</sup>, cost per person has increased to \$45 and RSVPs are due by October 18th. Representatives from Job Services and Life-Work Planning Center are still needed for the Training Team. Sara shared that the Youth Directories will be printed this year after revisions. Partners and volunteers that are able to review and provide updates to the Youth Directories should contact Sara or Sarah. Construct Tomorrow will take place in Mankato on November 12th, with registration opening soon. Onsite monitoring reports are in progress and will be shared once completed. MVAC Youth Programs based in Blue Earth Nicollet will be scheduled for later this fall. Sara noted that Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Training provision and Youth Support Services, Incentives and Stipend policies have been updated to include work authorization requirements.

**Christine Olson & Karla Tauer:** Christine announced that two new staff joined the Mankato team on September 18th: Chandra Peterson as a counselor serving southeast Minnesota and Cheryl Anderson as a VR Tech. Christine noted that VRS will no longer support paid work experiences during school hours, as it will be considered the school's responsibility. More details will be provided by DEED, MDE, DHS, and administration. Karla added that this

change will reduce PreETS spending, which is required to be 15% of VRS funding however current PreETS spending is at 27%.

**LeRoy Kiecker:** LeRoy reported updates on staff. Heather Anderson is the new field operations supervisor in Duluth and Liz Jennings has been appointed the Employment Engagement Supervisor. The TV in the hallway at Mankato's CareerForce is now being used more frequently to broadcast classes. Recent presentations include an Employment and Tax seminar with 24 attendees, and Dislocated Worker seminars that typically see 7-8 attendees. Paid Leave presentations will occur in New Prague and Mankato on September 26th, with the Mankato session at 1 PM at SCSC. Additionally, there will be a job fair at the Mankato Armory, and CareerForce leadership will be visiting on October 10th. Mankato's Career Lab activity remains steady. The Migrant Seasonal Farm Worker program will be having their annual plan review.

**Mary Shumski:** Mary shared that staff are working hard to prepare for Itron and Nortech enrollments and services to dislocated employees. Mary notes that Jed is building relationships, Sarah is enrolling new clients, and Jeana is preparing for Incumbent Worker Training. The Fairmont Career Lab remains steady.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be October 28, 2024.

The meeting adjourned.