

Planning & Development Committee Meeting

Kathy Cromey, Co-Chair—Planning & Development
Margaret Leitinger, Co-Chair—Planning & Development
Pam Christenson, Past Chair
Paul Dietmann, Treasurer
Marcia Christiansen, Julie Enloe, Lynn Forseth, Kevin Gundlach,
Lindsay Jones, Todd Kearney, Barb LeDuc, Ann McNeary, Linda Mingus,
Nikia Morton, Eric Peterson, Dave Shaw, Jac Weitzel, Bryan Woodhouse

Thursday, September 16, 2021
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Workforce Development Board
via Conference Call
(312) 626-6799
Meeting ID: 916 0300 3796

Members: Kathy Cromey, Co-Chair; Margaret Leitinger, Co-Chair; Pam Christenson, Marcia Christiansen, Paul Dietmann, Julie Enloe, Lynn Forseth, Todd Kearney, Barb LeDuc, Ann McNeary, Eric Peterson, Dave Shaw, Bryan Woodhouse

Staff: Seth Lentz, Lameece Tyne, Jackie Hall, Chris Ziegel, Becca Collins

Guests: Jon Danforth, Jason Frey

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome & Introductions

Cromey called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Cromey introduced the Committee to new board member Eric Peterson and requested each member provide a brief introduction.

Agenda Item 2 – Review & Approval of the May 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Cromey requested a motion to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2021 Planning and Development Committee meeting as presented. Leitinger moved to approve the minutes as presented. Shaw offered the second. No discussion followed on this motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Agenda Item 3 – Grants and Updates

Lentz began with updates on the Windows to Work grant, piloting the expansion of services to the Columbia Correctional Institution operating in Portage, Wisconsin.



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Leitinger inquired on any possible challenges with the current capacity of the grant.

Lentz responded the curriculum is universal to all locations administering the Windows to Work program. The region has had success with the current program and any additional program offerings at new locations help to provide further opportunity for success. Piloting the program at a maximum-security correctional facility would pose a new challenge.

Note the expansion will leverage the current staff and experience and temporarily expand staffing for the pilot.

Lentz outlined the COVID-19 Disaster Recovery Dislocated Worker Grant. \$242,571 has been awarded by the Department of Workforce Development (DWD). The grant will provide work experience funding to serve 35 participants up through June 30, 2022. The Statewide Employment Recovery Dislocated Worker Grant was awarded for an initial total of \$275,000 which has served 94 participants to-date. An additional \$250,000 has been requested to serve another 50 participants for the grant. The submission request is currently awaiting approval.

Lentz articulated updates on the H1B Rural Healthcare Grant. The grant is a collaborative project between 5 Workforce Development Areas in Wisconsin totaling \$358,756 and funded through the Department of Labor. The goal of the grant is to expand and develop healthcare training to assist individuals in the direct patient healthcare industry as well as secure employment in the rural counties of Wisconsin. Moraine Park Technical College is developing a new Telehealth certificate which will help to provide successful outcomes for grant performance.

Lentz noted the Apprenticeship State Expansion grant awarded by DWD. The grant provides funding for bridgework between Pre-Apprentices moving into Registered Apprenticeships as well as supportive service resources to assist Registered Apprentices. 175 Registered Apprentices have received assistance at a cost of \$105,000 with an additional 245 more Registered Apprentices in the queue. The grant has provided staff funding for an Apprenticeship Navigator position.

Christenson asked about limitations of supportive service resources.

Lentz replied there is a limit of \$600 per participant to expend on purchasing tools, equipment, or work wear. Co-enrollment with WIOA can help to provide additional supportive service resources that may be needed. The Apprenticeship Navigator position provides additional assistance and connection to other potential resources within the community.

Tyne noted the grant has since received amendments, bringing the total award up to \$605,265.74.

Lentz briefed the Committee on grant updates. \$130 million for the Governor's investments, of which, \$10 million has been allocated to community support in Milwaukee and the Green Bay area via an infusion of state staff placed into the community to help individuals navigate and connect to the workforce system. \$20 million has been allocated to the Worker Advancement Initiative grant which is



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available to the state's local workforce boards. WDBSCW's region proposal has been submitted for a \$2 million request, covering over two years, to serve 200 people. The proposal reflects piloting new workforce strategies which WIOA funding does not allow for, in addition to populations that are not allowed under WIOA funding. The initiatives will look to capitalize on digital literacy and provide additional incentives for training. The remaining \$100 million left is currently being discussed at multiple levels throughout the State.

Leitinger requested details on recruitment strategies.

Lentz mentioned collaborations with Latino Academy, Centro Hispano, and Urban League are being discussed. Addition recruitment will be through the Department of Corrections with their work release programs.

Leitinger acknowledged the ongoing shortage of skilled labor within the education sector, specifically teachers and administrative staff. Many individuals are evaluating their working conditions and job roles, considering transitioning into new areas or industries.

Christenson suggested a summary grants grid for collaborators or potential individuals to quickly view for these potential grant and partnership opportunities.

Lentz thanked Christenson for the suggestion and anticipated the handout would be included for review at the upcoming Board of Directors' meeting scheduled for September 29th.

Agenda Item 4 – System Updates

Lentz provided an update on the region's job centers. The Dane County Job Center is undergoing a renovation. Sauk County does not plan to renew the lease with DWD, however they may have space available to accommodate services for our organization.

Lentz stated that DWD has released Workforce System Dashboards which include program volumes and co-enrollment participation numbers. The Employment & Training Dashboard includes information on Youth Apprenticeship, Registered Apprenticeship, and Unemployment trends within the region. These dashboards can be found directly on DWD's website.

Agenda Item 5 – Model Reflections and Performance

Hall spoke on the system design for program year 2020 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021). Dips in enrollment occurred with the volatility of the climate. While there was a decrease in participation while in the COVID-19 environment, program participation is increasing with the reopening of the region's job centers. The most in-demand training programs are currently *Healthcare Practitioners* and *Construction & Extraction*.

Peterson inquired if truck driving is a part of *Construction & Extraction*.



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Hall responded that truck driving is included with *Transportation & Material Moving*.

Hall went over the WIOA Adult participant profiles and demographics of participants served in PY20. The design focuses on strategic investment to support postsecondary education and/or employment. 296 participants were served, with 58 participants exiting to employment with an average hourly wage of \$19.74 reported at exit.

Hall covered the WIOA Dislocated Worker participant profiles and demographics. 258 participants were served, with 57 participants exiting to employment with an average hourly wage of \$23.19 reported at exit.

Peterson questioned if the increase of participation in the region, in comparison to the decrease in participation statewide, is a concern for an increase in poverty.

Hall noted individuals typically make lateral moves between employment fairly quickly, leaving a smaller window of opportunity to explain the WIOA program benefits of upskilling. The recent environment has provided many individuals the time and resources needed to reevaluate their careers and take part in improving their workplace skills. The local region witnessed a rise in enrollments due to upskilling within their careers.

Lentz added our region is fortunate to have lower unemployment in comparison to other regions within the State. Increasing collaborations with community-based organizations have also provided many benefits to WIOA enrollment.

Hall informed the Committee on the federal performance scorecard metrics and scoring. All goals for the region have been met or exceeded.

Peterson inquired if the federal scorecard is publicly available.

Hall answered performance information can be viewed from the Annual Report hosted on the WDBSCW's website.

Agenda Item 6 – Procurement Discussion and Recommendation

Lentz reported the WDBSCW has typically been on a two-year procurement cycle for service providers. For sole-source providers, services are validated for success every two years. The timeframe provides few opportunities to review the results before heading into a new two-year cycle. Language within the 2020 procurement allows for the renewal of existing contracts for additional years rather than procure at the two-year cycle. The Governor's Council of Workforce Development is in its strategic planning process which will require the Workforce Development Boards to align each respective local plan to the state's strategic plan. The extension of contracts provides additional time to cater to the state's strategic plan.



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Leitinger concurred.

Cromey requested a motion to approve the extension and renewal of contracts with current subcontracts as presented. Leitinger moved to approve the motion as presented. Kearney offered the second. Enloe abstains. LeDuc abstains. Woodhouse abstains. No discussion followed on this motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Agenda Item 7 – Adjournment

Leitinger queried on an update of logistics for the annual meeting.

Lentz stated there is ongoing discussion with Officers of the Board in regards to offering a hybrid option. The next Board of Directors' meeting scheduled for September 29th will be virtual.

With no additional business for the Committee, Cromey motioned to adjourn at 11:39 a.m.

Adjourned: 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth Roddy
Board Secretary
Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin, Inc.

Attachments for Board Records:

- Minutes from May 4, 2021
- Planning & Development PowerPoint