

Youth Committee Meeting Minutes

**Randy Guttenberg, Co-Chair—Youth
Elizabeth Roddy, Co-Chair—Youth
Francis Langer, Board Chair
Laura Cataldo, Past-Chair
Michelle Eilbes, Fred Hebert, Chuck Klein,
Jennifer Klein, Pam Korth,
Melissa Montey, Charles Poches,
Lisa Pollard, Calvin White Eagle, Hugh Wing**

**Thursday, September 8, 2022
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**Madison Area Technical College
Truax Campus – Room D1630C
1701 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53704**

Members Present: Randy Guttenberg, Co-Chair; Elizabeth Roddy, Co-Chair; Michelle Eilbes, Jennifer Klein, Pam Korth, Francis Langer, Melissa Montey, Charles Poches, Calvin White Eagle, Hugh Wing

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

Guests Present: Jon Danforth, Julie Enloe

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions

Guttenberg called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced themselves.

Agenda Item 2 – Review and Approval of the January 27, 2022 Youth Committee Minutes

Guttenberg asked for a motion to approve the January 27, 2022 Youth Committee minutes as presented. Roddy moved to approve the motion as presented. Langer offered the second. No discussion followed on this motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Agenda Item 3 – Grants and Program Updates

Lentz began with the Grants Summary handout, provided a brief update on Adult and Dislocated Worker programming grants, and noted the following updates to Youth programming since the last meeting:



Partnerships and pathways for economic growth

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The 2022-2023 Youth Apprenticeship grant has been awarded by the Department of Workforce Development (DWD). The grant totals \$645,000 and is intended to serve 587 youth within the workforce development area (WDA 10). Youth apprentices converting to a Registered Apprenticeship are eligible for additional supportive services. 42 individuals within WDA 10 have qualified for these services as direct reimbursements of up to \$1,000.

The Regional Career Pathways grant has been renewed for \$10,401 by Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) 5. The grant provides State-endorsed regional career pathways outreach, communication, onboarding, capacity building, and technical support to industry partners in the region.

The Independent Living grant has been renewed by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) for another year. The renewal amount totals \$370,000. The additional COVID-19 funding from years' prior have been expended.

Hall noted 20% of the youth enrolled under the Independent Living grant have committed to post-secondary education for the 2022 fall semester.

Lentz spoke on the Worker Advancement Initiative (WAI) grant. \$2,000,000 has been awarded by DWD covering a two-year period, intended to serve 200 individuals. The funds provide the Board with piloting proof-of-concepts and support training and collaboratives. While the funds are not eligible for staff's original targeted avenue, we are finding opportunities to use the funds with youth.

Collins stated the grant provides flexibility for a wider variety of services in comparison to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). WAI funds can be utilized to fund training programs not established on the state of Wisconsin's Eligible Training Program List (ETPL).

Agenda Item 4 – Youth Model Reflections and Updates

Lentz expressed the Board of Directors' meeting, scheduled for September 21st, will cover a broader discussion on the strategic planning process. Local planning guidance was received last week from DWD.

Hall described WIOA Youth funding requires 75% be administered to Out-of-School Youth (OSY) and 25% administered to In-School Youth (ISY). The Board previously submitted a youth waiver request providing flexibility in funding for up to two years, to support a higher percentage, up to 50%, of ISY enrolled in WIOA-funded services, including post-secondary education. The funding also provides work experience services for in-school youth and allows many regional businesses another access point into the youth talent pipeline. An additional strategy utilized by the Board is Youth Incentive payments, which reward participants for achievements, help to attract new customers, and keep individuals engaged within programming.

Hall conveyed technology has been added as a new supportive service to support skill development, work preparation, and engagement. Alignment and collaboration efforts continue to be a focal point, including co-enrollment across programs and funding sources, as well as diversifying STEPS workshops



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to recruit and retain customers. Workshop offerings include topics such as healthy relationships, financial literacy, transportation, and cooking.

Lentz added STEP workshop events are hosted at community partner agencies to help build the collaborative network.

Langer requested further detail on the STEPS workshops.

Hall specified the cooking workshop was hosted at Operation Fresh Start, the financial literacy workshop was hosted by Associated Bank, and the car buying workshop was hosted by East Towne Wilde.

Hall described the System Design for program year 2021 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022). WIOA ISY enrollment is increasing with 35 participants engaged during the year. 105 participants were engaged in WIOA OSY.

Hall conveyed the WIOA Youth Participant Profile, which consists of 142 participants served, 83 exiting to post-secondary or employment, with an average starting wage of \$16.66 per hour. Metrics demonstrate an increase in participants who are self-identifying as “Disabled” and “Low Income” year-over-year.

Hall provided an overview of the Federal Performance Scorecard with all performance measures being met or exceeded. Measurable Skill Gain negotiated levels for the upcoming program years will be increasing.

Lentz outlined initial requests from workforce development boards and states for adjusted expectations to performance metrics during the COVID-19 environment were denied by the Department of Labor (DOL). Coincidentally, participant engagement did not decrease to anticipated levels.

Wing questioned if the average cost-per-individual is accounted for during reporting or procurement.

Lentz acknowledged the data is examined annually during budgeting and contracting, as well as every procurement cycle for subcontracting determinations.

Roddy inquired on future capacity limitations and expectations.

Hall detailed a focus on increasing youth enrollment and collaborations with community-based partners.

Wing voiced over 7,800 disconnected youth located within the Madison metro area between the ages of 16-to-24; nationally 4.3-to-4.8 million youth are disconnected from employment and schooling amidst the same age group.



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Agenda Item 5 – Procurement Discussion and Recommendation

Lentz reminded Committee Members the procurement process has historically been completed every two years. The upcoming procurement cycle scheduled for 2023 will request proposals for the WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth services. The last procurement cycle provided few proposals for WIOA Youth services outside of Dane County.

Lentz explained the recent framework and changes behind WIOA Youth programming and described the sole-sourcing process.

Lentz expressed staff recommendations of sole-sourcing WIOA ISY services to Dane County Schools Consortium (DCSC) noting summer-focused engagements for ISY, and reengaging the technical colleges for WIOA OSY services within the rural areas.

Lentz requested feedback for procurement design recommendations.

Roddy suggested inquiring with youth directly on their interests and catering any additional opportunities to fit within the framework.

Wing stated the City of Madison recently received 55 applications for providing youth employment services in the region and suggested outreach to school consortiums or religious agencies for providing services to the rural communities in WDA 10.

Langer questioned how other workforce development boards in the state approach youth strategies.

Lentz clarified WDA 10 has a deliberate design for the Training Navigators and Career Planners to which other areas do not share in this design. Many Wisconsin boards have a focus on summer engagements for WIOA ISY enrollment which we feel aligns with partners and opportunity to apply for a youth waiver.

Roddy mentioned technical schools are increasing their outreach to a younger audience of youth and the platforms should already exist to compliment WIOA OSY programming.

Wing concurred, noted the importance of financial literacy education to youth, and suggested cultural pockets may be worth engaging.

Lentz thanked the Committee for suggestions and noted these elements will be considered and pursued to build into the procurement process.

Lentz added that the current framework also includes a Resource Specialist position. With the increase of cost-of-business, resources may be limited in supporting this portion of the framework.



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Lentz reiterated the recommendations of sole-sourcing to DCSC and pursuing conversation with the technical college for reengagement with the Training Navigator for WIOA OSY services for the entire region.

Agenda Item 6 – Adjournment

Lentz provided final updates in regards to the region:

The Dane County Job Center and Sauk County Job Center are undergoing remodels.

The September 21st Board of Directors’ meeting will provide an update on Rapid Response activity.

The PY2021 Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) are in review with DWD.

The PY2022 Memoranda of Understanding cannot be completed until clarification is received on the approval of the PY2021 MOU.

Kearney inquired if additional WDAs are unable to complete their PY2021 MOUs.

Lentz responded many Boards have had their MOU approved. WDA 10 has elected to not have financial exchanges between partners. This aspect makes the region’s MOUs different from other WDAs. The Board does not share in costs with partners in regards to a shared receptionist or rent space(s).

Lentz outlined DWD monitoring has been escalated from December 2022 to August 2022. Monitoring response will be sent to staff within 45 business days for follow-up and correction.

With no additional business for the Committee, Guttenberg motioned to adjourn at 11:26 a.m.

Adjourned: 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Pam Christenson
Board Secretary
Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin, Inc.

Attachments for Board Records:

- Minutes from January 27, 2022
- Youth Presentation PowerPoint
- Grants Summary Handout



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